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A Cathedral *for Connection*

A crumbling former farmhand's home
reimagined as a unique one-bedroom retreat.



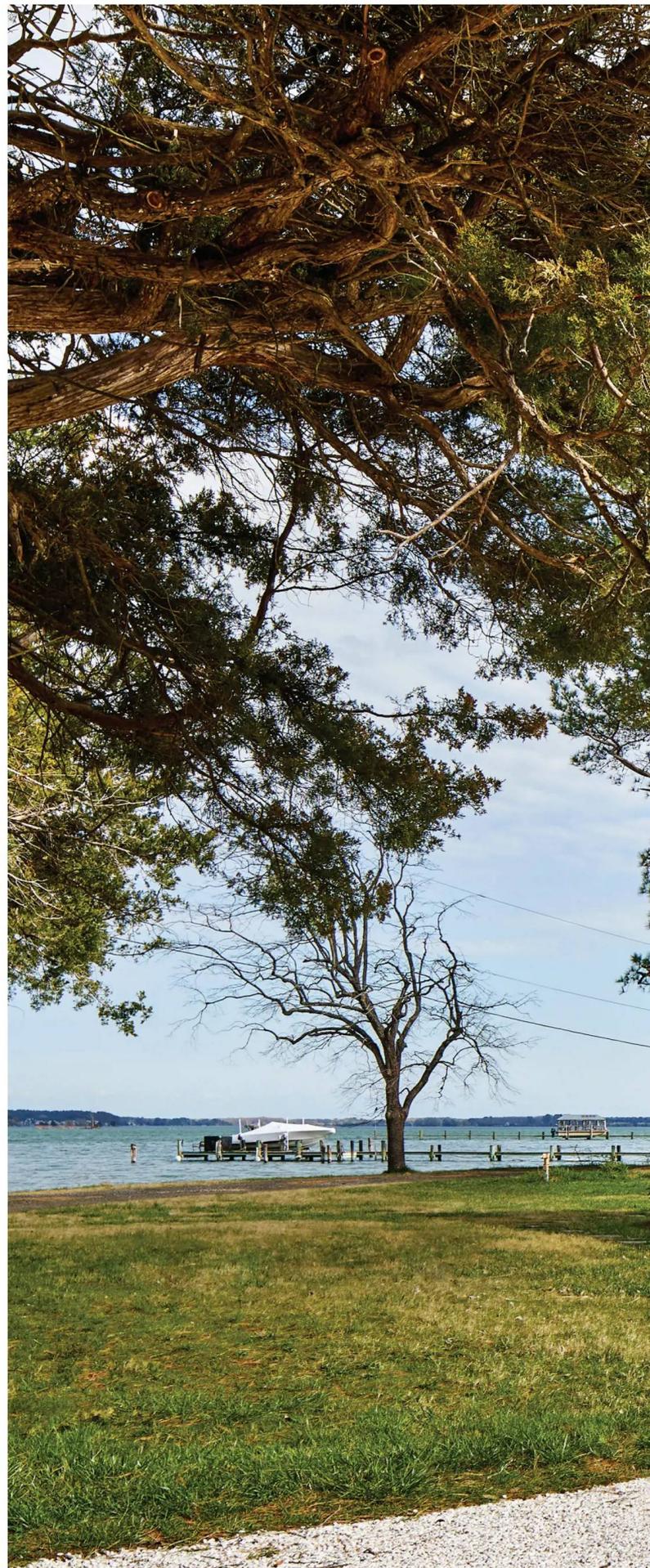
PRODUCED BY Kelly McMaster
ARCHITECTURE AND INTERIORS BY Michael P. Rouse,
AIA NCARB PRINCIPAL ARCHITECT MPR Architecture
PROJECT DESIGN BY Christian Bocchino, Assoc. AIA,
MPR Architecture
STYLED BY Giulietta Pinna of Limonata Creative
PHOTOGRAPHED BY Stacy Zarin Goldberg



On Maryland's Eastern Shore

a crumbling former farmhand's home reimagined as a one-bedroom retreat now serves as a cathedral to cooking, connection, and quiet luxury.

After three months of design planning and eight months of construction, the original structure, in significant disrepair, was transformed entirely within its existing footprint, maintaining its humble scale while rethinking its potential.















A once-flat ceiling now soars with vaulted height, flooding the main living space with light and elevating the kitchen into a true showpiece. The owners, avid hosts and passionate cooks, refer to it as their cathedral to cooking—a tall, light-filled space where iron metal collar ties on the ceiling, a sculptural island of natural walnut, a long high-top table, and modern wood stove on a slate hearth invite guests to gather and feast. The 8-inch wide white oak plank flooring adds warmth and cohesion.

Just outside the back door of the guest house, a garden provides fresh produce for seasonal meals, reinforcing the home's garden-to-table ethos.

The transformation continues throughout: a screened porch became a glass-wrapped sunroom with sweeping views of Broad Creek, and the front door was repositioned to create a stronger connection to the main residence. Opposite the vaulted entertaining spaces, the new guest suite and ensuite serene bath are oriented to the creek. The bath was designed with sea-glass tile and a sculptural soaking tub to evoke a spa-like atmosphere. A custom linen cabinet and floating vanity frame a window with glancing views of the smaller neighboring cove.



This is a story of design restraint and reimagination—an elevated before-and-after that honors place, purpose, and the joy of sharing good food. “Our big takeaway from the project? Use an existing old building and breathe new life into it with new design and finishes and you get the best green building out there!” says principal architect Michael Rouse.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT MICHAEL ROUSE ARCHITECTURE
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