

# Creating a dream home with cypress

BPT

**T**ransforming the unremarkable into the extraordinary need not be an impossible task.

More and more homeowners are finding that lavish looks are both attainable and affordable. Their imaginative design professionals are making it happen, using cypress to create their clients' dream homes.



Design professionals are creating stunning living spaces with cypress woodwork.

“Wood is a classic and timeless building material,” says Stephen Logue of the Southern Cypress Manufacturers Association. “And many people are discovering that the inherent beauty of cypress, a species so often chosen for outdoor applications, adds a luxurious look to indoor living spaces, for anything from walls and ceilings, to exposed beams and so much more.”

## Transforming the ordinary

When a coat of paint just won't do, think paneling. For Christopher Rose, an architect based in Johns Island, South Carolina, solid wood paneling provides a sense of warmth and richness to a room. But not just any wood.

“I particularly like working with cypress,” says Rose. “It has a wonderful grain pattern that offers a relaxed, yet elegant look. Vertical beadboard or tongue-and-groove patterns are popular options

that add perceived height to a room. And more recently, horizontal shiplap paneling and accent walls have been requested by many clients.”

## Reaching new heights

Looking to add dimension and visual interest to otherwise flat, dull ceilings? Architect Geoff Chick of Santa Rosa Beach, Florida, says it's not enough to simply add crown molding. Too basic!

“Owners today are looking to celebrate their ceilings with more creative design solutions and materials,” Chick says. “In large rooms where I have tall ceilings to work with, I typically use a coffered ceiling. Filling in the coffers with wood helps to warm up a room and add another layer of detail. Cypress with a square groove is my favorite wood to use for ceiling treatments. I just love how it looks, especially when combined with cypress beams.”

## Adding the finishing touch

When selecting a finish for his interior cypress woodwork, Chick prefers stains. “It's a shame to cover cypress with paint,” Chick says. “To help bring out its grain pattern, I like finishing it with a matte stain or pickled finish. Some rooms require a lighter finish than others, and it can be a challenge to coordinate with flooring. But from my experience with cypress, it's all worth it when it comes together.”

And remember, much like wood cabinets and floors, solid cypress paneling and ceilings can be re-finished. If you're envisioning a fresh look down the road, swap neutral tones for bold colors, or sand the wood and apply a transparent stain to let cypress's natural beauty speak for itself.

Browse the Photo Gallery at [www.CypressInfo.org](http://www.CypressInfo.org) and see how cypress transforms the unremarkable to the extraordinary. It's time to make your dream home a reality. ■