

# ATLANTA HOMES<sup>TM</sup> & LIFESTYLES

*Classic*

COVETABLE  
STYLE,  
COLLECTED  
INTERIORS

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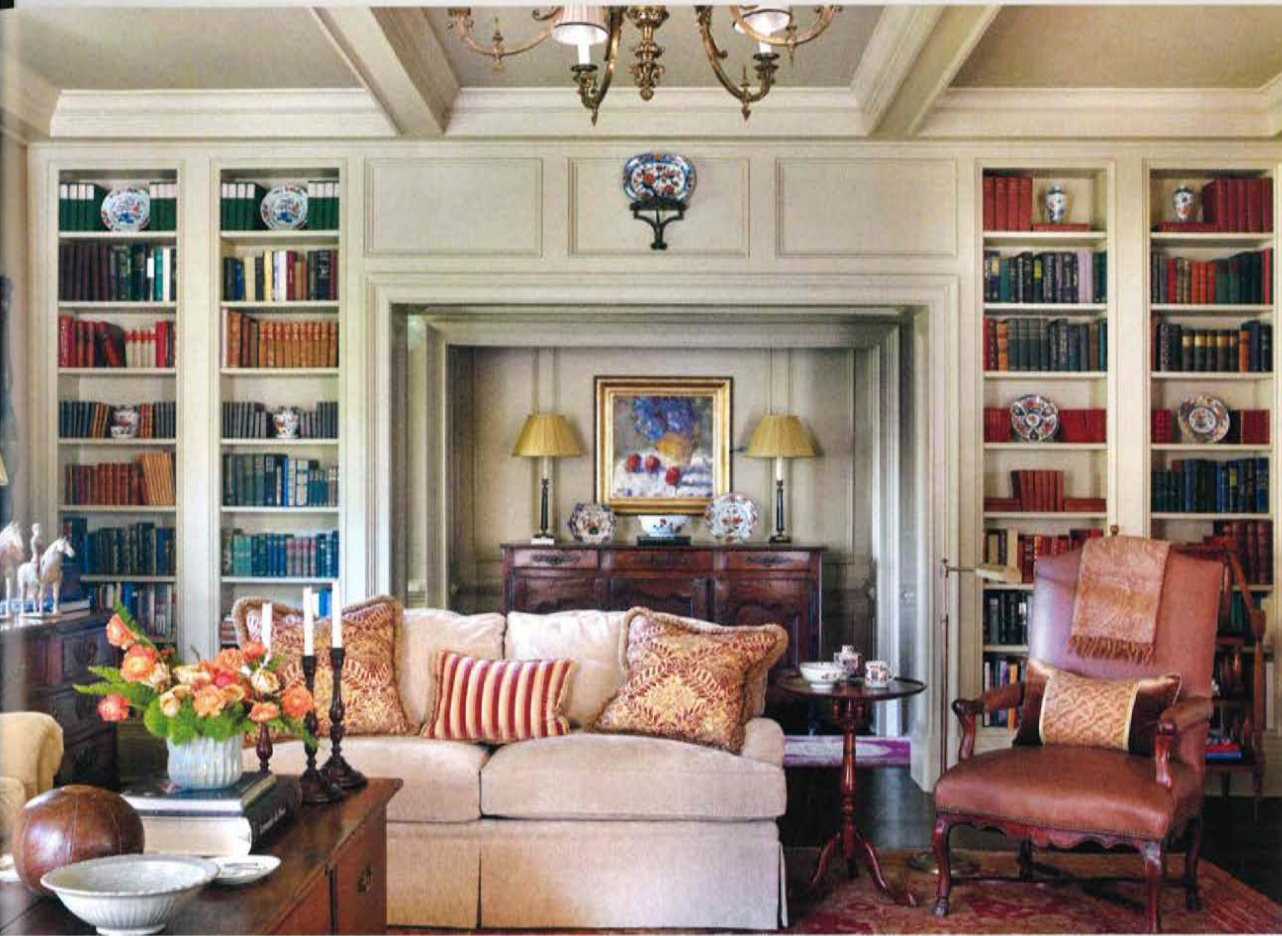
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### On Display

*left* Warmth envelops the family room with understated reds, browns and beiges. The Italian leather chair is from Jacqueline Adams Antiques. *below* A grouping of famille rose porcelain mixes with other prized antiques in a corner of the living room. *opposite* A corridor off the family room showcases the wife's Imari porcelain collection.

Pleased with the transformation, it wasn't long before the couple started considering other ways of freshening up their home. Thankfully, Bryan was already one step ahead. "When we first met and I walked through the house, I saw a lot of very pretty things but they were just not in the right place or creating any impact," she recalls. So after brightening up the walls (they were previously a range of historic colors, but deemed too "muddy") and widening cased room openings for a better sense of flow, Bryan began what she playfully refers to as "musical chairs"—moving the couple's extensive collection of art and antiques around from room to room until just the right spot was found. For example, an oversize mural fashioned from a Gracie wallpaper that was once out-of-sight now takes pride of place in the dining room, while a 1923 still life entitled "Tea and Strawberries" was hung in the master bedroom so that the couple can now wake up to their favorite painting every morning.

Bryan also transformed seldom-used rooms into more approachable spaces, the most notable being the sunroom. Doors leading to the living room were removed for a more welcoming touch, and a





### *Collector's Items*

Existing bookshelves in the library were dressed up with molding and other detailing to match the sophistication of the couple's leather book collection. Bryan reupholstered the wing chair and brought in the leather settee that was once located in the dining room.

table-and-chairs arrangement now makes it a multipurpose space—an impromptu office for answering emails to a sunny spot for brunch.

While Bryan continued to finesse the interiors, the homeowners set their sights on their backyard, or lack thereof. Consisting of a small patio and no lawn, the steep, overgrown site left much to be desired by the outdoor-loving couple with a passion for gardening. So they turned to landscape architect John Howard and architect William B. Litchfield for a solution.

Undeterred by the land's deep ravine, Howard "lifted the property" he says with a series of retaining walls that allowed for the creation of cascading green spaces that lead to a newly built folly on axis with the library. "I wanted the structure to be a stimulating feature of the garden design, and really everything in the backyard evolved from that," notes Howard.

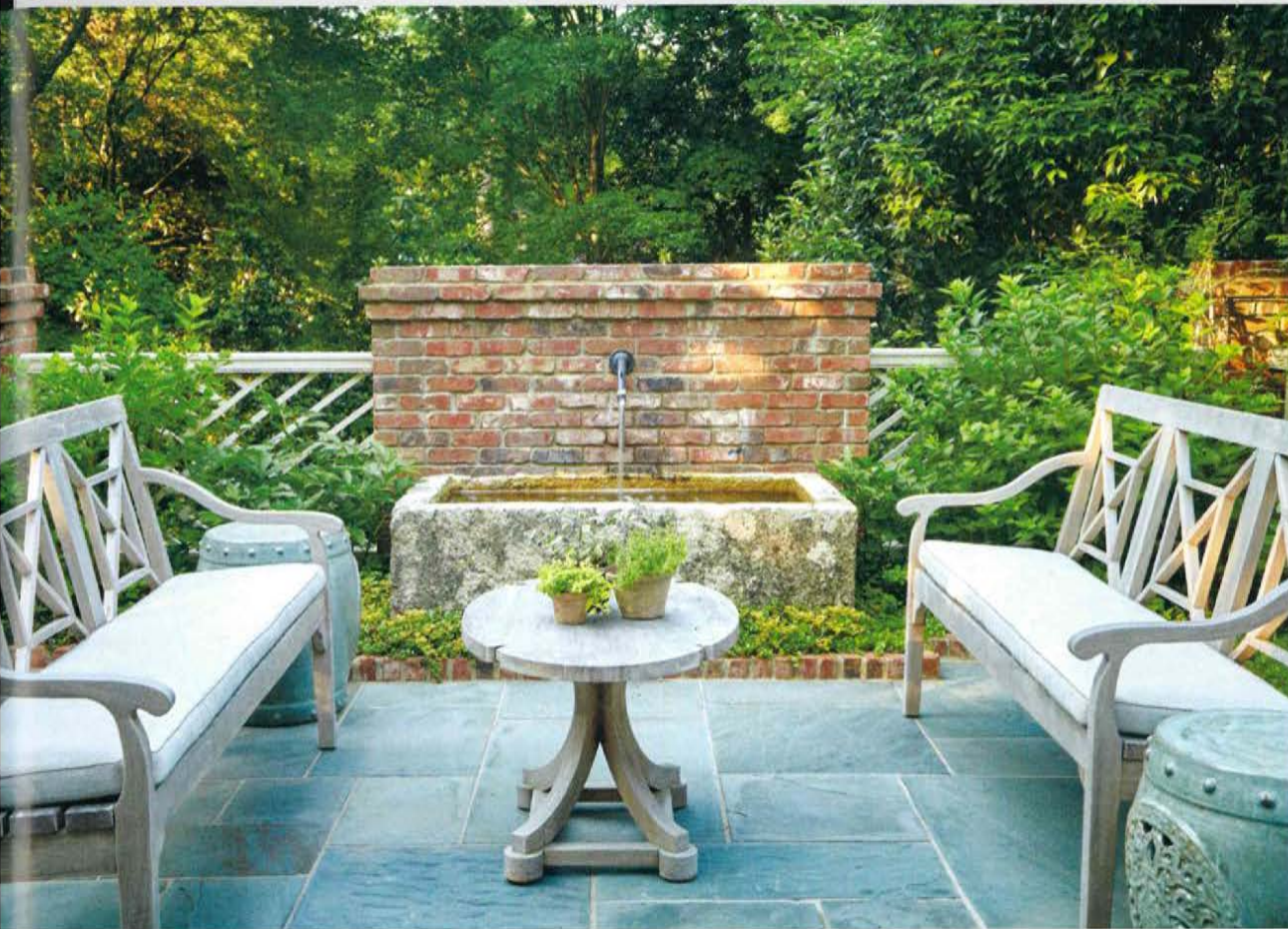
With the folly set to be the centerpiece, Litchfield spared no detail, a hallmark of the classically trained architect. "In researching folly structures from Virginia to the Carolinas to Georgia, and even as far over as Louisiana, this octagonal image kept coming up," he says. Litchfield used the striking shape as the foundation of the folly





*Natural Order*  
Landscape architect  
John Howard of  
Howard Design sited  
the backyard's octagonal  
folly on axis with  
the library.





### *Gather Around*

*left* An intimate seating area features an 18th-century horse trough repurposed into a fountain. *below* Inspired by a photo of boiserie in an old French château, Bryan commissioned The Finishing Source to repaint the client's existing trumeau mirror. Unique accents such as a limewashed chandelier by Koektrommel adds to the folly's worldly appeal.

design, but while follies are historically meant purely for decorative purposes, this particular structure was planned as a multifunctional space. So while it offers the couple a serene spot to enjoy a glass of wine amid the trees, it also doubles as the wife's art studio.

On warm days, she can open the folly's series of grand 10-foot iron doors for fresh air or switch on the heated flooring during cooler months. These modern conveniences are seamlessly integrated amid more period-authentic flourishes by Litchfield, including plaster walls and reclaimed limestone floors. Overhead, exposed wood framing follows the shape of the octagonal copper roof to make it seem as if the plaster had fallen down over time. "I don't think I've ever worked on something where the detail is as exquisite as this," notes Bryan, who complemented Litchfield's pitch-perfect design with beautiful accents such as an antique painting easel.

Litchfield also brought his design-narrative approach to the garage addition. "I love for every project to have a storyline, so for the garage, I came up with the concept that it could have been







### *Peaceful Retreat*

*opposite* Although recently planted, Howard designed the gardens to look well established. *above* For the potting shed, architect William B. Litchfield drew inspiration from Bunny Mellon's whimsical greenhouse at Oak Spring Farm in Virginia. Vintage lumber lines the interior walls while exterior lattice screens allow for vines to frame this charming spot. Flowers by Holly Bryan.

the old stable where they kept horses at one time," he explains. Stable doors on either side, with the center door opening to the backyard, now provide extra space for food, tables and even a dance floor when the couple hosts larger groups of guests.

And with the gardens thoughtfully designed to "look good in every season," says Howard, entertaining in the backyard can be a year-round affair. As winter approaches, fragrant daphne will bring the gardens to life, while viburnum and hydrangea are set to bloom in the springtime.

"It all came together like a symphony," says Litchfield, reflecting on the home's three-year transformation. "I'm thrilled they ended up seeing the potential in their home and even more so that they put together a great team to show them what could be."

Bryan agrees. "They use every inch of the home now," she says. "They're able to truly love a place that they almost thought about selling. I'm so glad they gave it a second chance." *See Resources, Page 95.*