

Southern Accents

STYLE

Guide

112

PAGES OF
BEAUTIFUL
SOUTHERN
ROOMS

\$13.99US \$17.99CAN

46>



DISPLAY UNTIL DECEMBER 12, 2014

Plus DECORATING IDEAS TO TRANSFORM YOUR HOME

LIGHTEN

Lighten



A pedestal table by Clubcu, made of reclaimed Chinese elm, serves as a library table when not in use for entertaining. It also holds an extensive collection of blue-and-white porcelain. A large schoolhouse pendant from Parc Monceau suits the lofty space and adds a youthful note.



FOR CLIENTS WITH DISCRIMINATING TASTES, DESIGNER BETH WEBB GAVE A SUNNY NEW OUTLOOK TO AN ATLANTA HOUSE WITH GOOD BONES BUT MOODY INTERIORS

Photographed by WILLIAM ABRANOWICZ

WHEN HER CLIENTS

bought the 7,400-square-foot house in Buckhead, designer Beth Webb took in its dark paneled rooms and darker floors and diagnosed a serious case of the doldrums. But the wife saw potential in the gracefully proportioned rooms and classic detailing. "She's one of those rare birds who can see past a house's decorating style," says Beth, who was tasked with bringing light and romance to the heavy interiors. "The primary directive was to create a soft, serene, and organic space full of misty tonalities."

First to go were the dark floors, which were replaced with limewashed oak. Next, the walls were painted a softly pearlized white, providing a serene backdrop for the couple's art and collections. In the living room, the soaring ceiling presented Beth with the opportunity for a design flourish. "At least 12" coats of high-gloss paint later, the watery blue-green ceiling seems to open the room to the sky rather than seal it. "That ceiling reminds me of the light quality of Venice," says Beth. "The first time I was ever in that city, I could not get over the surreal quality of the reflection of the light on the water and the effect that it had on everything."

A long pedestal table of reclaimed Chinese elm sits in front of French doors. When the couple isn't entertaining, the chairs are pulled away and the table displays the couple's collections, like the blue-and-white porcelain the wife adores. Throughout the house, evidence of the pair's appetite for travel is on display—in the Indonesian seed safe that serves as a coffee table, in the chinoiserie wallpaper panel in the sitting room, and in the fully made antique French daybed on the loggia where the wife likes to nap.

The kitchen also got a serious makeover. Existing dark cabinets were pulled out and delivered to Habitat for Humanity. In their place, raw wood mingles with white painted finishes on a French limestone floor, evoking a modern European kitchen. Steel-and-glass windows link the kitchen to the pool area, contributing another Continental element. "They connect indoors and out much more vividly than casement windows," says Beth. With the help of a like-minded designer, the pair of passionately involved homeowners created a house inventively customized to accommodate their casual, free-spirited style of living and entertaining.

A wool-and-silk rug underpins a casual arrangement of upholstered furniture in the living room. A custom channel-stitched quilt protects the sofa from pets. Throughout the house, walls are painted in China White by Benjamin Moore (benjaminmoore.com). Twelve coats of Healing Aloe, also by Benjamin Moore, lend the ceiling dramatic shimmer.



"THE WAY THE LIGHT REFLECTS OFF THE POOL OUTSIDE THE LIVING ROOM CAUSES RIPPLES ACROSS THE CEILING, MAKING IT SEEM EVEN MORE LIKE WATER."

—DESIGNER BETH WEBB



A table from Mr. & Mrs. Howard, surrounded by whitewashed chairs, is the couple's favorite spot to hang out, with the television conveniently mounted on the wall for easy viewing. A wonderful unpainted wood cabinet from BoBo Intriguing Objects holds china for daily use. **OPPOSITE PAGE:** French limestone floors lend warmth underfoot, while steel-and-glass doors frame the view of the pool. The linen curtain adds texture and can be pulled to conceal the range when the couple hosts intimate dinners in the kitchen.



Beth artfully arranged the clients' collection of antique Royal Worcester Chamberlain plates on the sitting room wall.
OPPOSITE PAGE: A small seating area provides an intimate space for catching up with friends.
White upholstered furniture forms a cozy grouping that still adheres to the breezy and bright design scheme.





"The room is so romantic," says Beth. "The light is very soft, and it's a very tactile, glamorous room. You never want to leave." She hung heavy Matelassé curtains at the window and lay a silk Stark carpet on the floor.



Beth converted the old poolhouse into an elegant bathroom. The homeowners had a local auto-body shop give the Waterworks bathtub a Mercedes-Benz silver finish. Metallic accessory tables next to the tub amp up the glamour even more.

A CHAT WITH BETH WEBB



What is no Southern house complete without?
Dogs. I have three under my desk right now.

What are you currently loving?

Outdoor fabrics have become a necessity for modern living. I use so many Perennials fabrics

these days. Their selections are marvelous. C&C Milano's new outdoor line is also wonderful for major texture.

It seems like these were dream clients, interested in the process and well-informed.

They were. She appreciates art, antiques, linens, and, of course, porcelain! And he's a very passionate entrepreneur with a great enthusiasm for the design process. They read every shelter magazine and would come in every week with pages torn out of great ideas for fabrics or furniture.

The loggia is so romantic. Is that a real antique daybed out there?

It's all real furniture on the loggia. It's covered, so everything stays dry, but it is open-air. The wife is very comfortable to be around, very casual. She collects blue-and-white linens and wanted a spot to read and nap. She lives a very European lifestyle, with a great appreciation for those pleasurable moments.

Where do you start in designing a room?

It varies from job to job. Last week, I started a redesign on a client's living room with one fabric I just loved! In a beach house in Florida, her office schematic began with a rug I had been dying to get the chance to use. For

a house in Nashville, we wanted black lacquer dining room walls, so, of course, that dictated all of our other design decisions.

How do you hope the houses you've designed will be lived in?

A casual attitude toward entertaining is essential. If the hostess is relaxed, the guests will be too.

Where do you advise clients to splurge?

I tell my clients to approach their design decisions like a French woman does her closet: Mix high and low. You can always pair the Chanel jacket with the J. Crew jeans—if you do it with a great sense of style.

GET THE LOOK

CAPTURE BETH'S BREEZY,
EFFORTLESS STYLE
WITH THESE BRIGHT IDEAS

Make up a
blue-and-white bed.
Jeté de Fleurs in Bleu
by D. Porthault;
dporthaultparis.com



▲ Add contrast with
an industrial pendant.
Clemson Prismatic
18" Pendant in Antique
Brass; [restoration
hardware.com](http://restorationhardware.com)

Accent with
white ornaments.
Alabaster Grape
Sculpture;
michelevarian.com



▲ Fill out your
collection of
blue-and-white
porcelain.
Happiness Pots;
wisteria.com



▲ Introduce a print
with personality.
La Terraza in Blue
(107183) by Travers

Paint your
ceiling a watery
hue for a
dreamy effect.
Healing Aloe
(1562); [benjamin
moore.com](http://benjaminmoore.com)



▲ Mimic the look
of wood paneling
without hiring
a carpenter. Faux Bois
Wallpaper by Nobillis



▲ The random branches
of coral give this
chair quirky appeal.
White Coral Chair;
belleescape.com



The loggia was designed
as an homage to the
wife's collection of
porcelain. French bed
linens dress the antique
daybed. The tulipières
(on the table in the
background) were found
at Lars Bolander's shop
in Palm Beach.