

Contemporary Classic.

Call it modern traditionalism or neo-European design. Either way, designer Laura Walker deftly combines antiques with streamlined pieces to create an exciting synergy for an Atlanta home.

The dining room's reproduction English table is paired with comfy custom chairs covered in luscious green velvet. "The owners entertain and wanted to be comfortable sitting for long meals, as Europeans do," designer Laura Walker says.



With its rusty-red brick facade

dentil moldings, gracious white columns, and screen porch, the Atlanta home owned by designer Laura Walker's clients was a classic Colonial. 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,” Walker says, “was to infuse it with more of a European feeling.”

This involved a two-part process: 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 rebuilt them with the spare but warm Scandinavian look the homeowners desired.

The kitchen was relieved of its floral wallpaper, plastic laminate 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 with the new walnut-and-vinyl banquette.

Walker complemented the simplified architecture with a soft and inviting color palette—crisp whites in the kitchen and the keeping room; a sandy hue in the master bedroom; buttery yellow in the formal living room; and a more subtle yellow tinged with green in the dining room. Punches of color are introduced with accent pieces. “Confining patterned color to art and rugs lets you really see a room,” Walker says. “It keeps a space from getting too busy.”

Rich wood tones from antique tables and the ebonized hues of Asian furnishings provide balance to the neutral backdrops without jarring the eye. They also add a comforting sense of history that appeals to the homeowners. To complete the mix, Walker added streamlined upholstered pieces in tactile fabrics, such as linen and velvet. Silk accent pillows add shimmer in a practical fashion. “When you don't mix too many periods and styles, antiques and contemporary pieces can be used together,” Walker says.

In the keeping room, Walker partnered a sleek new stone fireplace with a French tapestry and a boxy modern couch with Asian side tables to achieve just the right balance. Accessories are well-edited, so the mood is at once sparse and sophisticated thanks to the antiques. “I try to achieve a clean aesthetic that doesn't look too eclectic,” Walker says.

The same tension of old-meets-new exists in the master bedroom, where spa-like colors soothe, modern art engages the eye, and the worn patina of an Italian bench and a panel from an Italian *cassone* chest warm like the company of an old friend.



This photo: The keeping room couples clean, sculptural shapes with antique elements such as an American Arts and Crafts needlepoint pillow and a French tapestry above the fireplace. Opposite: Gentle molding, a portico, and symmetrical domers lend this Atlanta home its Colonial style.





Simple oyster-color silk panels dress the windows in the living room. Their sheen creates a pleasing accompaniment to the olive green velvet covering the extra-long sofa. A mirrored coffee table from the Amy Howard collection provides visual contrast with the room's opulent Asian console table and side chairs.



Decor





This photo: Shier, unlined linen curtains contrast with the master bedroom's new brown cotton wind chairs. The painted French tripod table is an antique. **Opposite:** An Italian bench brings linear form to the foot of the master bed. The piece above the window is a panel from an Italian cossone, an ornate Renaissance-era chest, which Walker used to lengthen the short casement windows.



White walls lend the kitchen a crisp, contemporary



Opposite: Tongue-and-groove paneling on the new banquette ties in to the architectural details of the keeping room. The chocolate brown cushions provide a rich contrast to the white woodwork. **Left:** To keep the kitchen streamlined and clean, floor-to-ceiling cabinets line one wall. A seamless look was achieved by continuing the countertop marble onto the backsplash. The large kitchen island doubles as a dining area, offering seating for up to eight people. **Below:** Architect Marc Mosley removed the windows from an unused sunroom to create a terrace open to the outdoors. He added brick arches to define the new alfresco room.

feel, while honey-hued wood pieces keep the look warm and inviting.

