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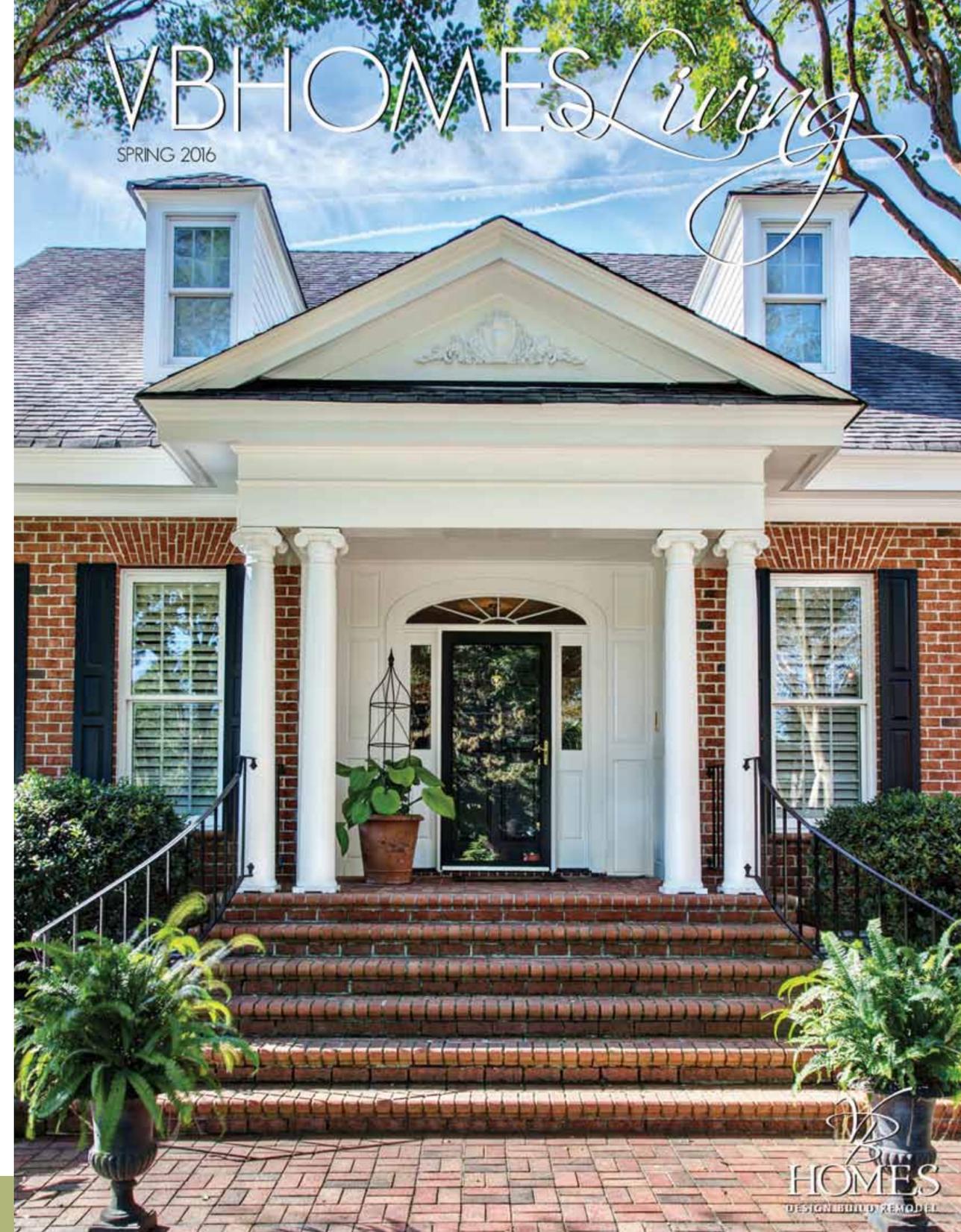
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Emily Mills

405 Cavalier Drive,
Virginia Beach

In 2013, Emily Mills was newly single and looking for something fresh as she started a new chapter in her life. Although it wasn't yet listed, her real estate agent discovered that 405 Cavalier Drive would be going on the market soon. Familiar with the house, she thought it would be perfect for Emily and she was spot on. Emily had noticed the classic southern style house for years and thought its wide, welcoming white columned portico and brick facade was beautiful. So when she stepped foot over the threshold, she knew she was in her new home.



Originally built in 1998 by VB Homes business partner, Chancey Walker and his wife, Linda, the residence passed hands to Walker's daughter and son-in-law, Peggy & Chris Eitel, the president of VB Homes. Chris and his family lived there for eleven years before selling it in 2011. When Emily purchased the home a couple of years later, she quickly made it her own with just a few aesthetic changes. "The space was planned brilliantly - everything was well thought out," she said.

The layout originally came from a Southern Living home plan and offered one of Emily's must-haves - a ground-floor master bedroom. The 2,600 square foot home is primarily a single-level home with a large bedroom and bathroom on the second level. The downstairs includes two other bedrooms, one of which Emily uses as an office. Her master is washed in a soft palette of whites and light blues with dark wood furniture and pops of coral and sand, while the spare bedrooms feature similar bright palettes.

The living room is light and airy, perfect for showcasing her artwork and a centerpiece chandelier. Emily likes antique china and so a collection of dishes hand-painted with fish by her great-great aunt hang in the foyer while a grouping of gold-rimmed Limoges plates are the focus of her dining room. The porch's white columns are repeated on the inside, providing a visual divide between the living and dining rooms. These areas also serve as Emily's showroom when hosting quarterly Worth New York trunk shows. As a representative for over 15 years, space for her business was mandatory when house-hunting.



Virginia Beach House & Garden Tour Wed., April 27, 2016

Another design element on Emily's list was an open kitchen and family room. Here, her Texas roots are hinted at through décor that combines soft sand-colored walls and white cabinets with decorative details such as a deer head, antler display, well-worn leather chair, cow print ottoman and metal star sculpture.

Emily's favorite feature is the line of sight from the portico as it opens into a central hall that visually connects to the backyard garden and swimming pool through wide glass doors in the living room. Outside, an intimate brick patio features an outdoor kitchen and grill, with the pool just beyond. An attached pool house serves as the perfect dry-off spot and is decorated with elements of whimsy - airbrushed bubbles creep up a wall and a mirror mimics a vessel's portal. The large backyard features both a shaded garden area and open sunny patch around the pool as well as a gate leading to the 17th tee on the Princess Anne Golf Course.

Emily's house and garden is a secluded retreat only a few blocks from the ocean. "I feel like a princess in my castle every time I come home. I love this house," she stated passionately. A life-long gardener, Emily added on to what was already a fabulous yard with more perennials and a native plant garden full of pollinators. Beautiful mature hydrangeas and azaleas pop prominently and her most famous plant is a pinky-red bee-balm by the driveway from which she happily shares blossoms with friends and neighbors. An entertainer by nature, Emily has made her house into a popular gathering spot with impromptu dinners, post-beach crab boils, 4th of July celebrations with her kids and their families and even an annual weekend get-together with her college girlfriends.

As the Chairman of the 2016 Virginia Beach House & Garden Tour, Emily's home is one of six that will be featured during the 2016 Virginia Historic Garden Week, scheduled April 23-30th. Virginia Beach will celebrate its tour on Wednesday, April 27th. Tickets are \$30 and may be purchased online at www.VaGardenWeek.org or at select retail locations. Tour proceeds fund the restoration and preservation of Virginia's historic gardens and provide graduate level research fellowships for building comprehensive and ongoing records of historic gardens and landscapes in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and support the mission of the Garden Club of Virginia.



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