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AMERICAN SPLENDOR

A pared-to-perfection home in Atlanta combines classic farmhouse style with contemporary elegance.

In the sunroom, oversized black objects have a sculptural effect against crisp white walls and upholstery. Antique wing chairs and custom sofa in Great Plains for Holly Hunt linen. Stools, Christian Liaigre. Urns, Balsamo Antiques. Walls in Pearly Gates, Pratt & Lambert.

INTERIOR DESIGN BY NANCY BRAITHWAITE | ARCHITECTURE BY JAMES MEANS AND NORMAN DAVENPORT ASKINS
LANDSCAPE DESIGN BY WILLIAM T. SMITH AND ASSOCIATES | PHOTOGRAPHY BY SIMON UPTON | WRITTEN BY CAROL PRISANT



THERE ARE LOTS OF SHOWSTOPPERS

in designer Nancy Braithwaite's Atlanta house, and most of them—from the sunroom's lordly eagle to the faux sheep on the velvety lawn—come with a droll backstory. The house, of course, has a story all its own.

Designed by the 20th-century Atlanta architect James Means, it's a 1960s take on a Colonial-era farmhouse, but it's also a sophisticated fusion of reclaimed materials, singular furnishings, and some lighthearted touches. In fact, it felt so totally perfect that when the Braithwaites wanted to add on to the place, a worried Nancy couldn't stop asking herself, "But what would Jimmy do?"

Working with architect Norman Davenport Askins, she channeled him flawlessly, and certainly not slavishly. The sunroom ceiling, for example, is recycled wood, but it also has a contemporary cove and a cornice that doubles as picture molding. The otherwise whitewashed space is presided over by an American eagle. Even from her car, Braithwaite knew she could never afford the monumental tin bird she saw in an antiques store window. Among his desir-

able attributes (hugeness, authenticity) was his "really sweet face." Then she arrived at price-tag distance, and—well, let's just say that today he wears homegrown olive branches in his gilded talons for parties.

Braithwaite knows how to make uncommon objects look right at home—especially evident in her new book, *Simplicity* (Rizzoli), which comes out in October. When she shops, she often takes along her husband, Jim, although he's sometimes dubious of her choices. A burl bowl atop the Shaker cupboard in the dining room, for instance, is actually a linen-wrapped cheese strainer. When she discovered it was quite a rare piece, he happily came around. Which is why they often seek the opinion of American antiques expert Deanne Deavours Levison, and also why—from the period chandeliers in the dining room to the largest drop-leaf

OPPOSITE: Oversize nailheads echo sawer pulls. Walls in Rogers & Goffigon linen. Nailhead trim, Samuel & Sons. **ABOVE:** Antique table, Stephen Score. Windsor chairs, Nathan Liverant and Son Antiques. Chandeliers, Deanne Levison American Antiques.

A trio of François-Xavier Lalanne sheep sculptures adds whimsy to the rectilinear garden.

The property is a SOPHISTICATED FUSION of reclaimed materials, singular furnishings, and some lighthearted touches.



table Levison had ever seen—they've assembled a genuinely curated collection.

Not everything is old, however. Braithwaite designed the sunroom's Queen Anne-style iron-base table herself. And the kitchen is contemporary, too. "I'm not really nuts about kitchens," she confesses, so she's hidden the functional components (stove, refrigerator) behind doors and displays less "kitcheny" things: a pair of chic, industrial-style rolling tables for friends to sit at, with rosemary topiaries in rooster-shape planters by François-Xavier Lalanne.

While shopping in Paris, the Braithwaites were so taken with Lalanne's sheep sculptures, they purchased one for their garden. It probably looked a little lonely on the lawn, because as a gift, each secretly ordered one more for the other. Their little flock can now be seen from Braithwaite's bathroom, where a claw-foot tub with two external faucets snugles into a window. The plumbing is elevated, so she can slide from side to side for bath-time views of the garden: the consummate touch in this storied—and storybook—house. □

PHOTOGRAPHS © SIMON LUPTON, NANCY BRAITHWAITE; SIMPLICITY, RIZZOLI NEW YORK, 2014.

Reclaimed wood mixes seamlessly with clean-lined contemporary pieces. Table, Gregorius Pineo. Chairs and occasional table, Ainsworth-Noah. OPPOSITE, TOP: Custom cabinetry and fittings. Tables, Ralph Pucci. Janus et Cie chairs with cushions in Great Plains for Holly Hunt linen. Planters, François-Xavier Lalanne. OPPOSITE, BOTTOM: Sink and fittings, Herbeau.





Fanciful wall treatments enliven spare spaces. ABOVE: Antique tub with Czech & Speake fittings. Chandelier, Gregorius Pineo. Decorative wall treatment, Jill Biskin. Linens, Waterworks. NEAR RIGHT: Hand-sanded checkerboard wall treatment, Jill Biskin. Sconce, Rose Tarlow Melrose House. Bed linens, Susan Shepherd Interiors. Rug, Designer Carpets. OPPOSITE: Canopy in Ralph Lauren Home linen. Painted walls inspired by an 18th-century pattern, Doug Funkhouser. Bench, Deanne Levison American Antiques. For more details, see Sourcebook.

