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# MELLOW DRAMA

"There's something kind of sexy about the silver-leaf, X-shaped table," says designer Barbara Westbrook. Custom wall finish, Scanetti Jimison. Custom-designed sofa, Westbrook Interiors; sofa and armchairs fabricated by Craig Swanson, Swanson Upholstery. Travers velvet squire pillow fabric, Travers & Co., (404) 237-5079. Artwork and 1940's French end tables, Belvedere, (404) 352-1942. Velvet chair fabric, Scalavandra, (404) 267-5027. R.C. Byers coffee table, Restroe, (404) 869-8800. Dennis & Leah silver shells, antique oil lamps, Gregorius/Pineo round table, Jerry Parr, (404) 267-6337. Rose Terlow end table with shelves, Answorth-Noah & Associates, (404) 231-8787. Chubby Paris blue basket, Lowe Gallery, (404) 352-8114.

A new home in Northwest Atlanta is equal parts Hollywood **GLAMOUR** and farmhouse **CHIC**

STORY BY SUSANNAH M. WILSON / PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOHN UMBERGER



For dramatic effect, books in the blue room's niches are covered with cream-colored art paper. "I didn't want to junk up the room with book covers," Westbrook says. Starburst mirror above mantel, stacked shell candlesticks on coffee table, silver shell on skirted table, Belvedere, Roy Van Dongen silver prints on shelves and John Dugdale's blue photographs, Jackson Fine Art, (404) 235-3739. Roy Hamilton cream gourd vases, silver shell on coffee table, J. F. Chen silver lamp, antique remnant pillows, Jerry Pair Damask chair fabric, Scalmandré. Custom silk-wool rug, Hokanson, (404) 995-0501. Opposite, Jeremy Smearman of Planters developed a landscaping plan that accents the home's architectural features. Classicism and symmetry welcome guests in the home's entry.



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hen Keith Summerour of Summerour and Associates Architects saw the site for this project, a gently sloping hillside in northwest Atlanta, the movie *Bringing Up Batsy* came to mind. The 1938 movie, starring Katharine Hepburn and Cary Grant, featured a comfortable Connecticut farmhouse with a 1920's look. It stood on just the sort of rolling terrain Summerour had found in Atlanta. "I realized that the site lent itself well to that kind of stone-siding-and-slate house," he says.

And so, with this inspiration, he went to the drawing board. The resulting design combines creamy stone, wood siding and a slate roof, and features a welcoming front porch and double-hung and dormer windows, all typical of such farmhouses.

Although the exterior suggests a country house, the interior is far grander. Summerour's plan combines generous, open areas with more intimate rooms. Quality materials, a sense of scale and proportion and thoughtful detailing are hallmarks of his work. Moldings, in particular, are

finely crafted. In the foyer, for example, they step out around the keystone above the doorway to the salon. "This makes these moldings more centering and more powerful," Summerour comments.

Summerour constructed the residence with the help of builder Bobby Garrett of The Garrett Group. The dynamic property was then sold to a successful young couple who paid \$10 million for it—the most ever paid for a home in the city.



The couple who purchased the house and 10 acres moved into their new quarters with their two-year-old last Thanksgiving. While the house was being completed, Summerour recommended Barbara Westbrook of Westbrook Interiors to help with the interior design. The new homeowners liked her ideas, and Westbrook proved just the person to make a serious house fresh and young-looking and to give it interest and individuality while respecting the architecture.

The owners wanted to use their dresser spaces—foyer, salon, dining room and blue room, as the living room is called—for entertaining. Smaller, casual spaces—the family room, kitchen



This Connecticut farmhouse-style residence combines stone, siding and slate and features dormer windows. A generous veranda at the back lends itself to entertaining. Maggie Hasbrouck's dramatic photo encaustic canvas, *Untitled 3*, serves as a focal point in the serene and uncluttered salon. At the windows, loose, overscale draperies combine characteristics of Roman and balloon shades. Gregorius/Pineo classical chairs, fabric, Jim Thompson silk, J. Robert Scott ebony coffee table, Dessin Fourmire end tables, Jerry Pair Rose Tarlow salon chairs and ottoman, Ainsworth-Noah & Associates, (404) 231-8787. Jacques Bouvet diamond-pattern fabric, Charles Osborne, (404) 231-0034. Leather ottoman upholstery, HBF Textiles through Suit Parks Solutions. Tray on ottoman, Parc Monceau, (404) 355-5766. Vase, Donghia, (404) 842-0760. Gilwood final lamps, Parc Monceau. Hasbrouck photo encaustic, Lowe Gallery.

and breakfast room area—set the scene for the family's daily activities.

To bring in a fresh look, Westbrook combined contemporary art with traditional and modern pieces. "By modern, I don't mean hard-edged contemporary things but clean-lined furniture. These rooms have references to a French modern look of the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s," she comments.

Taupe upholstery fabrics complement the blue room's silvery-blue background. "The room feels very French. You can imagine yourself wearing a satin dress there," Westbrook says. "The look is clean and soft. Even though it is modern, it has traditional references."

The foyer, blue room, dining room and salon incorporate different shades and tones of the same color palette. Besides silvery gray-blues and taupe, these spaces feature shades of chocolate brown, champagne and red. The wife





Near a dining table set for a glamorous meal, a George III sideboard features lion-head pulls and a fine patina. Chocolate-colored draperies and walls give the room continuity. Dessin Fourrur dining table and chairs, Jim Thompson silk chair fabric, Jerry Pair, George II sideboard, Tom Hayes & Associates, (404) 233-7425. 19th-century French mirror and antique pricket candlesticks, Parc Monceau. Carved wood capital, Interiors Market, (404) 352-0055. Kathleen Morris oil, Lowe Gallery. 18th-century Italian chandelier, Regalo Antiques, (404) 237-4899. Marble compote, Edgar-Reeves, (404) 237-1137. Gold and cream compote, Walker McIntyre Antiques, (404) 352-3722. Crystal, Baccarat. Napkins, and place-mats Susan Shepherd Interiors.



wanted red accents in some areas and a lot of this cheerful color in the family room.

In the two-story salon, champagne-colored walls reflect light from the rear veranda. "That space has so much volume, you couldn't put a saturated color on the walls," Westbrook explains. "Plus the paint color had to go into the foyer and the second-floor overlooks because there's nowhere to stop one color and start another one. When rooms are related to each other, colors must work together."

In each room, the eye is drawn to one or two focal points. "I don't like feeling overwhelmed or confused by too many objects," Westbrook says. Each room has its treasures: a patinated crown in the salon, silver washbells in the blue room, a carved wood capital in the living room, cobbler's shoe forms in the family room, terra-cotta platters in the kitchen.

The house has some surprises. Early in the decorating process, an inlaid pattern on the foyer floor proved incompatible with Westbrook's approach, so a faux finisher painted over the

hardwood border with a classical Greek key design. In some squares, a Versace-style flower lightens up the effect. Problem solved, with pizzazz.

For the high kitchen ceiling, Westbrook suggested a focal point to bring the eye down visually. With a friend's help, the wife came up with three French proverbs that work as a border beneath the ceiling molding. "Life is short," one of them translates, "eat dessert first." The mottoes are one of her favorite features.

The kitchen and adjoining family room are the center of family life. Here the couple can relax, read and watch television. This casual area is furnished with antiques and other pieces with silky wood finishes. This is the place for monitoring the new baby and playing with the toddler. From here the wife, who loves to cook, can slip into the kitchen to stir a pot on the stove or keep an eye on a casserole in the oven.

With a bit of lamplight and the art powerfully illuminated, the home's larger spaces take on a glamorous feeling after dark. Daytime or nighttime, these homeowners are pleased with the look



Red-checked fabric and furniture with rich wood finishes lend warmth to the family room, breakfast room area and conservatory at the rear. Formations terra-cotta plate and Dennis & Leen Navarre lantern, Jerry Parr, Herbs, Lush Life, (404) 845-9661. Antique tin cannister lamp and iron floor lamp with craftpaper shade, Edgar-Beeves. Antique globe and small faience pots and pottery, Jacqueline Adams Antiques, (404) 355-8023. Cobblers' shoe forms and antique iron floor candlestick, Parc Monceau. Red and white check fabric, Brunschwig & Fils, (404) 265-5706. Todd Murphy art, Lowe Gallery. Antique rocking horse, South of Market, (404) 995-9399. Antique French basket and sign, Ainsworth-Noah & Associates.

Westbrook has developed for them. Serene and dramatic surroundings, uncluttered spaces, some outstanding canvases, and many individual accents come together in this appealing residence.

"Although the house is large, it feels intimate. These spaces are so well-proportioned that they don't overpower you," Westbrook says. "Mixing traditional and contemporary things makes the design interesting. The house feels timeless, but the look is a little unexpected."

## Design Details

### ARCHITECTURE

**Keith Summerour, Summerour and Associates Architects, Inc.**, Atlanta, (404) 603-8585; St. Simon's Island, (912) 634-6645

### INTERIOR DESIGN

**Barbara Westbrook, Westbrook Interiors**, Atlanta, (404) 355-9430

### BUILDER

**Bobby Garrett, The Garrett Group**, Atlanta, (770) 426-6402

### LANDSCAPER

**Jeremy Smeerman, Planters, Inc.**, Atlanta, (404) 201-0002