







WHEN INTERIOR DESIGNER Emily Wyatt met her clients in 2017, she knew this wouldn't be an ordinary project. They had purchased a 1940s Georgian home that had been virtually untouched since its construction, leaving it ripe for renovation. And best of all? "This couple was ready to tackle a big overhaul," says Wyatt.

"I was impressed by the potential they saw in the house and, more so, their enthusiasm," she adds. "Most would have been overwhelmed bringing this property up-to-date, but these clients were ready to roll up their sleeves and dive in."

Another thing the couple brought in abundance was patience. There were no quick fixes when it came to architect Kate Mabry finessing the layout to better equip the home for both family life and entertaining.



Exterior Motive

left and below A peaceful and airy
pastoral mural by Susan Harter serves
as the pièce de résistance of the dining
room. A wood table from Holland
MacRae helps ground the space as do
antique chairs from A. Tyner Antiques.

Her plans called for a multitude of modifications, including an expansion off the back of the house for a new kitchen and family room and staircases being moved and reformatted for better flow. With each change though, Mabry remained cognizant of the home's history, based both on her design principles and at the behest of the homeowners.

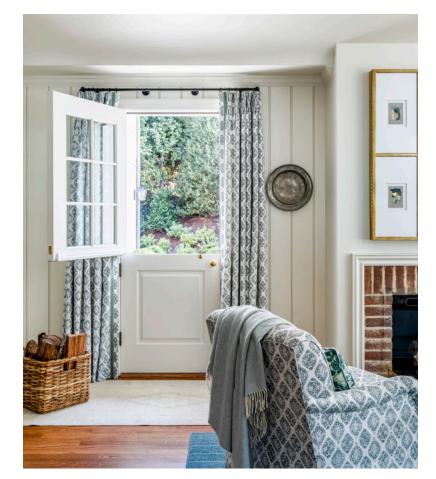
"Collectively, we wanted to respect the home's Georgian character but find a way to breathe new life into it," says Mabry. "The goal was to preserve the idea of rooms and individual spaces, maintaining that sense of transition from one scale of space to another scale of space."



78 atlantahomesmag.com JUN.2022







Made to Match left In keeping with the home's Georgian aesthetic, a dutch door in the family room is dressed with curtains to match the fixed window on the other end of the fireplace. below To conceal the television, West commissioned Wyatt commissioned bifold doors above the mantel that double as art frames. The paper paintings are by April Sanders, purchased through Well + Wonder.









Similarly, landscape architect Jonathan Bussell transformed the front yard to better align with the home's Georgian facade. While he addressed an ill-suited driveway "not so affectionately referred to as 'the donut,' given its lack of proper vehicle circulation and guest parking," Bussell also removed the property's overgrown boxwoods to make way for a new bluestone walkway and fresh plantings that work to highlight the home's symmetry.

Back inside, striking a balance—specifically the couple's taste for antiques and classic English style with the reality of having

two small children—was top of mind for Wyatt, and she gleaned inspiration from designer Henrietta Spencer-Churchill, one of England's foremost authorities on blending traditional style into contemporary settings. With a blue-and-white color scheme as her baseline, Wyatt selected a bevy of indoor-outdoor fabrics that could withstand small children zipping through during pool parties, and also stand up to the traffic of guests the couple regularly hosts for corporate gatherings. "It was all about creating a classic and special backdrop, but remaining fresh and user-friendly," says Wyatt.

Collective Spirit
above All furnishings—save for
two chairs that were placed in the
study—were newly acquired, and
the homeowners enjoyed their turn
at being purveyors. "They played a
big part in the antiques in the home,"
says Wyatt. above right A cramped
hallway was reconfigured to make
way for a glamorous navy lacquer bar,
which connects the original part of
the home to the new addition. right
The home's original blueprints were
framed to display in the study.

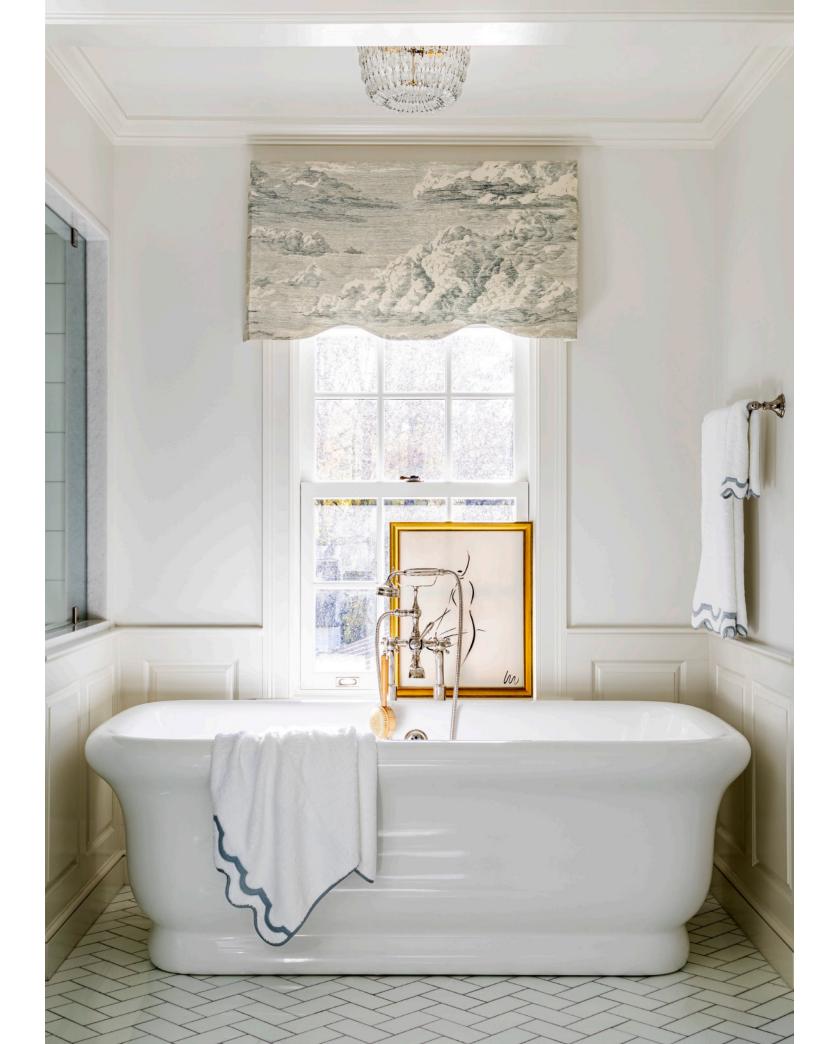
84 atlantahomesmag.com JUN.2022

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Stylish Serenity above A vintage-inspired floral fabric by Lulie Wallace adds a playful touch in the daughter's bedroom. left A custom Stark rug anchors the primary bedroom, whose serene color palette was inspired by the whimsical drapery featuring Schumacher's Cloud Toile fabric. *opposite* The fabric is carried into the primary bath as a valance above a soaking tub from Waterworks. The art is by Whitney Stoddard and the flooring is from Renaissance Tile & Bath.





 $Sense\ of Ease \\ \text{In the pool house, a} \\ \text{thoughtful arrangement}$ of corner casement windows floods the tucked-away dining nook with natural light. opposite top For a more casual look, the kitchen up to the ceiling. Shiplap walls enhance the first floor's comfortable ambience. opposite, bottom The bedroom is wrapped in a Penny Morrison wallpaper to avoid any visual breaks, effectively helping the small space live larger.





Like the main home, the couple put their trust in the design team to spare no detail when planning the new pool house. "They were on board with everything we had to offer," says Mabry. "They understood that the smallest of details can make a space feel right."

Notably, she worked with Bussell to seamlessly flow the pool deck's brick hardscape onto the first floor, blurring the distinction between outdoors and in. "The idea was for it to feel like a charming cabana when it's all open," she adds, "and then you can close the doors and actually live in it."

After three and half years, the home—with a new dose of youth, improved layout and plentiful Georgian character—was finally ready for its second act. "Working with clients who value design is always a treat," says Wyatt. "But when you have their unwavering trust too, it's the recipe for a really spectacular home." *See Resources, Back of Book*.

