

A Warm Welcome

Derived from the temples of ancient Greece, the columned front porch became a quintessentially American architectural statement during the early 19th century. The porch lives on as a symbol of graceful hospitality. Keep these time-tested hallmarks in mind should your home's style allow for adding a focal point covered porch:

Scale. Relate the proportions to your home, landscape, and neighborhood for a natural connection.

Size. Plan for a space that's deep enough to accommodate seating—9 feet deep or greater.

Base materials. Select durable flooring and ceiling products that add texture befitting the design of your home.

Architectural details. For a harmonious look, embellish the design with building elements and decorative motifs that enhance your selected style, including railings, columns, moldings, and light fixtures.

RIGHT Columns and a beaded-board ceiling give this front porch classic charm. An outdoor ceiling fan blends with the design and keeps the porch comfortable during warm weather.



THE FINISHING TOUCH

RINGING IN ELEGANCE

Sound a note of grandeur with a cast-bronze doorbell from Baldwin. Ringed with an elegant shell and acanthus leaves motif, the Archetypes Chateau design (\$98; www.baldwinhardware.com) was inspired by French architecture.



SPECIAL DELIVERY

Take your postbox from dead letter to drop-dead gorgeous with a polished (or brushed) stainless-steel mail receptacle with leather nameplate from Ecco (\$79; www.ecco-products.com). Perforations make it easy to see mail.



NUMBERS OF STYLE

Add dimension to your address with house numerals designed by houseArt (\$24 for 5-inch; \$46 for 8-inch; www.houseart.net). Stamped from architectural-grade stainless steel, the pieces can be powder-coated in a variety of finishes.

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