



HOUSE HOSTESS

A Buckhead villa is custom crafted
to host any event—from
LAVISH GALAS to POOLSIDE PARTIES

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STYLING BY THOM DRIVER





A sunken limestone and mahogany bar designed by architect Mark Fosneg of Moon Bros. is a focal point in the living room. Bar cabinetry by P. Kinnane Woodworking, (404) 758-5951. Countertop by Marble Creations by Testa, (770) 425-8914. Painting by Michael Dines through Fay Gold. Sofa, Krells Collection, (404) 261-8304. Fabric on sofa and chair, Pollock & Associates, Donigha, ADAC, (404) 842-0760. Cocktail table, City Studio, (323) 658-1085. Armchair, Donigha. Ebony bar chairs, Michael Berman Limited, Renfroe, ADAC, (404) 869-6600; upholstered in chenille fabric by Holly Hunt, (773) 376-6675. Tibetan rug, Designer Carpets, ADAC, (404) 262-1720.



Seating group in front of the fireplace offers guests another intimate place to gather. Custom burl wood table by Paul Kinnane of P. Kinnane Woodworking. Chairs and lamp, Donghia, (404) 842-0760. Lamp shade, custom, Sun Lighting. Bowl, Philip Moulthrop, The Signature Shop, (404) 237-4426. Tibetan rug, Designer Carpets, ADAC, (404) 262-1720.



COCKTAIL PARTIES for 200, seated dinners for 24, and an entrance for valet parking. These are not the requirements for building the latest boutique hotel, but the lifestyle needs listed to an architect for a recently designed private residence. Actually, architect Mark Fosner of Moon Bros. asked his new client for a list of 20 objectives for how the house should perform, and when all 20 responses revolved around entertaining, he knew his team had a unique project to design.

The first step was to find the perfect site. There had to be enough land for two driveways, and it had to be near a side street where cars could easily be parked by valet. Also the house should be nestled into the landscape for the ideal pool and waterfall. Once the land was found, there was, of course, a festive groundbreaking party to ensure good entertaining karma.

The detailed house that arose on this land is an Italianate mix of contemporary and traditional. The U-shaped structure allows every room to have a view of the pool, and a multitude of windows blanket the interior with rays of light. Materials were chosen to integrate the house into the site. Stone, stucco, copper and travertine create a nature-inspired color scheme, which also carries into the interiors of the home.

Grand mahogany doors open to a direct view of the dramatic backyard. The home's layout is centered around a traditional architectural axis

Above an exquisite dining room table crafted from lemonwood and ebony hangs a retractable chandelier custom-made by local artisans and designed by the homeowner, Stuart Fosner and ironworks craftsman Andrew Crawford. The chandelier is lit with both candles and electric bulbs. Pocket windows open into the catering kitchen allowing easy access to the dining room during dinner parties. Dining table and chairs, The Lucien Rollin Collection, William Switzer & Associates, (954) 927-9980. Metal chandelier, Andrew Crawford, Andrew T. Crawford Ironworks, (404) 351-8324. Hand-blown globes, Matt Janke, Janke Studio, (404) 584-0305.



A couture-equipped walk-in closet is a necessity in this entertaining home. OPPOSITE: In the master bathroom, the vanity has plenty of light and storage. Cabinetry designed by Smith Stuart Interiors. Custom built by Rick Haradon, Haradon Cabinets. The master bedroom creates a relaxing space with a neutral color scheme and access to the pool as well as a private garden. Iron bed, Tui Pranich, (954) 925-6801. Sheer fabric drape, Pallas Textiles, (800) 472-5527. Bedding, designed by Smith Stuart Interiors. Bedding fabric, Gretchen Bellinger, (518) 235-2828, Pallas Textiles and Donghia. ADAC, (404) 842-0760. Chair upholstered in Pollack & Associates, Donghia.



that divides the house symmetrically. A cross axis is created from a massive limestone step-down bar in the living room that is perfectly in line with an art niche at the end of the opposite hallway.

Interior designer Leigh Smith Stuart was inspired by the classical architecture, as well as its exterior views, to create natural and elegant interior spaces, but she always had foremost in her mind how the home was to be used. "The homeowner wanted the house to flow, and she never wanted guests to feel crowded," Stuart says. "So we created warm and inviting spaces that are separate enough to defuse any feelings that you are in an 8,500-square-foot house."

Because the homeowner is an event planner for non-profits she could contribute important nuances to the project. "The homeowner, Leigh and I were a team," Fosner says. "We met once a week to discuss every little detail."

Stuart and the homeowner even went on a weeklong trip to Milan, Italy, for inspiration. "We

went sightseeing all over and took pictures of every detail that interested us—and of course we shopped," Stuart says. "Milan is the design city."

Even though the home has contemporary beginnings, the homeowner is very feminine and warm, and Stuart and Fosner wanted the house to reflect that feeling. Warm exotic woods, soft blues and creams were used throughout with occasional accents of red.

The dining room table was one of the first essential elements that had to be found before the project could move forward. It needed to be a very long table that was striking, yet soft. The required table also needed to be equal in scale to a massive chandelier of iron and blown glass created by local artisans, and yet not demand all the attention. "The chandelier and table do not compete with each other, but instead create an elegant balance," Stuart says.

The interiors had to be influenced by the architecture and the exterior—since both are



The outdoor oasis is visible from every room in the house. The waterfall has various speeds and was designed by Mark Fosner of Moon Bros. Pool, Chattahoochee Pools, (770) 623-5582; Waterfall construction, Pyramid Stone, (770) 888-4124.



visible in every room of the house. "The tones, textures and colors reflect the water, the stones and the landscape," Stuart says.

Since the house is so large, objects with mass were chosen as anchors, such as the bar, the chandelier and the marble fireplace surround, even the waterfall at the end of the pool. But those objects were not meant to dominate their spaces, so organic materials were selected to allow them to blend. "Instead of making one element have the first impact in a room, we made everything quietly beautiful," Stuart says. "So there is an overall elegance throughout."

This was also a priority in the architecture. "The house has a lot of details, but because they are harmonious, and there are no hard edges, it blends from room to room and from inside to out," Fosner says.

The result of this focused project is a glorious space to entertain—garnering praise from all who enter. And building this house has elevated the entertaining element of the homeowner's life

even more. "Every party or event she has, I can't imagine being able to improve upon—and yet she does," Stuart says. Proving that if you surround yourself with inspiration, there are no limits to what you can achieve.

DESIGN DETAILS

ARCHITECTURE

Mark Fosner, partner in charge;
Michelle Krahe, project architect;
Tiffany Barcik, design architect;
Al Metz, construction superintendent;
Moon Bros. Inc., Atlanta, (404) 377-6006

INTERIOR DESIGN

Leigh Smith Stuart, Smith Stuart Interiors,
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LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

Ed Castro, Ed Castro Landscape, Roswell,
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