

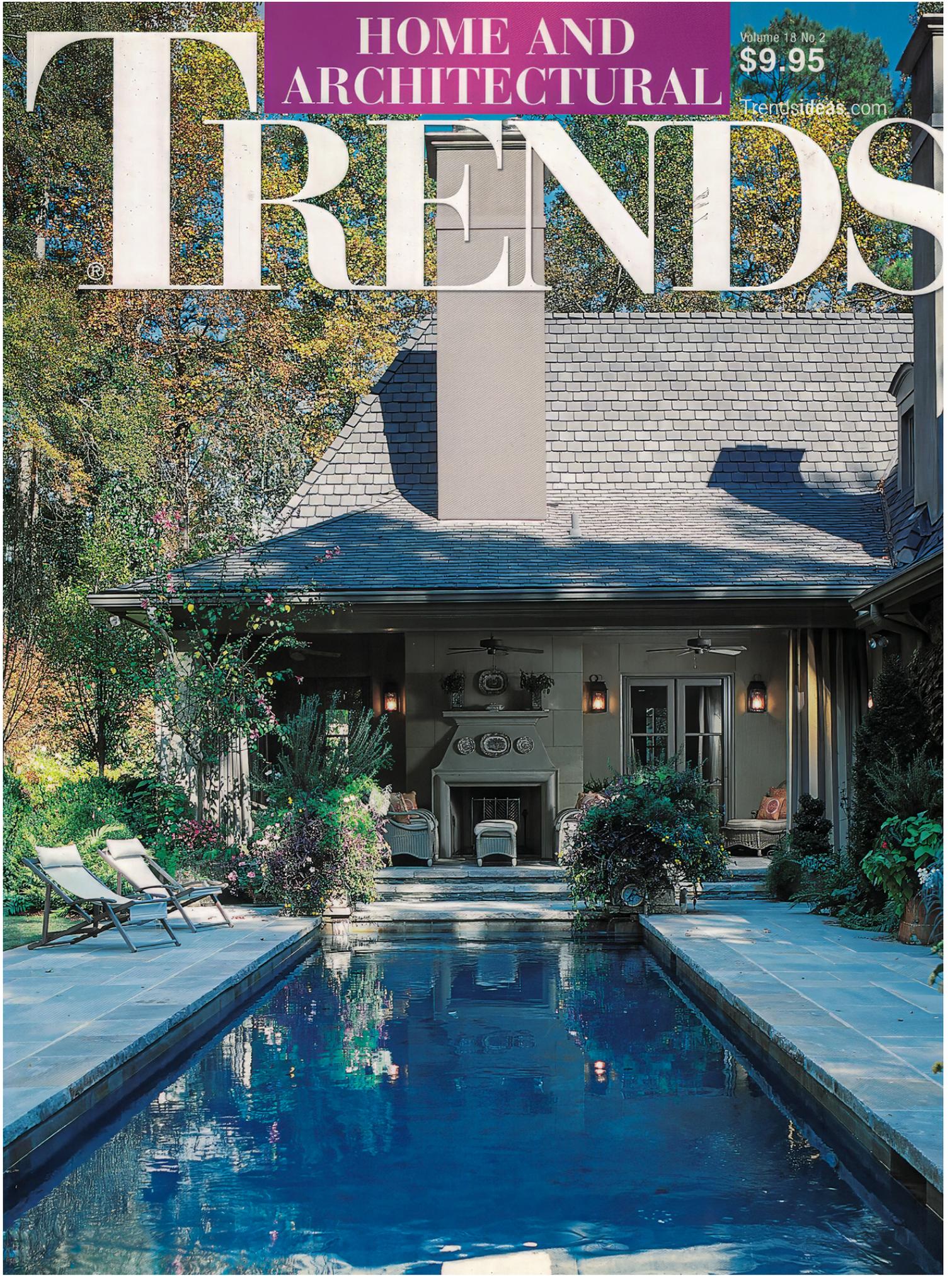
# TRENDS

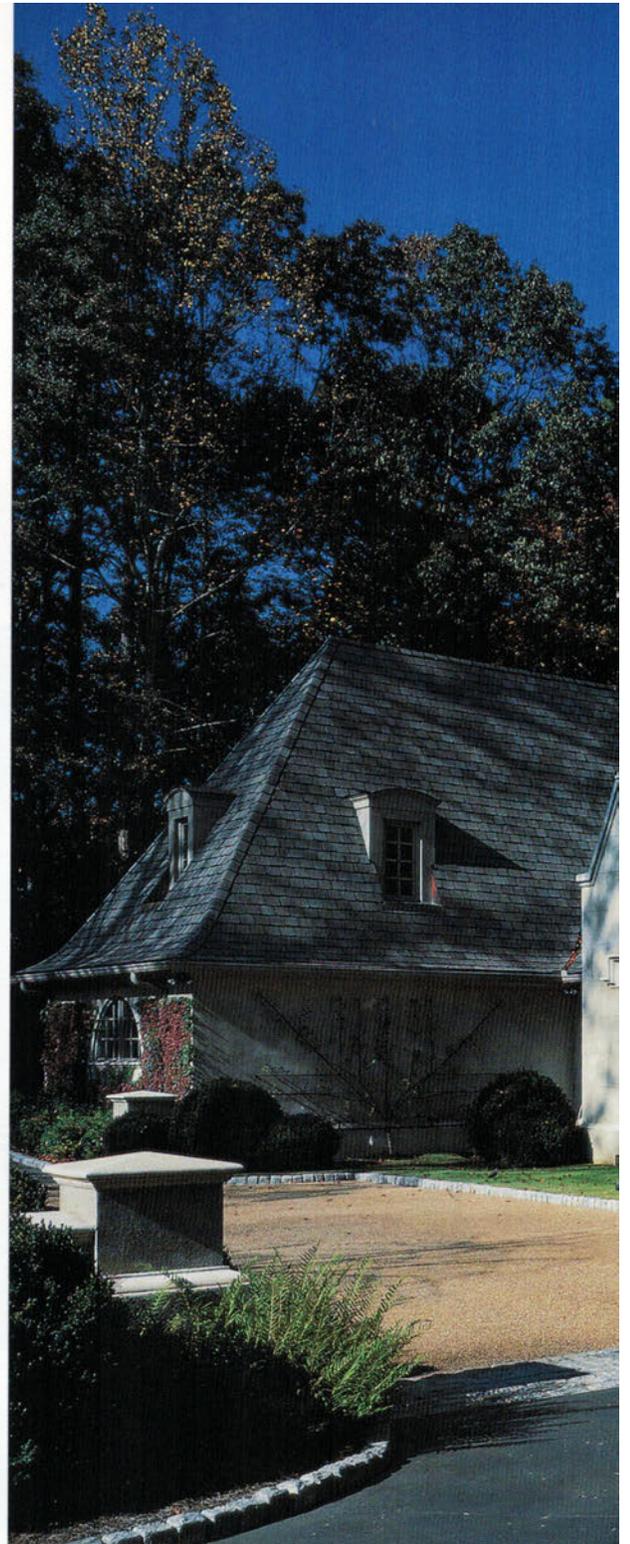
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# Viewpoint

The stately façade of this home offers only a hint of the intimate living spaces, gardens and water features that lie beyond



Visual focal points that grab your attention and arouse curiosity help to ensure a home maintains its sense of individuality. Depending on where they are, these architectural details – whether they be a water feature or a fireplace – can be used to create subtle indoor-outdoor flow, as the home featured on these pages shows.

Designed by Keith Summerour of Summerour & Associates, this five-bedroom Georgia house sits on top of a hill and is surrounded by heavy woodland. Its design has been influenced in part by the architecture found in the picturesque English Cotswolds, and more specifically by a manor house in which

Summerour stays on his periodic visits to Britain. The home's traditional appearance is reinforced by a stucco exterior, which has been scored to simulate the appearance of limestone. Cherokee roses frame the front door, while boxwood – its size and shape appropriate to the dimensions of the façade – adds to the air of formality.

“However, as you move through the house, this stately feel gives way to more of a cottage look,” says Summerour. “The rooflines have been brought down in scale to make the rear spaces of the house more cozy, and the focus is on the small, intimate gardens and fountains.”

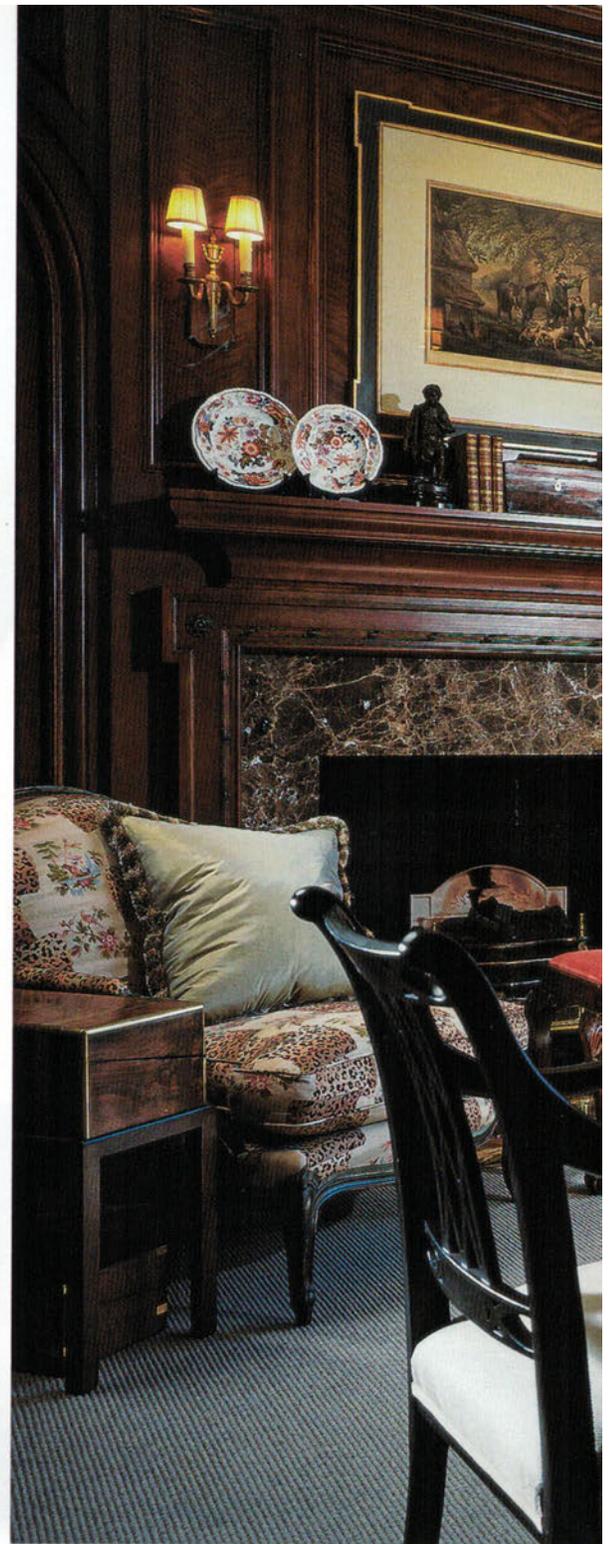
*These pages:* To maximize the views from this home's hilltop site the surrounding stucco wall was kept low. The stucco here and on the exterior of the house has been scored to resemble limestone – a classical treatment often used in the South, says architect Keith Summerour. The entrance to the arrival court is flanked on either side by a pilaster, and together with the boxwood complements the home's traditional look.



**Above:** In keeping with the interior's continental, layered look, various antique and Oushak rugs cover the stained white oak flooring that flows throughout the main living spaces. Here in the foyer, an antique rug has been teamed with a Chinoiserie mirror and a bronze chandelier.

A number of porches facilitate this indoor-outdoor flow, with each of the main living spaces opening out onto either gardens or the pool. These exterior spaces are highlighted by various landscaping features, including an arbor, a fountain and a 10ft limestone replica of an ancient Italian urn.

"Each of these landscaping elements has been strategically placed to align with the home's living areas, which open out onto the gardens. These connections played an important part in harmonizing the indoors with the outdoors," says Summerour.



Adjacent to another porch, which has at its center a large, open fireplace, is a lap pool. Because the pool is used frequently and situated close to the house, Summerour says it was important that it blend into its surroundings. Therefore, the interior of the pool is painted in a dark color to create the effect of a pond. Fountains pour from planters that sit on each of the pool's four corners, the gentle splashing sound adding to the ambiance.

Drapery, suspended from a concealed rod in the roofline, allows the porch to be closed off summer shade. In the winter, the owner uses a large tent to cover the entire area, including the pool.



"Sometimes she hangs a chandelier from the top of the tent. This creates a wonderful effect, with the sparkling light mingling with the steam rising off the water," says Summerour.

Whether it be via French doors or large windows, each interior space ensures a glimpse of the outdoors, preventing the feeling of being trapped in, says the architect. In the study, a large bay window inspired by the work of 1800s English architect John Lutyens, adds dimension and light as well as views of the neighboring horse farm. French doors in the living room and breakfast room allow both spaces to spill out onto the back porch and garden.

Oak flooring, stained to a dark finish, helps to unify the main living areas. However different finishes, materials and furniture have been carefully chosen to reflect the purpose of each room. Working in collaboration with Summerour, interior designer Barbara Westbrook says the overall aim of the interior design was to create a layered, continental look that incorporated a clean, French feel.

"The owner is very sophisticated, very fashion conscious. She had a few key antiques that we worked with, sourcing other pieces to complement them. We also kept to a basic colour scheme that included taupe, muted green, yellow and

**Above:** To one side of the foyer lies the study, a traditionally appointed room enhanced by dark cherry paneling and an assortment of antique furniture. Next to the fireplace – one of several in the home – a built-in cabinet with bronze mesh doors and silk fabric conceals the entertainment unit.



**Top:** Opposite the stairwell leading to the upper level are French doors that open out onto a porch and an arbor.

**Above:** French doors also connect the dining room with a garden.

**Right:** Walls with a soft buttery color, sheer patterned curtains and sofas upholstered in a floral fabric enhance the light, airy feel of the living room.

splashes of persimmon red," she says.

These shades are particularly prominent in the living room, where Westbrook has taken her cue from the light, airy space and added soft, buttery coloured walls and a pale taupe-gray trim. Sheer drapes and sofas upholstered in a floral pattern have been chosen to provide a link with the garden, which can be seen from all three sides of the room.

In contrast, dark cherry paneling and heavy drapes have been used to enhance the study's very traditional, masculine feel. Built-in cabinets featuring bronze mesh doors and taupe silk flank either







*Facing page:* A breakfast room opens out onto the back porch. Contained in a relatively small area, a glass table top on a wrought iron base helps to create the illusion of space.

*Above:* A multi-functional island forms the focal point of the kitchen.

*Far left and left:* The master bedroom and bathroom overlook a private garden.

**Architect:** Keith Summerour, Summerour and Associates, (Atlanta)

**Interior designer:** Barbara Westbrook, Westbrook Interiors

**Landscape architect:** Jeremy Smearman, Planters

**Siding:** Cement stucco

**Roof:** GAF in Grand Manor

**Window/door joinery:** Weathershield TDL

**Flooring:** Stained white oak

**Paints:** Porter, Benjamin Moore

**Kitchen manufacturer:** Morgan Creek Cabinets

**Countertops:** Gallo Beach granite with OG edge detail from G & L

**Backsplash:** Decorative tiles from Renaissance Tile

**Sinks:** Fergusons

**Taps:** Jado in Pewter Finish from Fergusons

**Oven, microwave and dishwasher:** KitchenAid

**Stove:** Black glass electrical cooktop from Thermador

**Kitchen bar stools:** Bruno Carlos Collection

**Window treatments:** Lindsey Marshall in study, dining room and master bedroom, Judy Pratt in living room and kitchen

**Light fittings:** Bronze chandelier in foyer: Deanne Levison Antiques; wood chandelier in study: The Big Chandelier; antique crystal and bronze chandelier in dining room: Travis & Co; Paxton Bell Lantern in back hall/gallery: Vaughn at Ainsworth Noah

**Rugs:** Antique area rug in foyer: Moattar; handmade Oushak in dining room: Rugs by Robinson; area rug in back hall/gallery: Stark Carpets

**Foyer clock:** Antique Greek clock from The Gables

**Living room furniture:** Chinese low table with Chinoiserie by Dessin Fournir, sofa with rolled arms by Travis & Co in fabric from Brunschwig & Fils

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**Above and facing page:** To blend in with the landscape design, the pool has been created to look like a dark pond.

**Right:** The garden sits against a backdrop of mature trees.

**Photography by John Umberger**

side of the fireplace. One contains an entertainment center, the other, the owner's book collection.

Summerour and Westbrook's careful attention to detail shows throughout the home, with many functional elements also used for aesthetic purposes. In the kitchen, glass-fronted cabinets in the central island allow fruit and dried goods to be displayed. The fireplace in the adjacent breakfast room doubles as a showcase for a collection of majolica plates. Mirror tiles that extend across one wall of the master bathroom are butted together with tiny, star rosettes – a traditional French detail the owner had seen on a visit to France.



