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REBUILD CHARACTER

A young couple honored their historic Charleston, South Carolina, house by taking it back to its roots



Mismatched furniture from a variety of retail sources lends a rich, layered look to this patio.



Olivia and Walker Brock looked at dozens of Charleston's iconic one-room-wide Single Houses before they finally found one they could lovingly restore. By updating the kitchen and adding a lush patio, they ensured the house got a 21st-century refresh while also returning it to its simple roots. "Restoring this house was a dream come true for me," Olivia says.

THE BIG IDEA To provide a connection between the kitchen and garden and give the young couple a spot for outdoor entertaining, the Brocks replaced a first-floor window with a new set of French doors with sidelights. Moving air-conditioning units to the roof opened up a world of possibilities in the garden with an open patio that was ready for

hosting evening cocktails and alfresco lunches.

THE DETAILS The Brocks fooled the eye with downsized plantings running parallel and perpendicular to the house's rear facade, "creating a square that seems like an outdoor family room. Olivia wanted the new patio to feel European, with furnishings that went together but didn't



match. The wicker chairs are from IKEA, the sofa is from Ballard Designs, and the dining table and benches are floor samples from Pottery Barn that Walker spray-painted. "I wanted it to feel like it had evolved and been collected over time—not just thrown together in an afternoon," says Olivia.