



## BAYOU ST. JOHN

SARA AND MARK LANDRIEU

### *The peaceful view of Bayou St.*

John from the historic home of Sara and Mark Landrieu makes the house a perfect place for a weekend getaway. “It may be strange to have your second home around the corner from your primary residence,” Sara says with a smile. “However, it makes perfect sense to us. Imagine just walking around the corner to spend the weekend and enjoying a totally new environment, complete with a beautiful view of the water from front and side porches and a place where you can sit and relax as you wind down from a busy work week.”

“We love this place,” adds Mark, a busy investor and commercial real estate broker. “Sara knows how to work her magic as an interior and exterior designer, but she outdid herself this time. She took a sad, rundown, single shotgun and turned it into an exciting home-away-from-home for us. I think she waved her magic wand and created an architectural jewel out of the 1880 side hall single shotgun she found in our neighborhood.”

“My vision was to open the house up to the outside,” she explains. To accomplish this, she made a side porch where the original side hall had been and added French doors to all of the main rooms. “I wanted it to be a casual place that we could share with our family and friends, just like you would a beach house.” She created handsome, uncluttered indoor spaces with edited furnishings that left plenty of room for a large group to gather.



**RIGHT:** The 1880 shotgun featured a side-hall gallery that was converted to a porch.





**ABOVE:** The large living room features brown walls and eclectic furnishings. The hardwood floors are original to the house.

“I envisioned each room to make a statement in its own way and I did want a general feeling of elegance. I didn’t want it to seem that everything was thrown together from castoffs.” For example, the large living room is a study in good interior design with brown walls, fine silk drapes, a chaise longue covered in designer fabric, and polished hardwood floors fit for a Garden District mansion.

“We live around the corner,” Mark says. “We don’t need to do a lot of planning to visit our second home, and there is never a long drive to get to a peaceful view of the water. This is ideal. Sometimes we come over for a few hours after work just to sit on the porch and watch the sunset and share a nice glass of wine.”

The kitchen has everything needed to prepare a large meal. “I wanted it to be open and yet have a cozy feeling,” Sara explains.





“I painted the walls yellow and gave it a country French look.”

“The kitchen is one of my favorite places in the house,” Mark adds. “It’s where I enjoy having my morning cup of coffee on weekends and leisurely reading the newspaper.”

The same yellow was used for the adjoining bedroom, furnished with a white bed dressed in crisp white linens. “The windows facing the porch are from Loyola University’s old library and the old circa-1900 seed bins under the bookshelves are from Reuter’s Seed Company,” Sara says.

The last room in the house is a spacious bathroom complete with a claw-foot tub, a new glass-enclosed shower, and a vanity big enough for two sinks. The blue walls are accented with Sara’s collection of old mirrors framed in white. A second



**TOP LEFT:** The sunny French country-like kitchen features yellow walls.



**BOTTOM LEFT:** A white bed with crisp white linens fits neatly into the bedroom.





complete bathroom was created between the living room and kitchen. New construction at the rear of the lot provided guest quarters, an office for Mark, and a third bathroom.



**LEFT:** Old, circa-1900 seed bins from Reuters Seed Company provide a unique base for the wall of shelves.



**BELOW:** The master bathroom features an old claw-foot tub, double sinks, and a separate glass-enclosed shower at the other end of the space (reflected in two of the mirrors that decorate the wall).

