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Worldly Elegance

This Buckhead home has all the class and style of an Italian estate

Walking through the front doors of this Buckhead home, you immediately are transported to another world. With no detail left untouched and no stone (or tile) left returned, the fine essence of an elegant Italian estate has been translated perfectly here in this home.

Designers Cindy Davis, Robin Plett and Megan Tinkler of Luxury Lifestyles Atlanta were initially retained to redesign the wine cellar and adjacent bar area in the home's terrace level. The collaboration essentially began when the homeowners purchased

the home, which was built as the 2005 Alliance Children's Theater Guild Christmas Show House. "[The homeowners] wanted the home to look very Old World and Italian," Davis says.

During a conversation to select paint colors, Davis and the homeowner forged an instant connection, and the initial phone call eventually led to a whole-house redesign. Knowing that the homeowners wanted the interior of their home to reflect its exterior architecture and style, the designers worked together to give the home a classic look.

Using the book "Villa Decor: Decidedly French & Italian Style"



The enormous windows in the formal European **DINING ROOM** showcase elegant window treatments that frame the surrounding views. The delicate place settings and china are from the designers' personal collection, which also includes the Italian-blown wine glasses. The room is accented by a hand-blown Italian bowl by Donghia, sepia prints from the Beacon Hill Showroom at ADAC, and an area rug from World of Rugs & Carpet.

Designed for both family gatherings and formal dining, the inviting Tuscan-style **KITCHEN** features handcrafted cabinets by Design Galleria, exquisite limestone flooring, state-of-the-art appliances by Wolf and Sub-Zero, and faucets by Rohl. The main panels of the luxurious window treatments were created by Beacon Hill.

by Betty Lou Phillips, ASID, as their inspiration, the design team set out to give the home's interior a face-lift. Davis implemented her design philosophy, which is to start with fabrics first, whether for window treatments or upholstery, thus giving the homeowner a chance to see how each room's color scheme and character will come together, and dictate how casual or formal a space needs to be.

A warm color palette was needed to make the more than 12,000-square-foot house feel less like a McMansion and more like a home. The family room walls are a comforting earthy terra cotta hue, a perfect complement to the neutral sofa and wood furniture in the space. In the more formal spaces, such as the dining room, luxurious window treatments and fabrics were used to impart an elegant feel. Mixed with understated furniture upholstered in neutral tones, the vibe is exactly what the homeowners wanted. As the focal points of the space, the chandelier and fireplace truly stand out.

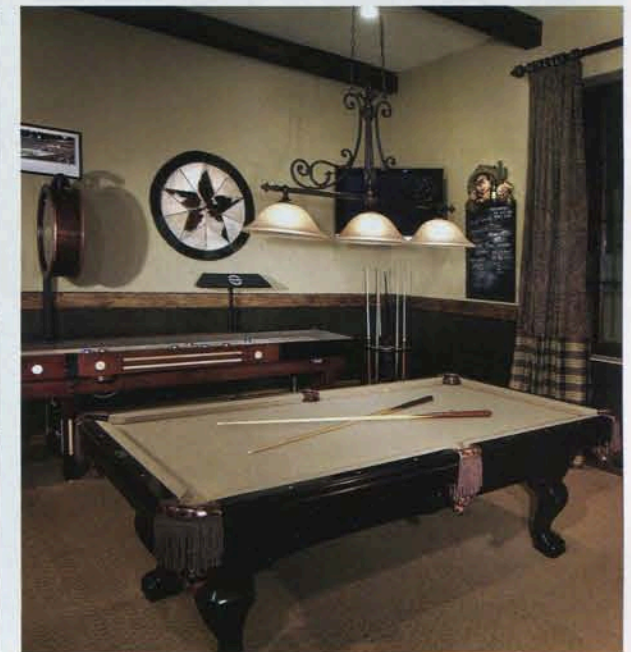
One of the homeowners' objectives was ensuring that the redesign didn't distract from certain architectural elements, such as the



Above: The elegant Venetian-inspired **LIVING ROOM** features beautiful upholstered sofas accented with gilded pillows by Van Guard. The majestic armchairs are designed by John Richards Collection and Fabricut, and Kravet designed the enchanting silk window treatments.

Bottom left: The **POWDER ROOM** features the homeowner's original mirror from Drexel Heritage, which hangs above an ornate custom-made vanity by Coventry Designs and wallpaper by York Wall coverings.

Bottom right: The homeowners' own pool table was the inspiration for this stately **BILLIARD ROOM**, creating an inviting space for friendly competition. The room incorporates wallpaper by Schumacher with woodwork by Coventry Designs. The neutral rug can be found at Bell Carpet Galleries, and the coordinating window treatments were designed by Kravet.



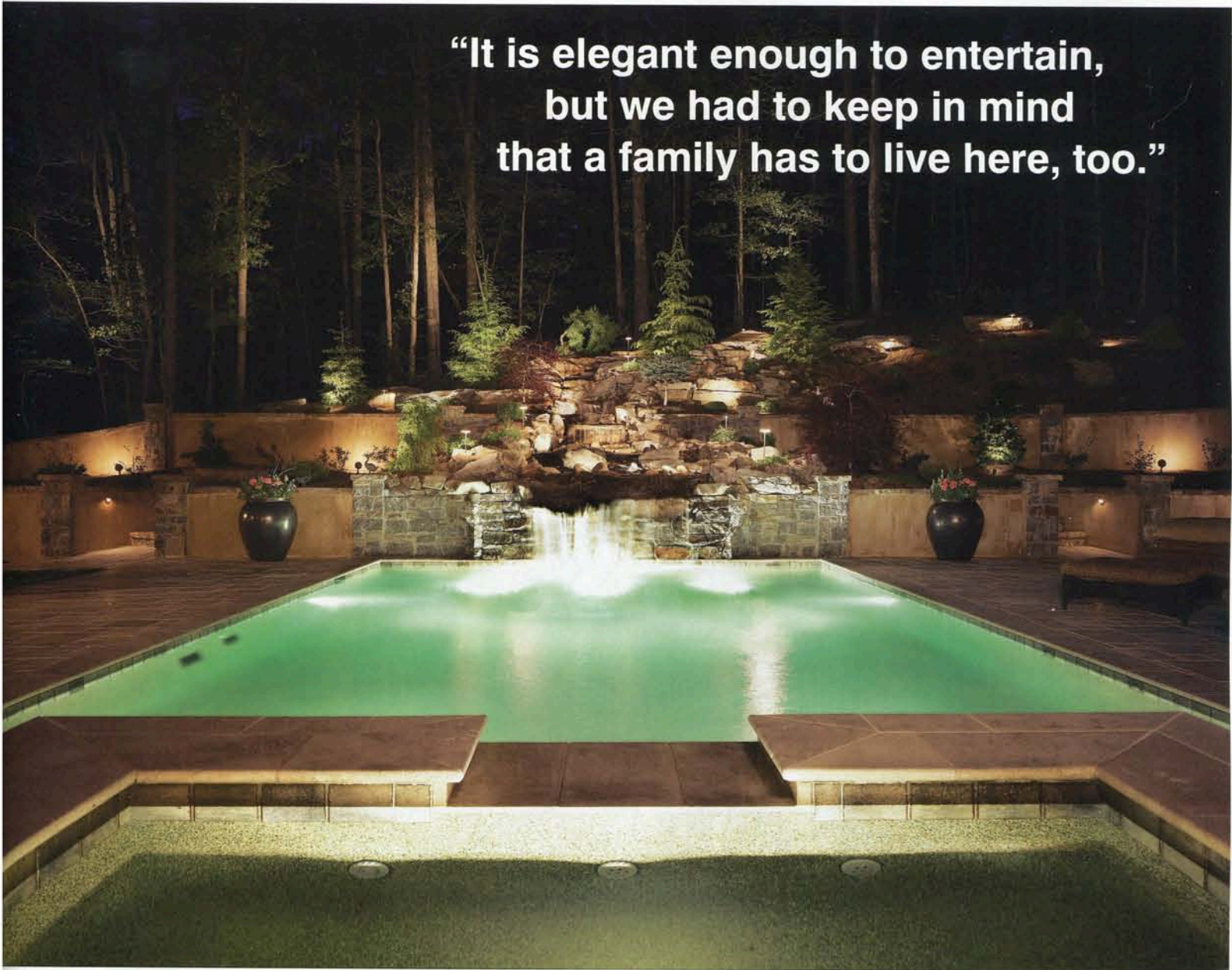


Top left: The lady of the house was inspired by this Apex sink when conceiving her luxurious **SPA BATHROOM**. Hand-stamped wallpaper by Schumacher adorns the walls, accenting the muted hues of the custom-designed tile by Renaissance Tile and Bath. The finishing touch: an intricate wooden sink vanity created by Coventry Designs and designed by LLA.



Top right: The homeowners utilized their own bar stools in the terrace-level **BAR**, making it a comfortable spot to play bartender or sommelier. The rich wooden cabinets by Coventry Designs accent the original brick and tile work created by the builder. The Indigo Muse of the walls was created with faux finishes.

Bottom: Fit for a king and queen, the regal **MASTER BEDROOM** blends comfort with elegance. The four-poster bed is dressed in custom-designed bed linens by Basils, accented by a center lumbar pillow, bed skirt and Euro shams designed by Beacon Hill. The dainty chair by Henredon and the coordinating love seat from TRS Furniture create an inviting sitting area. The delicate ottoman was custom-designed by Beacon Hill Gallery, Dogwood and Fabricut, and the luxe window treatments are by Robert Allen and Stout.



“It is elegant enough to entertain, but we had to keep in mind that a family has to live here, too.”

large, wood-framed arched windows along the rear of the home in the kitchen and family room. Even though the window treatments are a stand-out feature in these spaces, they don't distract from the design of the windows or the magnificent view of the home's exterior loggia. Similarly, the distressed pine beams in the space serve as an architectural and design feature, but don't overwhelm the space.

Since the homeowners often throw large parties, the designers took great measures to be sure that the rooms had the right flow. The large kitchen island offers ample serving space and room to congregate and sit without crowding the walkways or causing a traffic jam. Con-

versely, the kitchen also is a great space for the family to gather. “It is elegant enough to entertain, but we had to keep in mind that a family has to live here, too,” Davis says.

Walking the thin line between elegance and comfort is not an easy task. The designers worked together to give this home the classic, Old World look without using overwhelming design elements, and the result is an inviting, lived-in spaces. “I think we had the same thing in mind,” the homeowner says. “We both thought that the architecture of this house was just very classic and so beautiful that we needed to be careful not to do too much.” —LAUREN A. HOFFMAN

Above: A stunning Southern estate needs an equally stunning **SWIMMING POOL**. The pool and surrounding tile were designed and created by Watercolor, and the rock waterfall was developed by Aquatic Creations.