

March 2008

TRADITIONAL HOME Decorating

FROM
THE
HEART
Designer
Joanna Poitier
at home with
her biggest fan,
Sidney

Red Alert

Fab New Furnishings and Fabrics p28

South by Southwest Style

Don't Miss Our Atlanta Showhouse p86

+ The Best of Austin Design p49

A pair of plum-colored chairs from Lee Industries and a linen-upholstered sofa set up to a Regency gas fireplace in the living room.

IN A SHOWHOUSE CREATED FOR TRADITIONAL HOME, DESIGNER BARBARA WESTBROOK PROVES HAVING CHILDREN DOESN'T MEAN GIVING UP ELEGANCE.

Built for Women Showhouse III

having it all

BY AMY ELBERT PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRUCE BUCK PRODUCED BY ROBERT YOUNG

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After hectic days of running from music lessons to soccer practices, home is a precious haven for families with children. And while furnishings that stand up to the rumble-umble of kids' activities are a given, it is equally important to create calming and comforting surroundings, says Atlanta interior designer Barbara Westbrook. "A home should be a retreat from our very, very busy lives," she says, "a place where a family can relax together, hang out, and play."

Natural fabrics, a soothing color palette, and kid-scaled furniture are some of the features Westbrook incorporated into a townhouse she designed for the *Traditional Home* Built for Women III Showhouse in Woodstock, Georgia. Westbrook is

one of three Atlanta interior designers who joined with award-winning Atlanta builder Pam Sessions of Hedgewood Properties and *Traditional Home* to build and decorate three adjacent townhouses in the community 20 miles north of Atlanta.

Each of the three-level homes was designed to meet the needs of different homeowners. Westbrook's project was for a family with two school-age children, a father, and a mother who works at home. (The other townhouses—one designed for a single professional woman and the other for a young couple—will be featured in future issues of *Traditional Home*.)

When Westbrook designed the 3,000-square-foot family-friendly townhouse, she built in plenty of room for play. "It's



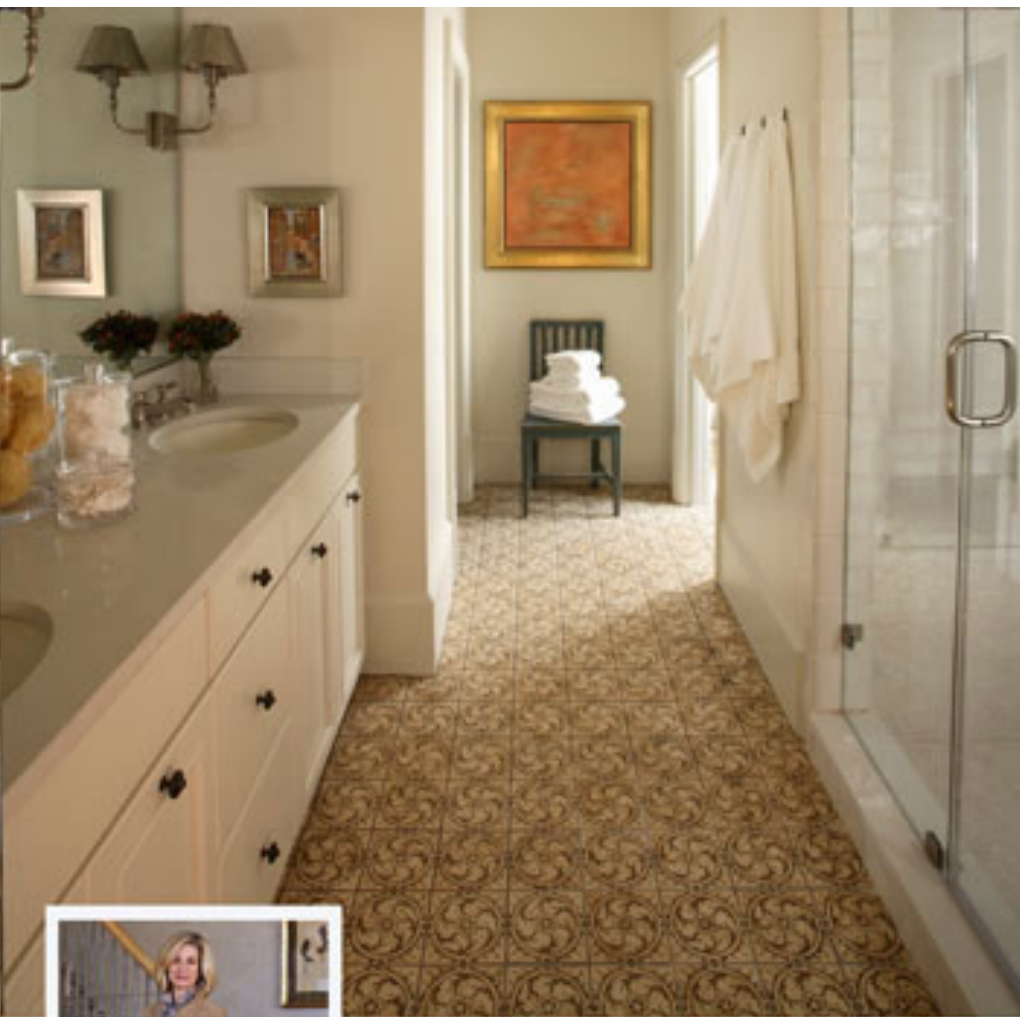
Opposite: French doors in the living room open to a second-floor balcony. **Right:** Chairs covered in a weather-resistant Sunbrella fabric provide comfortable balcony seating year-round. **Above:** In the living room, a neutral color scheme is warmed by an antique Italian chair upholstered in aubergine cashmere. **Left:** The house is entered on the lower terrace level. The garage is at the back on the same level.





A dramatic eggplant paint color from Benjamin Moore creates an intimate backdrop for dining and sets off artwork. Linen-covered chairs and a mix of wood tones enhance the setting. Right: In the kitchen, glass-fronted wall cabinets by KraftMaid introduce vintage styling, while 1/2 stainless steel appliances offer 21st-century performance. A large island topped with Cambria quartz balances the room's 11-foot-high ceilings. Below right: A home office console clutter, and an antique table and stools nestle into a sunny nook.





important to create spaces where kids are allowed to be kids, where everything is not precious," she says.

Westbrook designated a 15x14-foot room on the terrace (and main entry) level of the house as a sunny playroom. Chalkboard paint on the walls allows little artists to create freely. A table and chairs are scaled so they can sit comfortably, and a floor cushion encourages soft landings. "It's designed so kids can be comfortable in their own space," Westbrook says.

Large wicker baskets, shelves, and ample closet space make for easy toy pickup. "We made sure there was plenty of storage

so everything can be put up at the end of the day," she says. French doors open the playroom to a covered patio, where youngsters can toss a ball or just be snowy.

In the foyer, stairs lead up to the main living area, with a living/family room, dining room, and kitchen. "The main space is all open, so we needed to make sure the color palette flowed while allowing each area to have its own identity," notes the designer. "We used the same colors but in different ways."

A neutral cream-and-white palette runs through the main level, with subtle gradations accented by pops of color that enliven

Barbara Westbrook: classy, calm, and collected

Inspired by Belgian, French, and Northern European designs, Barbara Westbrook favors clean, simple shapes and natural materials. "Our look is always clean," Westbrook says. "I don't like it when you walk into a space and you feel confused, when there is so much going on you don't know where to look." Westbrook begins most design projects with color, preferring neutral backdrops with brighter accents in artwork, pillows, or accessories. After studying interior design at the Art Institute of Atlanta and working with some of the design world's best—Gandy Peace and Nancy Brathwaite—the Lynchburg, Virginia, native started her own business, Westbrook Interiors. She and her staff typically are involved in every aspect of a home's design, from detailing cabinetry to choosing plumbing fixtures. Westbrook designs furniture, too, and is currently working on a French Modern collection for Beacon Hill.



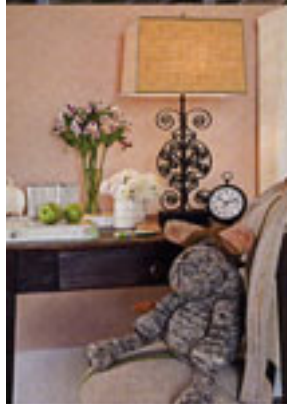
Cozy comfort rules in the bedroom, with its nubby, soft rug from Shaw and snugly daybed. Woven Roman shades by Hunter Douglas and tau walls create a fuss-free environment that won't compete with kids' toys or clutter. *Above:* A few nicks and kicks will add to the charm of an old chest with a distressed blue finish. *Below:* A wood-framed upholstered chair is close to a table for games, model-making, and crafts.

the different areas. In the living room, cream-colored walls and draperies are accented by a pair of deep plum-colored upholstered chairs. Pillows made from antique wool quilts "bring the whole scheme together," Westbrook says. "I like a neutral palette, but I do like to introduce splashes of color, whether in art, accessories, or throw pillows."

Linen draperies in cream are hemmed with a wide band of brown and accented by buttons. Flirty skirt-like lampshades are also fashion-inspired. "They bring softness and dressmaker details into the room," the designer says.

In the dining area, Westbrook painted walls a rich aubergine, dramatically echoing the plum color of the living-room chairs. An antique Belgian dining table with a timeworn honey-hued finish is surrounded by linen-covered chairs. Here an antique Italian walnut credenza stands against a wall. "I like mixing the dark rich finishes with the lighter so it looks like pieces were collected over time rather than someone buying everything at once," Westbrook says. "What unifies the spaces is color."

The dining room flows into the kitchen, where two-tone ceramic tiles on the range wall introduce subtle color shifts. ▶



Above: An upholstered bed by Lee Industries is plumped with elegant and child-friendly checkered and floral liners. Fabric Roman shades dotted with rosebuds are layered over the wood blinds.

Left: A simple table beside the bed doubles as a desk. **Right:** Wooden bird sculptures fit in a study nook near the children's bedrooms.

Far right: Checkerboard tiles dress up the children's bath.



The organic Arts and Crafts-inspired pattern, created by inlaying a darker clay into a pale bisque base, forms a textured backdrop for creams-colored maple cabinets with glass fronts.

Quartz-surface countertops in soothing mocha are easy to wipe clean and won't stain—a must-have feature in a household with children. A center island divides the kitchen, with a cooking and prep zone on one side and countertop seating where children can do homework on the other. A stainless-steel refrigerator with twin narrow doors won't block traffic when open, and it takes less muscle for little ones to open. A micro-

wave under the island keeps countertops clear—and is within reach of youngsters able to prepare their own snacks.

To cater to a work-at-home mom's needs, Westbrook fashioned an office next to the kitchen. A wall of built-in cabinets provides space to store books, files, and other papers, and a stretch of quartz surfacing offers ample work space. Corkboards and cubbies line the backplash area to keep schedules and notes in view. "Every client needs a space like this, whether she works inside or outside the home," Westbrook says. "It's a way to keep a household organized. It really is the hub of the home." ▶



Top: Doors from the playroom open to a covered terrace. Blackboard paint on the walls is easy to paint over when the children outgrow the playroom. **Above:** Low open shelves below the flat-panel television make toy pickup easy. **Above left:** The foyer hall on the terrace level links the front door to the garage.

Solid wood floors throughout the main living area clean up easily and provide a warm backdrop to the cream-colored cabinets in the kitchen. Westbrook had the floors site-finished with a soft gray stain.

While family life swirls in the kitchen area, the third-level bedrooms are designed to soothe. Soft gray walls, draperies, and a chaise longue set a restful mood in the master bedroom. A white duvet and monogrammed pillow shams are classically simple, while an antique rug in warm pumpkin and turquoise hues adds a rich dose of color. "The rug just glows," Westbrook says. "I think there is a serenity to the space, and part of that comes from using neutrals. You feel enveloped in this really pretty warm gray color, and the pop comes in the area rug with its palette of oranges and touches of turquoise."

Even the children's bedrooms exude a calming aura. Walls painted chocolate warm the boy's room, and pale pastels soften the girl's space. "Bedrooms really are one place that should be calming. They are a place to retire and relax," Westbrook says.

Tucking little ones to bed at night after a busy day always feels good. Westbrook proves it can look good, too. ▶

Architect: Lew Oliver **Kitchen designer:** Traci Kloos

For more information, see sources on page 152.

For floor plans and more details, visit traditionalhome.com.

A big round of applause for our showhouse sponsors (pictured below). It is thanks to the generous support of these companies and other businesses, and the hard work of many talented individuals that our showhouse was such a singular success.



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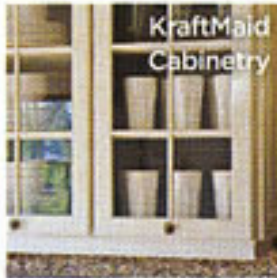
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Good for people, good for the planet

The townhouses created for *Traditional Home* magazine's Built for Women III Showhouse are three of nearly 400 residences and 80,000 square feet of offices and retail spaces in Woodstock Downtown, a pedestrian-friendly community in the historic town of Woodstock, near Atlanta.

Pam Sessions of Hedgewood Properties developed the neighborhood with a mix of housing—flats above shops, single-family homes, and townhouses—to allow residents of all ages to live and work together. The structures at Woodstock Downtown are built using sustainable and eco-friendly materials to ensure clean indoor-air quality and low energy consumption. Trails and parks encourage outdoor activities.