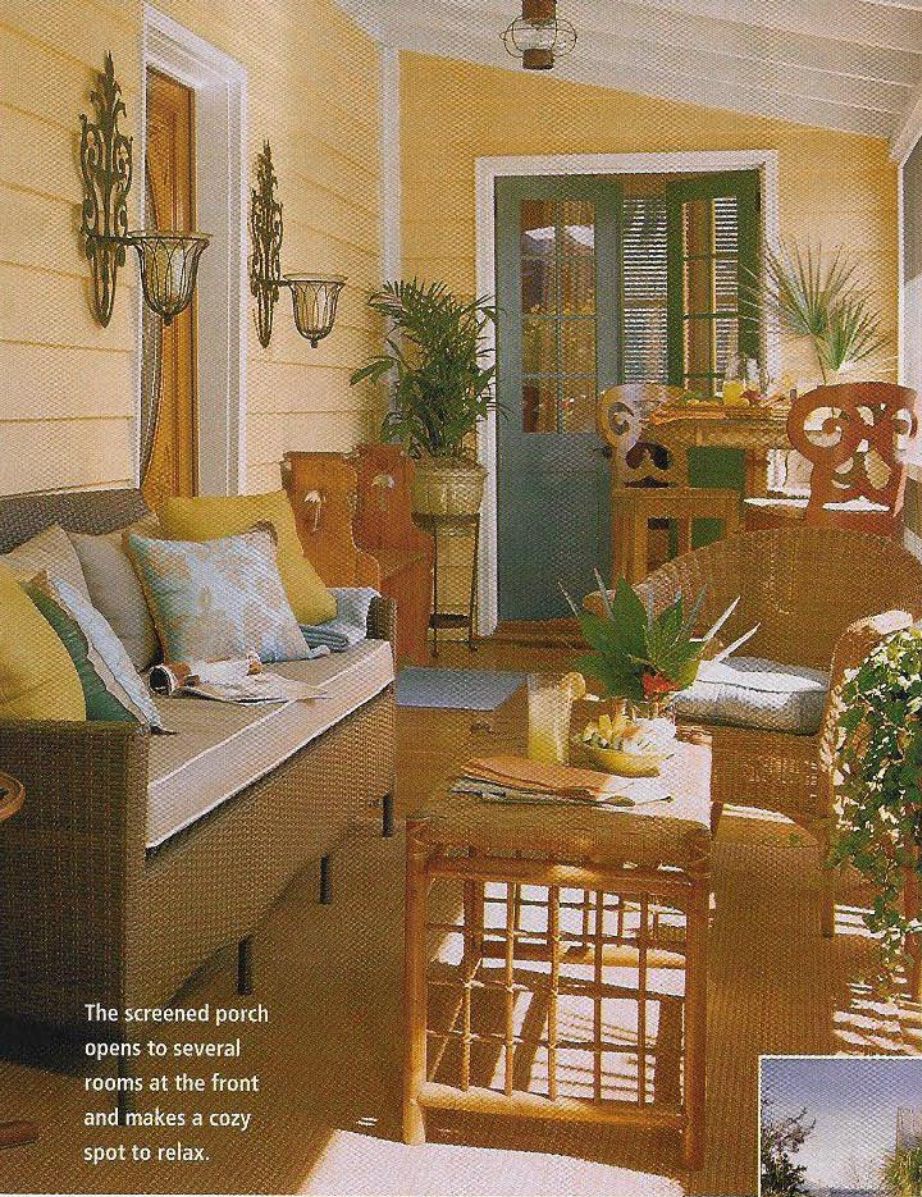


Rich With Island Charm

Cool colors and lush tropical plants create a front porch brimming with summer comfort.

Homeowners Susan and Stephen Herlong speak fondly of their European adventure—a time of exploration when they lived aboard a sailboat on the Mediterranean. After several years, the Herlongs returned to this country and settled in Sullivan's Island, South Carolina, where they bought a small house with an unusual history.

Stephen, an architect, says, "We think this cottage was built for housing at the South Carolina Exposition in Charleston around 1901 and then barged over to Sullivan's Island years later." Even though a partial renovation in the early 1980s erased much of its original character, the couple knew the cottage still had potential.



The screened porch opens to several rooms at the front and makes a cozy spot to relax.

Quite a Change

The Herlongs gradually transformed the house's dark and dated appearance. Stephen redesigned the existing screened front porch and substituted vertical wooden balusters for its old diagonal slatting. "The porch had plywood screwed to the rafters, so we removed it and added painted beaded board there," he says. In place of the old 2 x 4s supporting the porch roof, he installed square columns and detailed each one with a simple wooden capital. Features such as cheerful yellow paint, turquoise Bermuda shutters, a picket fence, and lush landscaping emphasize the home's island charm.

Moving On

When Susan and Stephen decided to buy another house, they sold the remodeled cottage to Steven Harth, who also enjoys sailing. "The Herlongs put a lot of nautical features, including exposed wood, in this house," says Stephen. "It feels like a boat." And the couple is pleased that a fellow sailor has taken over. Susan says, "It was nice to pass along the house to someone who loves it as it is."

—JULIA HAMILTON



On the Porch

For architect Stephen Herlong, creating enjoyable outdoor living spaces is an essential part of each project. Sample his thoughts on porch design.

- Consider how the addition of a porch will affect light quality inside your home; it might cause rooms to be too dark.
- To ensure that light will reach windows along a porch's back wall, think about making its ceiling higher than usual.
- Avoid placing a porch on the north or northeast side; winter winds can cause open areas to be uncomfortable.

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