



# painter's haven

R & R (and art!)  
are all in the  
family at Betty  
Anglin Smith's  
restored cottage in  
South Carolina.

TEXT AND STYLING BY  
LYNN NESMITH

PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
DEBORAH WHITLAW  
LLEWELLYN



for about 30 years,  
vibrant depic-  
tions of tidal marshes have  
filled artist Betty Anglin  
Smith's canvases. She says  
it seemed like destiny that  
one day she'd have a home  
and studio on the water:  
"It was just meant to be."  
Happily, six years ago Betty  
found her retreat, a 1920s  
metal-roof bungalow  
where she and her husband,  
Cody, now live. With deep  
porches and expansive  
views of Stono River and  
Wadmalaw Sound, the





Throughout the house, colorful paintings enliven walls. Betty's *Cedars, Goldenrod & Red Reeds* hangs in a guest room (top left), and *Spring Sanctuary at Dungannon Preserve* (above, left) offers a colorful interpretation of the landscape beyond the family room. French doors separate the living space from the cheerful, light-filled studio, where the kids and grandkids come to express their artistic talents.

house is a gem in the midst of South Carolina's Lowcountry.

Betty happened upon the cottage when friends commissioned her to paint the view from their home in Meggett. "It's less than 30 minutes from downtown Charleston, but I had never been there in my life," she says. While searching for the ideal vantage point, she stumbled across a small, abandoned home just up the creek. "The place was in ruins.

There were raccoons living in the house," Betty recalls. "But the views of the marsh, palmetto hammocks, and distant pines were absolutely amazing." Always passionate about old houses, she relished the opportunity to bring this one back to life.

Betty started by removing several walls to create an open, inviting family room and adjacent kitchen with oak floors, heart-pine counters, and beaded-board cabinets. Then she

made the bright corner room nearby into her painting studio, and turned a clumsy '70s addition into a screened porch along the back of the house. At 14 feet, it's "the perfect depth for a true outdoor room," she says.

Her completed renovation, though ambitious, preserved the charm of the unpretentious vintage cottage. Both the foyer and dining room retain their maple floors. Wavy, leaded-glass windows,





Photographer Tripp Smith trades his camera for a canoe and follows his father to the water. With 7-foot tides the norm, this setting alters dramatically twice daily. "I enjoy watching the landscape change," says Betty.

built-in bookcases, exposed beams, and cracked boards on the ceiling are also original to the house.

The restored home has become a hub of creativity for Betty and her 34-year-old triplets, photographer Tripp Smith and painters Shannon Smith and Jennifer Smith Rogers. "It's our haven," says Jennifer. "We hang out together and feel like kids again."

Some days they'll grab a camera or an easel and set out to capture

images of the surrounding marshland. Tripp, who's photographed hundreds of miles of the Atlantic Coast, has found new possibilities in his parents' backyard. Shannon often paints *en plein air* around the property, and many of Jennifer's canvases depict the Lowcountry's distinct landscape. Even Cody, a successful attorney and an avid golfer, finds that this is the one place where he can truly relax. The family gathers often for boat

rides up the river, oyster roasts, and artistic collaborations.

For Betty, this house and setting prove more inspiring than she could have predicted. The surroundings she has always loved to paint appear right outside her windows. "I watch the sun rise and set, the tides ebb and flow, and all the drama in between," explains Betty. "And every day it's as though I am seeing it for the first time." 🌿

More info: page 187