

In agine 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 bricks 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 Jiun Ho, available through R Hughes, Malayer Persian rug, Sullivan Fine Rugs, Quartz crystal by Ron Dier, available through Jerry Pair & Associates.

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

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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 Hurt Lighting
at Jerry Pair. Aspen filewood bucket, Tuell and Reynolds through R Hughes, Petrified wood, Chip & Co. through R Hughes. Onyx bowls through Jerry Pair.

grown trees. But that sort of natural, grown-wild environment 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 Skylar Morgan 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

HREE YEARS AGO.

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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 the house in such a way that its steep lot, about one and a half acres, could accommodate a walk-out backvard 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 A paneled wall with a painting opens to reveal a Murphy bed. Skull lamp by Blackman Cruz. available through R Hughes. Fine Rugs. Nesting tables and antique leather chairs with nail-

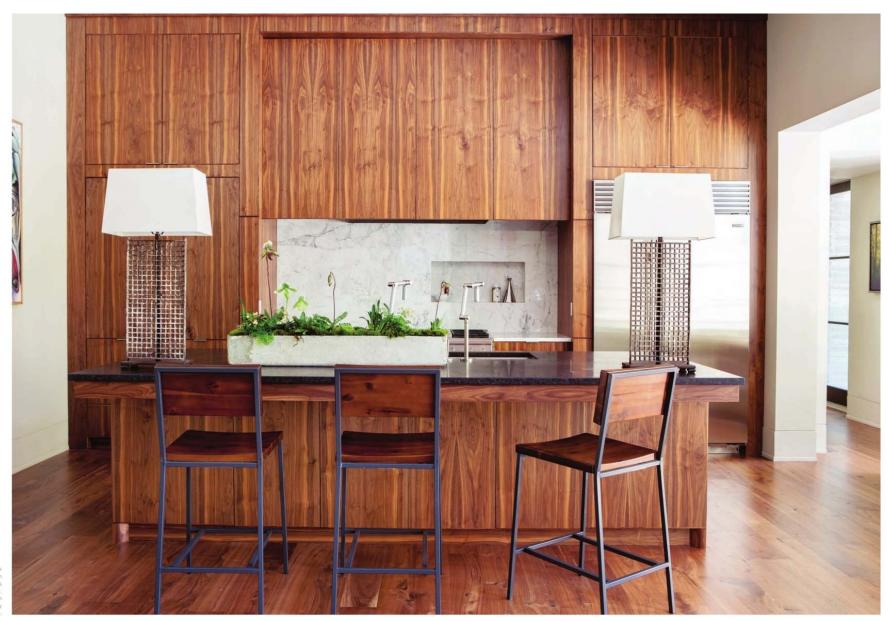


Geoff Duncan helped the couple fulfill that dream by the way they sited the house on its steep lot, leaving the backyard—nearly three-quarters of an are—completely natural. And following the project's completion, the homeowners were able to establish their land as a certified wildlife sanctuary with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

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The kitchen, which boasts ample storage space both beneath the island and on either side of the integrated hood, opens to the family room and breakfast area. The statuary slab on the backsplash reveals a small recessed in

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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), Bollicnia lamps, Donghia. Shirvan Russian rug, Sullivan Fine Rugs. The bed linens are by Libecc, available through Nicholson Gallery. opposite A large window in the master bath allows natural light to flood the sybartic space throughout the day.

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(and elegance) to the dining room in the form of a tray ceil-

twenty. SEE RESOURCES, BACK OF BOOK.

ing. 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