



TREND 10

# Farmhouse Charm

When it comes to exteriors, look to the past to create an instant sense of place

**NEW HOUSES ARE** being built to seem like they've been there forever but with some modern twists. "We have people who call every week requesting white siding or white-painted brick with a steel front door and a few earthy accents to keep it warm," says Benjamin Lavine of Stone Acorn Builders in Houston, a *Southern Living* Custom Builder member. Today's most in-demand details include board-and-batten cladding, shingles, steel windows and doors (or wooden ones painted in deep Charleston green, warm dark gray, or charcoal black), standing-seam metal roofing, painted and heavily mortared brick, and

gas lanterns. "The things my clients seek now really are the traditional must-haves that many Southerners have been drawn to for centuries: authentic details such as great hardware and exterior lighting or properly designed and operable shutters—especially louvered ones," says architect Brandon Ingram, who notes that new twists add a relaxed feel. "I'm seeing a trend toward playful touches like window boxes, doors in exciting paint colors, and whimsical accents like chinoiserie and treillage detailing. Also, Southerners continue to see the magic that a beautifully designed and proportioned front porch can provide." **SL**

**The Right Fit**  
If shutters don't completely cover the window when they are closed, they are the wrong size.



"White can be too stark, so an off-white like Sherwin-Williams Alabaster (SW 7008) is a good alternative."

—Randy Schiltz,  
president of t-Olive Properties,  
*Southern Living* Custom Builder, Atlanta

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