

GARDEN & GUN

Southern by Design



Louisiana Creole, part of Russell Versaci's Simple Cottage Sampler. Courtesy of Russell Versaci Architecture.

A new collection of modular cottages with regional roots

When noted Virginia architect Russell Versaci published *Creating a New Old House* in 2003, the idea that new construction could, and probably should, look old and have a sense of place was progressive. Progressive, because at the time, the building boom was at its peak, and acre after acre of soulless developments were springing up from coast to coast. Versaci followed his book with a magazine of the same title and this past fall introduced another bestseller, *Roots of Home*. But we're most excited about his current project: a collection of modular cottages with Haven Homes that reflects the architectural history of colonial America, the South in particular.

"I realized, as the economic crisis was settling in, that I needed to come up with something quite different than any of my previous work, something much smaller but with the same degree of sophistication," Versaci says.

Of the ten plans, based on what Versaci calls "the colonial cradles of home," six are Southern. From the Chesapeake Tidewater to the Louisiana Creole, each plan is under 1,000 square feet, rich with vernacular details, and has a finished price tag of \$250,000. Not bad, considering that each model is also built in a factory, delivered right to your lot, and installed in a single day. Now that's progress.