

Gatherings
STYLISH SPRING BRUNCH

Southern Style
NASHVILLE • ATLANTA • HIGH POINT

Body & Soul
IRISH EXCURSION

TRADITIONAL HOME.

April 2016

COLOR
From soft and serene to vivid and vibrant

KITCHEN
SMART
STORAGE
MEETS HIGH
STYLE **50**

fresh
start!

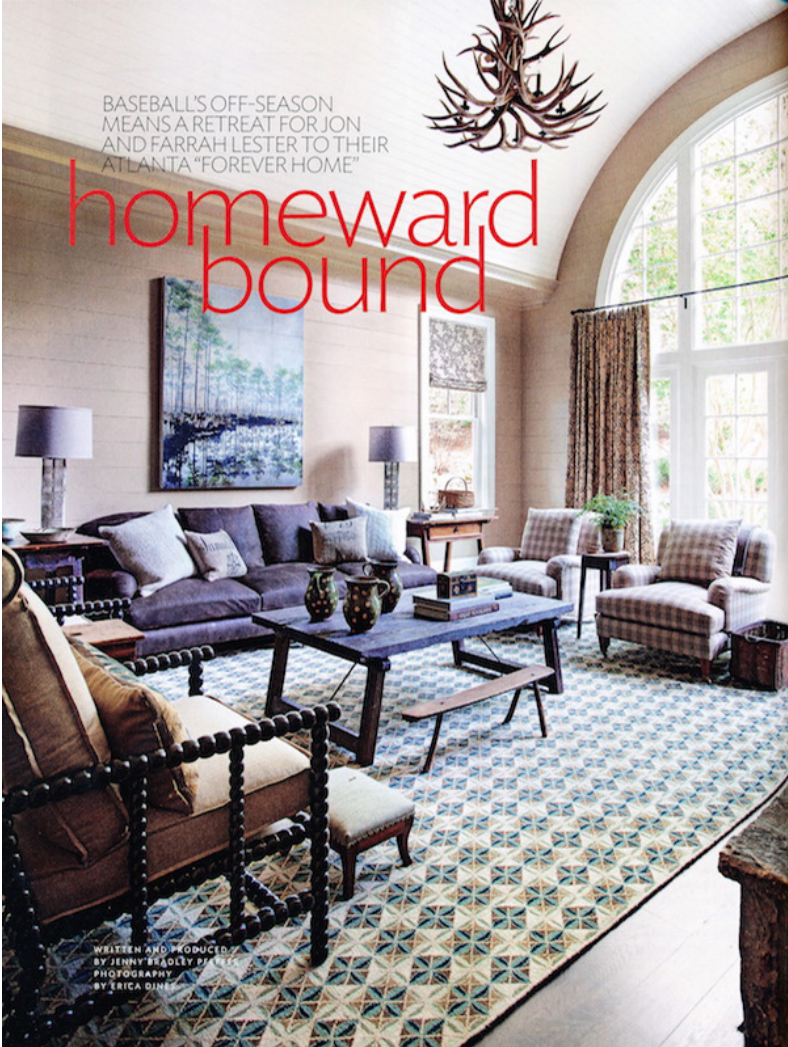
Baseball's Jon Lester
scores his forever home
in Atlanta **82**



BASEBALL'S OFF-SEASON
MEANS A RETREAT FOR JON
AND FARRAH LESTER TO THEIR
ATLANTA "FOREVER HOME"

homeward bound

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BY ERICA DUMMETT





for

Jon and Farrah Lester, home always seemed to be wherever Jon's career as a professional baseball player took him. As often occurs for any player—even one as celebrated as Jon, who has graced the cover of *Sports Illustrated*—changing ball clubs and cities became the norm. Every chance they got, however, the couple retreated to their beloved Atlanta, some 700 miles away from Jon's current job as a starting pitcher for the Chicago Cubs.

But with the arrival of their sons—Hudson is now 5, and Walker is 2—Jon and Farrah decided it was time to put down permanent roots for their growing family. "We only spend half the year in Atlanta right now, but it's definitely home to us," Farrah says. "We wanted something warm and cozy—a forever home that would be big enough for our extended families to enjoy."

When they found an almost-perfect Shingle-style house just outside the city, the Lesters called on designer Barbara Westbrook to transform the interiors with her fresh take on traditional.

"We're not overly fancy, formal people," Farrah says. "We wanted a beautiful home filled with antiques, but we didn't want it

Library Bursts of red—in the painting by artist Anke Schofield and plaid Holland & Sherry upholstery on the ottoman—add a playful vibe to this masculine space. Living room Designer Barbara Westbrook added a vintage, hand-stained carved fireplace mantel for visual interest. Hall Jon Lester's collection of baseball memorabilia. Preceding pages One of Westbrook's favorite purchases was the family room's hand-drawn patterned rug in shades of blue and green that acts as the palette's touchstone.

“WE WANTED A BEAUTIFUL HOME FILLED WITH ANTIQUES, BUT WE DIDN'T WANT IT TO BE TOO FORMAL.”
—homeowner Farrah Lester



Dining room A sage-green paint from Benjamin Moore sets off an antique Welsh cupboard filled with Farrah's collection of vintage pewter. The painting is by Atlanta-based artist Michael Dines.



to be too formal. We wanted touches that were rustic and a warm, welcoming Southern feel."

Westbrook knew just where to begin. "Jon and Farrah love color and warmth," she says, "so we started with a timeless palette of rich greens with accents of persimmon, and then we mixed in antiques."

For the most part, the house needed only cosmetic changes, but there were some design challenges too. To begin with, the soaring proportions of the family room with its 18-foot ceiling made the space seem a bit cavernous. To create cozier confines, Westbrook called on her woody palette. "This room is really all about the warmth factor," she says. "We used a warm paint color on the walls that contrasts very subtly with the ceiling. Because there's not an abrupt contrast between the two, the ceiling doesn't seem quite as dominant."

A substantial antler chandelier installed high above tames the room's height even more and offers a nod to Jon's love of hunting and the outdoors. "Jon really wanted this chandelier," Westbrook says. "It works well here with artwork that has a slightly more modern vibe and keeps the room from being too heavy."

With a wealth of furniture at hand for the living room, Westbrook decided on an arrangement that focuses on the fireplace. She replaced a nondescript white-painted mantel with a hand-stained and waxed version. "The fireplace is such a focal point here," she says. "It needed weight and visual interest, so we found a piece that had these beautiful carvings. It anchors the room."

Next she paired sofas, chairs, artwork, and even lighting in a symmetrical design to create a room that almost seems a refined mirror image of itself. Antique armchairs upholstered in linen damask flank the fireplace, tempering the room's more masculine furnishings—handsome wing chairs in a menswear-inspired plaid and a pair of shapely dark-green sofas that face off across a streamlined coffee table.

A mix of new and antique, cottagey and family-friendly is important to Farrah. In the dining room, which exudes Southern charm, vintage pieces blend with curvaceous chairs designed for comfort—the stylish seating accommodates Jon's 6-foot-4 frame as easily as those of his pint-size sons. A Welsh cupboard houses a pewter collection that plays off a brass chandelier and an ethereal painting commissioned from Atlanta artist Michael Dines.

As avid entertainers and hosts to many out-of-town guests, Jon and Farrah need a kitchen that works hard and plays hard. The space functioned well, Westbrook says, "but needed a facelift." Floors were darkened, cabinets painted, lighting updated, and new sinks and faucets installed. "Jon came up with the idea of adding the custom-made

Kitchen While the home's original kitchen had a workable layout—complete with two islands and double ovens—a few cosmetic changes were made. Westbrook swapped in pendant lights from Hector Finch, added a custom iron potrack to accommodate copper cookware, and darkened the wood floors. Bar stools are from Dennis & Leen.



iron potrack," the designer says. The kitchen—plus a breakfast nook that sports a joyful bird theme—is now a favorite family spot. "I come from a Southern home where cooking is a big part of life," Farrah says. "When we're home, we love to cook. And when we're entertaining, this is where guests will spend most of the evening."

But everyone needs a retreat, and the master bedroom, replete with relaxing hues and vintage finds, is just that. Emulating the living room's warm, hearty sensibility, Westbrook mixed neutrals and gray-green with shots of persimmon and dashes of blue. "Persimmon is such a beautiful, warm color," she says. "It's one of my favorite accents. It's an incredibly versatile color."

In this private space, large-scale pieces—an antique armoire and a four-poster with a fabric headboard—moderate the high ceilings, while woven accessories add textural leverage.

"This is definitely our forever home," Farrah says. "It's so refreshing when I open the door and am greeted by these warm, inviting spaces. It's a dream come true." ■

Designer: Barbara Westbrook **For more information, see sources on page 113**

Bath: A Waterworks clawfoot tub becomes the center of attention atop a honed gray-and-white marble tile floor from Paris Ceramics.
Master bedroom: Large-scale pieces like the four-poster from Formations and the Provincial armoire and 17th-century trunk, both from Rubuck, are partnered with textural elements—woven baskets and an antique tobacco basket above the headboard. Windows are adorned with custom draperies.
Guest room: Designed with the homeowners' niece in mind, the space is elegantly girly. The room was designed around the quilt from Stella Rubin.

