

The Art of Arrival: A Jeffersonian Lightness

The most gracious homes understand that arrival is not merely a passage, but a moment to be savored. Here, the foyer unfolds as a gentle prelude—an intentional pause where the outside world softens and the rhythm of the home begins to take hold.

Rooted in a distinctly Jeffersonian symmetry, the architecture offers a sense of order and permanence. Yet this space is shaped as much by what is unseen as what is built. We found ourselves drawn not only to the legacy of Thomas Jefferson, but to the quieter presence of Martha Wayles Jefferson, a woman often eclipsed by history, whose life was marked by refinement, intimacy, and brevity.

Rather than interpreting Jeffersonian architecture through rigidity, we imagined how it might feel through her lens—softened, lightened, and made more personal. A washed palette, tactile grasscloth walls, and the faintest suggestion of pink at the trim lend a sense of warmth and femininity, tempering formality with a note of quiet rebellion. The space resists perfection; instead, it embraces atmosphere.

At the center, a table crowned with gathered flowers becomes both focal point and offering—an everyday luxury that feels immediate and alive. Layered greenery carries the garden inward, blurring the threshold between landscape and interior, while contemporary works of art introduce a gentle tension against the home's classical bones. Timeworn antiques ground the space, ensuring it never feels precious, only considered.

There is a sense, throughout, of beauty held lightly. Of rooms meant to be entered, experienced, and remembered, if only for a moment.

The result is a foyer that honors its architectural lineage while allowing for softness, emotion, and a touch of joy. A space shaped not only by history, but by the people who moved quietly within it, and the grace they left behind.

“Through a softer, more personal lens inspired by Martha Jefferson, this foyer reimagines classical architecture as something to be felt as much as admired.”

Items available for purchase in this room include:

Please reach out to info@sarahillery.com for pricing.

- Set of 2 22” Pink Throw Pillows
- Set of 2 20” Green Patterned Throw Pillows
- 2 Vintage Floral Inspired Sconces
- Custom Thibaut Hammond Check Tableskirt 48" D x 30"H
- Hand-Rubbed Antique Brass Lantern
- Green Onyx Marble Accent Table 19.25” x 13.75”
- Bespoke Draperies
 - 89"W x 114"L - 2 pairs
 - 87"W x 114"L - 1 pair
- 151" x 194" Indoor/Outdoor Rug
- Pair of Antique Swedish Chests 38”w
- 30” x 60” Custom Faux Bois Mirrors

A special thank you to Bond Millen, Benjamin Moore, Currey & Company, Fabulous Things, Justin Westbrook & Friends, and Thibaut Fabric & Wallcovering, whose generous partnership and exquisite contributions—from fabrics and wallcoverings to furnishings and finishes—helped bring this room to life with such beauty and intention.

ISH

SARA HILLERY
INTERIOR DESIGN

DEDICATED TO MIXING ART,
ARCHITECTURE & TRADITION
FOR MODERN LIVING

Design Consultations | Project Management
New Construction | Remodels & Renovations
Trade Exclusive Products



IN THE PRESS

VERANDA Southern Living

Better Homes & Gardens House Beautiful

VIRGINIA TOWN&COUNTRY



804.332.5511
WWW.SARAHILLERY.COM
INFO@SARAHILLERY.COM