

TIMELESS CLASSICS, MODERN APPEAL

# ATLANTA HOMES & LIFESTYLES



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*living in*  
**STYLE!**

# STORIED CHARM

ARCHITECT KEITH SUMMEROUR  
AND INTERIOR DESIGNER  
LIZA BRYAN RENOVATE A  
CLASSIC ATLANTA ESTATE WITH  
AN EYE TO HISTORICAL  
AUTHENTICITY AND  
DISTINGUISHING GRACE.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
CHRISTOPHER W. SMITH

A collection of antiques  
in the formal living  
dining is anchored by  
rich design elements,  
including silk draperies  
and the vibrant early  
20th-century Queen  
Anne & Philadelphia  
style top desk, English  
wing chair and Royal  
Crown Derby porcelain  
trocenno pendant  
with hand-painted  
floral motifs of the  
wall and top.



FEW HOMES MATCH THE GRANDEUR of Atlanta's natural beauty, but the Charles Case House in Buckhead rivals the city's springtime profusion with its masterful grace, perfect proportions and exquisite attention to detail. Architect Neel Reid designed the renowned residence, which he named Somerset House, in 1919, modeling the design on Tintinhull House in England. Huge limestone eagles perched on bold columns at the front driveway are the hallmarks of this distinguished residence and provide the basis for its alternate name, Eagle House.

Throughout the 20th century, the house endured a series of modifications that were not always in keeping with Reid's original aesthetic. The new owners brought in Atlanta interior designer Liza Bryan, architect Keith Summerour and contractor Jim Eiland of C & E Remodeling to ensure that it would remain historically

referenced as it transitioned into the 21st century. "It had such great bones that it immediately spoke to me," says Bryan.

Significant research went into restoring the home. "We studied historic properties from Newport to the Hudson River Valley to England in order to achieve authenticity throughout the home," says the designer.

Architecturally, the house needed considerable changes to accommodate a new kitchen and family room. By adding an 18-foot addition across the entire back of the house, Summerour created significantly more space while preserving the original architectural footprint and maintaining a seamless blend with the original structure. "What he did was so simple but pure genius, and I'm certain Neel would have done this too," confirms Bryan.

Keeping with the preservation mission, the house was remodeled





with materials appropriate to the time of the original construction. Plaster walls, proper hardware and carefully researched paint colors yield not only a home with verticality and great light, but one that is also historically accurate.

The clients' extensive collection of antiques and decorative arts dictated the interior design, while their collection of period Turkish carpets determined the color palette. Sumptuous traditional draperies and antiques fill the rooms, but "we used brightly colored fabrics to give life to all the spaces," says Bryan.

As a nod to the home's name, Bryan found ways to integrate eagles into the design. Dramatic eagle finials cap drapery rods in the living room, while a large platter from the owners' collection of Royal Crown Derby china rests on a custom water-gilt eagle sconce above the fireplace.

Fortunately, the exterior of the house needed only minimal modifications. After clearing the original limestone exterior, Bryan brought in lighting designer Jeanne Sims, who created new lanterns based on Regency patterns. Under the deft hand of celebrated landscape architect John Howard, the mature, lush landscape continues to evolve and flourish.

It's the resounding commitment of both the homeowners and those involved in the restoration that ensures the Eagle House will remain a treasure for generations to come. See *Reserves, Back of Book*.





*Left* Exquisitely carved moldings and windows provide balance and a beautiful frame for a William and Mary side chair and a pair of Regency planters.

*Right* The renovator included a deep cleaning of the home's original façade; it allowed perfectly preserved architectural elements to reveal themselves. Due to the massive original limestone eaves that flank the front entrance, the Charles Case House is often referred to as The Eagle House.



Asli Bryan selected the Oushak rug and reupholstered the owner's dining chairs in leather to bring vibrant color to the dining room.

Opposite, top to bottom: Interior designer Lisa Bryan penches upon a William and Mary bench in the formal living room. Bold decorative 19th-century elements, including the George II looking glass and pair of oil landscape paintings, are balanced by the contemporary touch of a sofa pillow made from a silk screen by the owners' son.



**"IT WAS CRITICAL THAT THE ADDITION BE HIGHLY METICULOUS, YET UNDERSTATED," SAYS ARCHITECT KEITH SUMMEROUR.**





A compact, barley  
bread bed with up-  
per and lower English  
sections in the master  
bedroom. Floral fabric  
and a fine chandelier  
are the principal  
visual contributions to  
the highly decorative,  
early 20th century  
bedroom design, which  
is formal. The  
master bedroom also  
has one of many  
handcrafted elements  
created throughout the  
house by Jim Edward  
of C. & E. Remounting.  
Opening up the attic  
to expose an original  
window reveals the  
office and helps with  
natural light.







At Olive-green courtsteps, a honed granite sink and a copper plaster hood are showstoppers in the kitchen, opposite, clockwise from top: "Self-eating is hard, but it was critical that the addition be highly meticulous, yet understated," says Summerour of the renovation. In the breakfast room, a comb-back Windsor chair by the fireplace reveals the homeowners' love for antiques. A tall case clock and Queen Anne tea table balance the sweeping staircase; the ornate chandelier is from Edger Reeves.