

SUMMER ENTERTAINING WITH A TWIST p53

July/August 2013

TRADITIONAL HOME

COLOR
TURN IT UP
A NOTCH WITH
TURQUOISE!

**Designer
secrets**

52 decorating pros
share their
tried-and-true
showhouse tips



HOW TO COOK WITH
GLORIOUS HERBS p66

AN ARTFULLY
SCULPTED GARDEN p102
& MUCH MORE

Two settees by Christian Liaigre in the living room are upholstered in wool (placetextiles.com). The red Louis Vuitton trunks are antiques. The "Simone" concrete coffee table is from Bradley.

Encore!

AFTER RECEIVING RAVE REVIEWS AS A SHOWHOUSE, AN ELEGANT ATLANTA RESIDENCE IS READY FOR ITS NEW ROLE

WRITTEN BY AMY ELBERT
PHOTOGRAPHY BY LAUREN RUBINSTEIN

Ever wonder what happens to a showhouse when the tours are done? Typically, everything not bolted down—rugs, draperies, artwork, dishes—is carted away, and the house awaits an owner. The 2008 Atlanta Christmas House lingered on the market a few years (a victim of the recent real estate downturn), but when it did sell, things happened fast. The new owners asked Atlanta interior designer Bill Musso to totally furnish the home—from mattresses to upholstered pieces to pots >



and pans—for the family of four in less than 10 weeks. Plus, they asked that everything in the house be made of healthful materials, so there would be no off-gassing of toxic chemicals and no VOCs from fabrics, finishes, and household products.

“We pride ourselves on using green products, but we’d never done anything to this extent. And this was a very tight time frame,” Musso says.

The couple and their children were moving from London to Atlanta for business. (He heads a large global corporation.) Unsure about how long they would live in Atlanta and not wanting to ship furniture and housewares back and forth overseas, they asked Musso to start from scratch, with the caveat that all the products be >



Living room Chinese funeral figures are protected in a Plexiglas case on the mantel. The 48-inch-diameter brass charger hanging above the fireplace is by artist Martha Sturdy (marthasturdy.com).

Balcony dining area A zinc-top table and weather-resistant synthetic wicker chairs from Restoration Hardware’s Provence Collection (restorationhardware.com) stand up to the elements on an uncovered balcony.

Dining room The homeowners have collected many Chinese tapestries and textiles, including 14th-century Tibetan robes worn over armor. They had the robes mounted in museum-quality displays, which hang on either side of the fireplace. Lamps designed by Robert Kuo (robertkuo.com) sit on matching Maxalto commodes with bronze hardware. The wenge wood dining room table is by B&B Italia (bebitalia.it), and the large rectangular pendant light fixture is from Restoration Hardware.





Breakfast room Perennials indoor-outdoor fabric on chairs (perennialsfabrics.com) is stain- and spill-resistant, making it well suited to family meals. Covered in fabric from Cassaro (cassaro.co), the settee adds a pop of color. Musso designed the glass-top table, finishing the pale ash wood base with a gray glaze.

Interior designer Bill Musso

Kitchen "Winter Cloud" marble by Walker Zanger (walkerzanger.com) creates a stunning backdrop for the range and hood. Island light fixtures are from Circa (circaighting.com).

free of toxic chemicals. "The mother was very particular about making sure everything was eco-friendly. She didn't want her children sleeping on mattresses that were sprayed with fire-retardant materials," Musso says. "So all of the beds came from Duxiana, a Sweden-based company."

The health-conscious mother, who is a Cordon Bleu-trained chef, also enlisted Musso's help in outfitting the kitchen with nontoxic cookware and utensils, such as pans with ceramic nonstick coatings.

What the couple did ship from Europe were many objects from their museum-quality collections of Chinese tapestries, sculptures, new and old bronze pieces, and a set of red leather Louis Vuitton trunks traced to the early 1900s and Russian Czar Nicholas II and his wife, Alexandra.

"The couple travels extensively," Musso says, "and they have many different interests, especially in Asian textiles and pottery." As the wife says: "We fell in love with the aesthetic of Chinese art and also to a greater extent the desire to feel 'Zen' at home. We like mixing modern contemporary looks with antiques."

Using antiques is the ultimate in green—recycling in a beautiful way—and designing with the treasures was a thrill, Musso says. In keeping with the homeowners' desire to mix old and new, he incorporated furnishings from contemporary designers such as Ralph Lauren and Christian Liaigre. ➤



Outdone.

After hundreds of years, it's clear. The distinguished look of ancient travertine stone will always be "in." And each of our handcrafted concrete pavers is unique, making every application an original expression. To learn more about the versatility, sizes and colors of Peacock Pavers, visit us online.



FLOORS
TERRACES
POOLS
DRIVEWAYS

BUILD GREEN

PEACOCKPAVERS.COM
HANDCRAFTED CONCRETE PAVERS
PATENT PENDING
800.264.2072

GREENSPACE

Showhouse Savvy

The symmetrical brick house with modest ornamentation is a blend of Georgian and Regency styles, says architect William Harrison, who designed the 2008 Christmas House in Atlanta. Harrison's firm, which is based in Atlanta and has offices in California, New York, Washington, D.C., and China, has participated in more than 30 showhouses across the United States. "It's always important that we make the house contextual with the community," Harrison says. "It's very much like having a custom client, maybe less emotional, but we still need to design a house that is sellable. In Atlanta, that usually means traditional."

"The homeowner loves bronze," says Musso, so the designer chose furnishings and sculptures by artist Robert Kuo, including armoires with hammered-bronze toad-skin-textured doors for the living room.

Rugs are wool and silk—natural fibers that were not treated with toxic chemicals. Draperies are linen and some upholstery fabrics were hand-loomed.

Low- or zero-VOC paints were applied throughout, and the couple waited two weeks after painting before allowing their children to sleep in their rooms to ensure any trace of toxins had dissipated.

While the undertaking was considerable, Musso and his staff, including lead project designer Lauren Dott, furnished the bedrooms, kitchen, and other "necessary rooms" in 10 weeks. In nine months, the project was largely complete. "It was a great



experience for us," he says. "We ask a lot more questions now—about how and where things are made. That was the lesson in it."

Architect: William H. Harrison

Interior designers: Bill Musso and Lauren Dott

For more information, see sources on page 128

Bedroom The beds and linens are from Duxiana (duxiana.com), a Sweden-based company that uses steel springs, natural latex from rubber trees, and cotton fibers. The handmade lamp is from Porta Romana (portaromana.co.uk), and the chair is covered in a berry-hued Schumacher fabric (feschumacher.com). Walls are Benjamin Moore "Grizzly Bear Brown" (benjaminmoore.com).