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Style Shift

Written by Alyse Harral Stevens Photographed by Emily Followill

**AN UNASSUMING RANCH RECEIVES
AN ARTFUL TRANSFORMATION**

In this late-1940s ranch home, beams were added to the dining room ceiling to differentiate the space from the neighboring kitchen. The chandelier is from Circa Lighting, and the étagères are by Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams.





above The home's façade is in the spirit of Palladian design. **left** A tufted ottoman from Axis Twenty centers the cocktail party-ready living room. A sumptuous gray mohair sofa by Todd Hase is punctuated by the more elaborate pair of black chairs from Scott Antique Markets. The painting is one of artist Gene Davis' signature striped pieces.

IRONICALLY, the homeowners of this late-1940s ranch had merely a small modification in mind for their Atlanta home—the addition of a laundry and powder room. But once they began to brainstorm with architect Laura Howard DePree, the ideas began to snowball.

Though DePree still considers the project a simple renovation, the changes that were made transformed everything about the house, while only moving a few walls and doorways. “It’s all about how you enter and move through the space,” says DePree. “The house has a graciousness and casualness.”

Ten-foot ceilings, unusual in a ranch home, made the process easier. Classical elements marry with modern touches to give the house verve and to suit the homeowners’ personalities. A new cedar shake roof, striking metal-and-glass doors and simple, smooth-finish stucco elevate the style. “It is now in the spirit of Palladian architecture. I was inspired by the fact that the original Palladian Italian villas were working farmhouses,” explains DePree, “very much like American ranch houses were built for post-war working families.”

Art collectors at heart, the couple wanted a neutral interior design fueled by comfort and function. They turned to Randy and Courtney Tilinski at Bungalow Classic. Consulting with the Tilinskis, the wife would often bring pages from magazines as inspiration. Randy noticed one designer’s work in most of the pictures—Beth Webb of Beth Webb Interiors.

So after two years of living in the renovated house, the homeowners asked Webb to refresh, rearrange and renew the interiors. She started by removing what wasn’t needed—a coffee table here, a china cabinet there. Then she layered the interiors with accesso-



above An antique Aubusson rug anchors the living room. The homeowners rotate their collection so that works of art are never touched by direct sunlight. A piece by Robert Motherwell is propped above the mantel. A yellow abstract by Josef Albers nestles in the corner. **opposite, top to bottom** A comfortable club chair from Bungalow Classic mixes company with a classic antique chest from ABC Carpet and Home and the more modern shaped drinks table from Mathews Furniture Galleries. The mirror and metal lamp are from Scott Antique Markets. Previously unused by the homeowners, the porch now beckons with a vaulted ceiling and calming terrazzo floors. “You really feel like you are up in the trees,” says Webb. Woven outdoor furniture and cushions by Aventis. End table, Bungalow Classic.



above Beyond the stone wall, the formal pool area gives way to the natural forest. The landscape design is by John Howard of Howard Design Studio. **opposite** The master bedroom is an intimate space that is soft and inviting. The bedding from Restoration Hardware complements the rug and chairs from ABC Carpet and Home. A piece by Joan Miro hangs over the bed. End table, Hungelov Classic. Lamp, Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams.

ries, pillows, lamps and throws. "I took this great canvas and filled in the blanks," says Webb.

Since the owners' collection is never complete, Webb focused on fashioning understated rooms to complement the art. The living room is a perfect example. All the pieces were perfectly lovely, but they were a hodgepodge from the owners' other homes and various rooms. Webb wanted to give them air and space, visually, and create different seating areas to inspire the couple and their guests to linger.

Some tweaks were simple enough, like pulling in a drinks table from another room and adding new lamps. Others took Webb's designer eye and expertise: rearranging shelves, reconfiguring art placement, and weaving in objects with different heights and dimension. The end result is a home full of character, warmth and personality.

"I used to be a big symmetrical person," Webb admits. "But *perfectly perfect* is so boring. It's much more interesting to mix things up." SEE RESOURCES, BACK OF BOOK.





left "Imagine that Corbusier had come over in the 1930s, found this piece of property and built a modern structure and just left it there. That's the feel that we were going for; not necessarily contemporary but more of a modern house," says architect Rodolfo Castro about this two-story treasure. A combination of Georgia granite and oversized concrete blocks adds interest to the exterior layers. *below* A tray ceiling designed by Castro and Belding adds architectural interest to the dining room. A chandelier from Circa Lighting hangs above the homeowner's Stickley table. Montresor buffet and Chinon chairs by Juno Ho, available through R Hughes. Malayer Persian rug, Sullivan Fine Rugs. Quartz crystal by Ron Dier, available through Jerry Pair & Associates.

OUTSIDE *the* BOX

ARCHITECT
RODOLFO CASTRO
AND INTERIOR
DESIGNER EDWARD
BELDING CONQUER
THE COMPLEX TASK
OF MELDING
CONTEMPORARY
ARCHITECTURE
WITH WARM AND
INVITING INTERIORS



Written by Elizabeth Ralls Photographed by Erica George Dines



THREE YEARS AGO,

Edward Belding was enlisted by a contractor to manage the interior specifications for a traditional two-story house to be constructed on an acre-and-a-half lot in Brookhaven. But it wasn't long before the interior designer started to see a disconnect between the type of house the homeowners envisioned—"green," seamless connection to the outdoors and retirement-friendly—and the house being drawn. After the homeowners determined they were looking for a more modern vernacular, Belding called on former Summerour Architects colleague Rodolfo Castro to go back to the drawing board and design a contemporary home uniquely suited to the couple's passions and needs.

Both accomplished doctors and avid birders, the pair fell in love with a piece of property north of Buckhead that was once a nursery, but now home to a derelict ranch and overgrown trees. But that sort of natural, grown-wild environment was exactly what the homeowners wanted: a place where they could not only attract, protect and feed birds, but also take out their binoculars in any room in the house to catch them in action. Castro, landscape architect John Howard and builder

Belding enlisted metalsmith Charles Calhoun to custom design a fireplace surround in the family room. A slab of stone is encased in a unique steel frame that widens as it nears the wall of windows. Wide walnut planking by Skyler Morgan softens the space and adds warmth to the walls. Turn-around swivel club chairs, Coup d'Etat through R Hughes. Sultanabad Persian, Sullivan Fine Rugs. Roman Ring floor lamp, Alison Berger Glassworks through Holly Hunt Lighting at Jerry Pair. Aspen firewood bucket, Tuell and Reynolds through R Hughes. Petrified wood, Chip & Co. through R Hughes. Onyx bowls through Jerry Pair.



left A pair of tufted velvet Coup d'Etat swivel chairs graces the living room. **below** Landscape architect John Howard collaborated with architect Rodolfo Castro and builder Geoff Duncan to site the house in such a way that its steep lot, about one and a half acres, could accommodate a walk-out backyard with a pool, terrace and a generous amount of green space. The homeowners, both avid birders, worked with the Atlanta Audubon Society to certify their backyard as a registered wildlife sanctuary. **opposite** The library is dark, cozy and handsome and filled with the homeowners' personal treasures, including baskets from their travels to Botswana. A paneled wall with a painting by Georgia artist Bill Turner opens to reveal a Murphy bed. Skull lamp by Blackman Cruz, available through R Hughes. The Turkish rug is from Sullivan Pine Rugs. Nesting tables and antique leather chairs with nail-head trim, Nicholson Gallery



Geoff Duncan helped the couple fulfill that dream by the way they sited the house on its steep lot, leaving the backyard—nearly three-quarters of an acre—completely natural. And following the project's completion, the homeowners were able to establish their land as a certified wildlife sanctuary with the Atlanta Audubon Society.

Aside from designing the house in tune with its environment, one of Castro's main objectives was to design a "forever" house—one that would not only act as a luxurious retreat for its well-traveled homeowners, but also suit their needs as they, and members of their family, aged. In the cozy and compact library, for instance, a wall panel conceals a Murphy bed, while an adjacent bathroom is ADA-compliant.

Inside, it was also important that the interiors not look or feel like a stark-white modern box; that's where Belding's interior expertise and black book transformed the residence's sleek architectural bones into a home even die-hard tradi-



tionalists would love. Take the living room, for instance, where a steel-framed slab of marble fashions a one-of-a-kind mantel and fireplace surround on a planked walnut wall. But its dimension is deceiving: the steel frame widens from three inches to five the closer it gets to the window. That walnut-steel motif is repeated in the master bedroom, where Belding again enlisted metal artist Charles Calhoun and furniture designer Skylar Morgan to design an oversized headboard—which nearly reaches the ceiling—to soften the room's volume.

With the exception of the library, Belding painted the interior walls Pratt & Lambert Shadow Beige, a neutral that adds color without overpowering. And, while you won't find many casings or mouldings in this modern home, the designer added interest (and elegance) to the dining room in the form of a tray ceiling. But beyond his injections of custom-designed warmth, it's Belding's selections of comfortable, conversation-inducing pieces that not only cushions its modern vernacular, but also make this 4,000-square-foot home as comfortable for two as it is for twenty. **SEE RESOURCES, BACK OF BOOK.**



above To soften the volume of the master bedroom, Belding enlisted Skylar Morgan and Charles Calhoun to design a massive walnut headboard encased in steel. Custom side tables by Skylar Morgan Furniture and Design (SMFD). Bollicine lamps, Donghia. Shirvan Russian rug, Sullivan Fine Rugs. The bed linens are by Libeco, available through Nicholson Gallery. **opposite** A large window in the master bath allows natural light to flood the sybaritic space throughout the day.