

Complementary Ideas

Against a traditional architectural backdrop, antiques and modern pieces join formal and informal accents to showcase the art of mixing opposites.

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Like most rooms in Carrie and John Browne's home, the study is anchored by an antique. Reupholstered in velvet, the sofa provides a bridge between the formal paneled walls and spunky orange draperies. A brass light fixture strikes another contemporary note.



THIS PHOTO: Reclaimed beams line the ceiling in the keeping room, encouraging a relaxed ambience. OPPOSITE: An arched portico and a series of peaked roof lines lend dimension to the home's facade.



Even on the cloudiest day, Carrie and John Browne's Atlanta home feels bright. Light streams in through large windows and French doors not by accident but by design. Residential designer Rodolfo Castro's plans called for wide hallways that allow light to travel unimpeded from the large windows throughout the house. The goal: fostering a sense of coziness to temper the home's spacious dimensions.

To that end, the keeping room ceiling is punctuated by reclaimed wood beams; the kitchen range hood is sheathed in weathered boards; and underfoot, wide-plank dark-stained oak floors radiate a patina that only gets better with use. Classic wide-base moldings and sophisticated crown molding lend a sense of distinction when married with painted drywall. The same base moldings issue a more relaxed vibe when paired with painted plank walls.

The architectural features set the stage for rooms capable of serving both formal and informal purposes. Carrie and John can host a seated dinner for 50 one week, then a smaller gathering for book club the next, and the home's elegant design accommodates both scenarios with aplomb. Beautiful but no-nonsense features, such as honed granite rather than marble for countertops in the kitchen and stain-resistant Sumbrella fabrics on furnishings, allow for worry-free entertaining. "We didn't want rooms that were off-limits—we wanted every room to be lived in and enjoyed," Carrie says.

Interior designer Jessica Bradley furthered the home's easy elegance with a palette of creams, taupes, gray-blues, and spring greens. "The Brownes are not fussy people," she says. "They wanted a relaxed look, but one that was still pretty and full of light colors." The clear hues work in conjunction with contemporary prints, easy-care linen fabrics, and modern light fixtures to lend family heirlooms a youthful edge.

"We love our family pieces, but we also live casually, and we wanted the house to feel warm and comfortable," Carrie says. "We had done two small renovations prior to this house, and although we loved the process and outcome, it was a dream to have our own fresh new canvas."

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To honor family antiques, interior designer Jessica Bradley incorporated them throughout the house but often gave them an updated twist. Dining chairs, for instance, were re-covered in a neutral fabric. A rustic starburst mirror and a clean-lined X-leg console introduce informal elements to the dining room.





THIS PHOTO: Painted brick walls, crown molding, and a wood-panel ceiling create a soothing interior-style backdrop for comfortable wicker seating pieces set atop Pennsylvania bluestone tiles in the loggia.



CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT: A zinc-top table and metal chairs echo the steely hue of the loggia's bluestone flooring. Woven pendant lights, chosen for their textural relief, illuminate the kitchen island. Hearty stone floors run throughout the home's utility spaces, including the laundry room. High on the Browns' wish list was a hardworking mudroom, where kids could store their gear in lockers. In the master bath, a mosaic tile "rug" made of onyx leads the eye to a soaking tub. A double-sink vanity is tucked within an arch-crowned nook. Extra-wide 10-inch baseboard adds substance and architectural panache to the main level.



To cozy up the lofty master bedroom, residential designer Rodolfo Castro lined the cove ceiling and walls with wood planks. The room's calming color scheme takes its cue from the taupe-color fabric on the bed's accent pillows.

