



**Front Elevation:** While most traditional farmhouses are built with wood frame construction, this one is built to last in Florida's harsh climate. "It's overbuilt from a hurricane performance standpoint," Michael Voigt of Voigt Brothers Construction explains. "It's an all-concrete and steel exterior skeleton. Even the porch posts are six-by-six steel posts inside with a concrete beam at the top. We wanted it to be able to handle the worst that mother nature could throw at it." The landscaping, however, takes a less-is-more approach. "We used appropriately placed trees and shrubs that create a welcoming entrance, true to the home's rural-feeling lot, without making it look overly designed," says John Butts of Siesta Key Landscape.

**Front Porch:** In true farmhouse style, the front porch is a welcoming spot where you might sit and have a glass of lemonade or an evening cocktail. Designer Melinda Voigt of Voigt Brothers Construction selected a porch swing for authentic country charm and designed the space around it. An aged brick floor set on a herringbone pattern aligns perfectly with the relaxed aesthetic — pleasant and welcoming.

# FLORIDA FARMHOUSE

THIS FAMILY HOME IS DESIGNED FOR ENTERTAINING  
AND FOR THE KIDS TO FLY BACK TO THE NEST



**Kitchen:** The kitchen is part of the great room design, and is the central hub for the whole home. “The kitchen needed to function well for putting out large meals and have an island that would seat up to five,” Michael Voigt says. The pecky cypress tongue-and-groove ceiling adds visual interest to the kitchen and adjacent breakfast nook. Crisp white cabinetry from Campbell Cabinetry Designs features a slightly traditional paneled door look and crown moulding without being overly detailed. The island boasts a contrasting warm wood tone, and the pot filler and faucet from Gorman’s Gallery Kitchen & Bath Studio complete the look.

**Dining Room Vignette:** One condition for building this home was that it’s the couple’s forever home, so they planned for a growing family. “We did the bench under the window in the breakfast nook to fit as many people as possible,” Melinda Voigt says. “There’s extra storage and a built-in coffee bar.” The bump-out design expands the feeling of the kitchen, and Melinda Voigt opted to use the shiplap in a vertical pattern here to differentiate it from other areas.

Florida is not a hotbed of farm-style homes, although Michael and Melinda Voigt — husband and wife, builder and designer — of Voigt Brothers Construction say the aesthetic is gaining popularity. “In the last couple of years, we’ve seen more of this style being requested and getting built,” Michael Voigt says. “It’s one of those that is a balancing act — the modern houses dominate the portfolios and the magazines, but there’s still a lot of interest in this style.” ▶





And it was befitting the agrarian, two-acre lot on the eastern side of Sarasota. The homeowners, whom Michael Voigt describes as “discerning clients and really fun to work with,” who have three daughters, wanted a home that would live comfortably for just the two of them but have plenty of room for their adult children to visit and share holidays and other family gatherings. The main 3,900-square-foot home has four bedrooms and four and one-half bathrooms, plus there’s a studio apartment above the detached garage.

“They have sets of grandparents, one married daughter, plus two leaving the nest and three dogs — so a growing family,” Melinda Voigt explains. “The goal was to have elbow room for everyone, including the kids and grandkids that might come one day, and to have a large yard.”

While the home might have a Midwestern aesthetic, its construction is 100 percent Florida-style. “Typical farmhouse designs include wood frame construction, but this home is designed in a Florida mindset, considering all walls are concrete masonry with a stucco finish and all exterior windows and doors are hurricane-rated,” says Mark Sultana, Founder and Principal Architect at DSDG Architects. “When I say a Florida mindset, we’ve considered the weather and the environment to make the structure low-maintenance and Florida-weather tolerant.” ▶

**Living Room:** The wide plank oak flooring from Sticks & Stones Flooring warms the entire main living area, while oversized sliding doors connect the indoors with the pool and outdoor living spaces designed for entertaining. They also offer unimpeded views of the lake. As with most of today’s new construction — especially homes with wide open floor plans — the home is set up to run with smart technology by Wicked Smart Homes, allowing for app-controlled lighting and sound.

**Primary Bathroom:** The Voigts take on the responsibility of educating clients about additional design possibilities that might enhance the home they are building. "Depending on a set of plans and how much refining has been done in each space, we regularly provide feedback on additional details or minor modifications that we think might enhance the design," Michael Voigt says. In the primary bathroom, for example, the shower didn't need to reach the full height of the room. Lowering that portion allowed them to create a beautiful arch highlighting the bathtub. The tile floor inset with mother-of-pearl inlay from Tile Market of Sarasota and an intricate chandelier add a little glamour to the room.



**Primary Bedroom:** "The most important part of a custom build process is you have the ability to select your furniture in advance and make sure that the space is going to fit and be the right proportion based on the scale of the furniture," Michael Voigt says. "Having an interior designer that helps the customer understand what furniture's going to fit in a specific room and asking those questions before we build it are critical." That's how Melinda Voigt approached the primary bedroom design, knowing the homeowners would bring in an existing four-poster bed and large dresser. A beaded chandelier hangs from the peak of the cypress ceiling, adding a glamorous yet warm touch.

The interior is all about ensuring the grand spaces with soaring ceilings still have a cozy, country feel. It's bright and airy thanks to vaulted ceilings, skylights, and clerestory windows, while wood beams, cypress ceiling treatments, and shiplap delineate specific spaces. "We wanted each space to have its own feel, and changing wall material and even the direction of that material can help give the space individual character," Michael Voigt says. "And quite frankly, a lot of it goes just to durability. Shiplap functions much better than drywall, so we wanted to incorporate it where we could."

In addition to beautiful and functional indoor living areas, the outdoor living space offers ample room for dining and relaxing in front of the fireplace or watching a game. "There's a large pool and pool deck area," Michael Voigt says. "The outdoor areas were all scaled based on the size of the important covered outdoor living area, as well as to fit the property." Plus, it offers gorgeous views of the lake and sunset. ■

**Powder Bath:** The powder bath, which also serves as a pool bath, is adjacent to the mudroom and areas for the dogs. The octagonal linen-finish flooring flows throughout both spaces, and Melinda Voigt designed the floating vanity. Topped with a white vessel sink, a farmhouse faucet from Gorman's Gallery Kitchen & Bath Studio, and backed by the horizontal shiplap wall treatment, the space has a cozy farmhouse style while being durable and easy to maintain, even with frequent use near the pool.

**Outdoor Living & Rear Elevation:** The outdoor living area offers plenty of gathering space adjacent to the pool and overlooking the lake. The tongue-and-groove cypress ceiling treatment and tabby shell stucco fireplace wall hint at Florida style, while outdoor furnishings are designed to withstand the weather. "We try to incorporate these types of spaces in all our designs," Sultana says. "It's helpful when the homes we are designing are ground floor designs, in other words, not elevated flood zone houses requiring lots of stairs up to the habitable levels. It allows the user to traverse indoors and outdoors with ease and convenience. The covered outdoor spaces become a transition between the indoors and the outdoors, which everyone likes." Mullet's Aluminum Products installed its exclusive MAPI 1.5 Snap Lock Standing Seam metal roofing system. It features custom clips for thermal movement during hot summers and a sturdy fastening pattern for exceptional performance during hurricane events. The panels' attractive architectural design blends effortlessly with the lush natural surroundings.



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