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**NEW HOMES, BOLD IDEAS
BESPOKE SPACES
TAILORED TO PERFECTION**

A woman with blonde hair, wearing a purple short-sleeved dress with a wide gold belt and brown boots, stands in a doorway. Above her is a square lantern with three lit candles. The background is a dark wood wall with a textured panel on the left.

a masterful
MIX

*DESIGNER GRETCHEN
EDWARDS AND
HARRISON DESIGN
ASSOCIATES TURN
CONVENTIONAL STYLE
UP A NOTCH IN A HOME
SET AGAINST THE
BEAUTIFUL BACKDROP
OF LAKE OCONEE*

Designer Gretchen Edwards in the main floor vestibule. *opposite* Opening the four sets of French doors in the family room lets the space seamlessly flow into the covered porch, creating good traffic flow during large gatherings. The room is framed by beams of reclaimed barn wood and features unique ring-patterned chairs from Ironies, a custom walnut coffee table and a large woven abaca rug.



WRITTEN BY SEJAL BHIMA PHOTOGRAPHED BY ERICA GEORGE DINES PRODUCED BY CLINTON SMITH





clockwise from top left Chairs from South of Market were upholstered in a textural linen. Unexpected elements in this space include circular bread trays mounted on the wall and a Jason Horton painting that rises to reveal a television. The small home office space showcases slate flooring, walnut cabinetry and reclaimed barn wood walls. Sliding doors open to reveal a well-stocked pantry that features custom shelving. "The homeowners love to cook, so this is only a small sampling of their cookware," Edwards shares. *opposite, clockwise from top left* Textural interest in the dining room comes from woven McGuire chairs with suede seating, an iron chandelier hanging from a pecky cypress ceiling, a sisal rug and Galbraith & Paul linen curtains. "We waited months for the floral fabric because it's a hand-blocked print," explains Edwards. The powder room features a custom vanity and mirror by Norman Hasty set against a striking backsplash. "The glass tile is one of my favorite elements because it's reminiscent of tortoise shells," says the designer. A pair of Frontgate lounge chairs flank the infinity pool that overlooks Lake Oconee.



*"The complexity of the materials
and the amount of detail in the house
has made this home one of my most
exciting projects to date."*

-GRETCHEN EDWARDS



A STYLE SPECTRUM would place rustic and contemporary at polar ends, but this visionary jewel of a home—nestled on a hillside of picturesque Lake Oconee—proves opposites do attract. Harrison Design Associates and interior designer Gretchen Edwards defied convention by fusing elements of these two contradictory aesthetics into one masterful retreat.

"The exterior is all about the natural form; the traditional applications of stone and cedar, and how they blend into and become part of the land," explains project manager Steve Markey of Harrison Design Associates. "The interiors, however, are a refreshing counterpoint with sleek and more sophisticated uses of natural materials."

Indeed, Edwards complements the clean, modern lines of the indoor spaces with a stunning array of warm woods and textures. Walnut, cypress, alder and barn wood were transformed into ceilings, walls, doors, tables and chairs while intriguing textures such as a rope, abaca fiber and even pony hair took on new life as unique accessories. The home's great use of assorted materials is none more apparent than in the well-appointed powder room. The custom vanity consists of a limestone top and zinc-wrapped doors while the ceiling and mirror are made of cypress wood. Rounding out the eclectic mix are two colors of linen wallpaper and thin glass tile adorning the walls.

Though a neutral color palette acts as a common thread, unique elements in each room gives every space a distinct look and charm. While planks of alder wood on the walls of the main level master bedroom help create a strong, yet serene contrast of cream and chocolate brown, a metallic grasscloth wallcovering adds pizzazz to an adjacent vestibule. But most remarkable are the walls of a terrace level bedroom which were made entirely of Jerusalem stone.

"Stone was used everywhere, from the floors to the walls to the baths. The tile installer had three crews working at the same time, but it took months to complete," remembers Edwards. "The complexity of the materials and the amount of detail in the house has made this home one of my most exciting projects to date. It's also been one of the most challenging because it wasn't just putting up sheetrock and selecting paint colors."

Never once does the intricacy of the home becoming overwhelming, though. After all, it was built for entertaining. "The homeowners rarely go by themselves," shares the designer. "They always host several families." To that end, engaging seating layouts throughout the communal spaces encourage conversation while a custom, oversize table in the dining room not only accommodates multiple guests but also a delicious array of dishes that showcases the owners' love of cooking. Furthermore, heat lamps and retractable screens were installed on the spacious covered porch to make this second home truly a retreat for all seasons.

With nearly every room of the home boasting views of the lake, it would be impossible not to return time and time again. "It's breathtaking; when you get there you never want to leave," says Edwards. "All the Atlanta traffic—or whatever stress it took you to get there—just melts away as you let yourself be immersed in serenity."

SEE RESOURCES, BACK OF BOOK.



Edwards created contrast in the master bath by balancing the omnipresent white marble with dark wood paneling on the tub. Also, giving the dominantly contemporary space some rustic charm are a metal chandelier and artwork of dried foliage, preserved in glass, from The Mercantile. *opposite* Continuing the theme into the master bedroom, Edwards worked with varying shades of browns.

BUILT FROM SCRATCH

HOW LONG DID IT TAKE TO BUILD? A year and a half

INSPIRATION: Gorgeous views of the lake

REQUIREMENTS: Rustic home with modern accents that wasn't too formal; enjoy the lake views from every room of the house

MATERIALS USED: A variety of fabrics, stone and woods, including walnut, cypress, alder and reclaimed barn wood

DESIGNER'S FAVORITE ROOM: Impossible to have just one! I love the master bedroom and master bath, along with the guest room that I stay in every time I am there.

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RESOURCES

OCT.10 (who to contact)

PAGES 42-55 (stylish simplicity)

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PAGES 56-67 (new meets old)

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PAGES 68-73 (a masterful mix)

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ARCHITECTURE Harrison Design Associates, 3198 Cairns Hill Pl. NW, Atlanta 30305. (404) 365-7750; harrisonsdesignassociates.com

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