



LEFT: Interior designer Laura Walker infuses this Atlanta home with eclectic elements. BELOW: With its dentil molding and symmetrical dormers, a portico complements the home's Colonial-style architecture. OPPOSITE: The keeping room couples clean, sculptural shapes with antique elements such as American Arts and Crafts needlepoint pillows and a French tapestry above the fireplace.



## living in a material world

If your home doesn't flaunt innate architectural charm, build it with thoughtfully chosen and placed materials that create a perfect canvas on which to decorate. Here's how:

### 1 TRIMWORK TRICKS

Wainscoting and wood planks give walls texture and depth that no paint treatment can match. From crown and base moldings to window frames, a room's trimwork is key. Architect Marc Mosley loved the arched windows in the keeping room but liberated them from square casings.

### 2 CLIMBING THE WALLS

If a wall becomes a barrier to your remodeling project, remove it. Mosley opened up the bathroom space by tearing out myriad walls with no sequencing.

### 3 ON THE SURFACE

From floors to counters, select surfaces that set the stage for your decorating style. Interior designer Laura Walker ornamented the bath with Jerusalem gold limestone, bird's-eye maple, and porcelain tiles. Marble counters and backsplash make a solid statement in the kitchen, as does the new stone fireplace in the keeping room.

June and Ward Cleaver would have thrived in this 25-year-old Colonial home situated in one of Atlanta's best-scrubbed neighborhoods. But for its Polish homeowner and her family, the house was a little heavy on the apple pie—a touch too all-American. “My job,” Atlanta designer Laura Walker says, “was to infuse it with more of a European feeling.”

This involved a two-part process: first, stripping away the excesses, then enriching the home with worldly style. To lighten, brighten, and simplify the house, architect Marc Mosley gutted the kitchen and master bath and built the spare but warm Scandinavian look the homeowners desired.

The kitchen was stripped of its floral wallpaper, Formica countertops, and other dated traces of Americana. As the focal point, Mosley and Walker added a sleek custom walnut island big enough to seat the whole family. Its streamlined shape executed in warm wood recalls Scandinavian design, an effect that's repeated at the new walnut-and-vinyl banquette—a niche created from the former laundry room.

Just as important as streamlining and simplifying the rooms was layering European and Asian furnishings. The spa-like bath now sports an Asian ladder and antique wrought-iron candlestand. The reworked keeping room is newly furnished with an Asian cocktail table, antique Chinese and English urns, and a wooden antique Chinese chair and stool. The living and dining rooms are a blend of antiques, reproductions, and contemporary art, pulled together in what Walker calls “modern traditionalism”—and what her European client can finally call home.

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