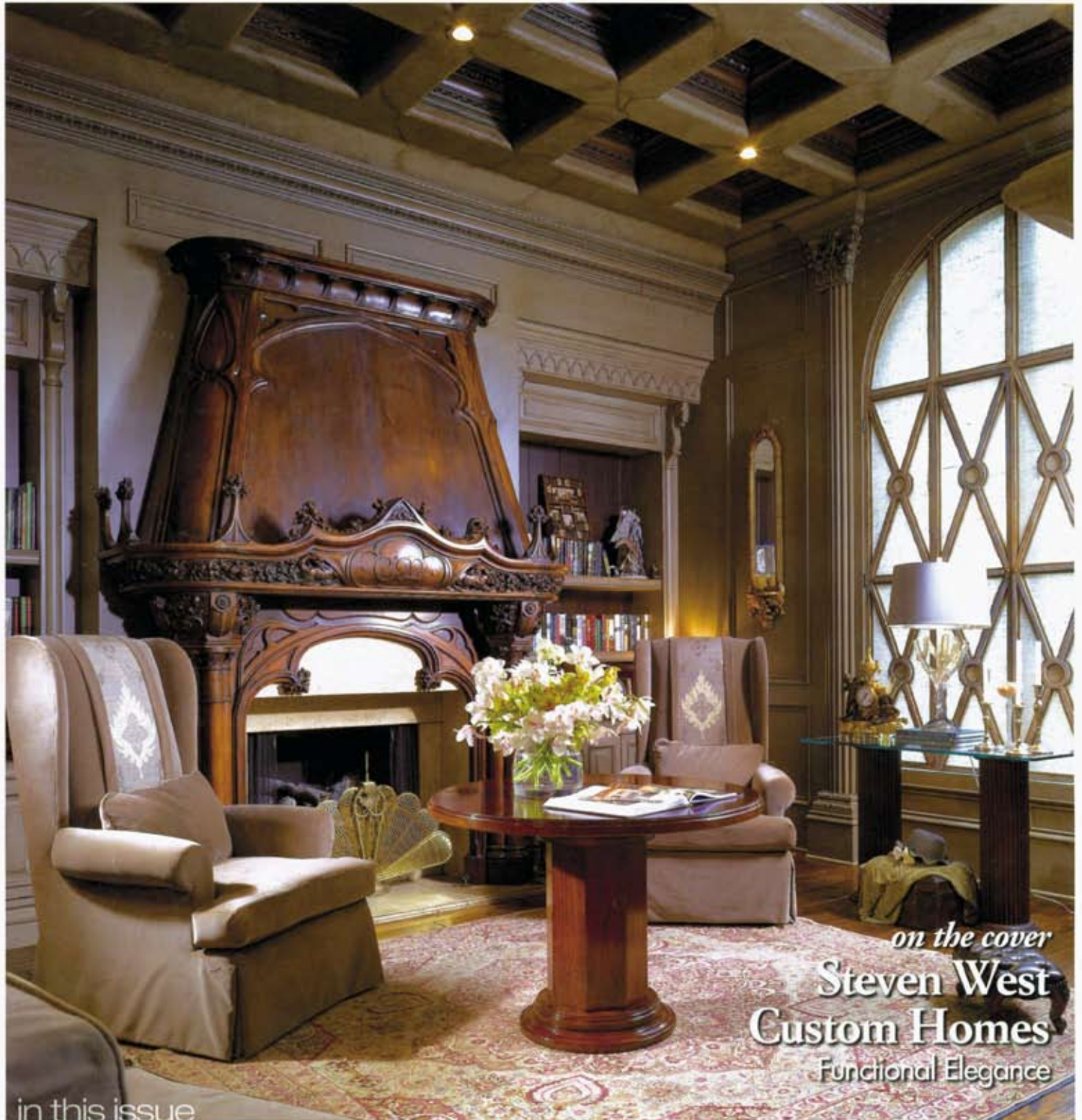


# Today's CUSTOM HOME

ATLANTA'S COMPLETE GUIDE TO BUILDING OR REMODELING YOUR CUSTOM HOME • AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2008



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# Savvy Chic

Don't Neglect Interiors When Thinking Green

By Trish Stukbauer • Photography courtesy of John Umberger

It's all too easy for the best laid green building plans to go astray. Homeowners can do everything right: select efficient HVAC systems; seal basements to keep moisture, mold and pollutants out; and install sensitive air filtration systems. Yet if they neglect to consider the safety and sustainability of the finishes and furnishings they're putting inside these airtight spaces, it can all be for naught. ▶

**Left: Foyer** - Since EcoManors' owners do quite a bit of entertaining, DES-SYN wanted the foyer to capture the feeling of walking into a very comfortable public space. The custom furnishings create a circular movement that allows guests to easily flow into the dining room, grand hall and areas beyond.

- Chandeliers feature dimmable fluorescent bulbs that save energy without the harsh glare that had been the main flaw of fluorescent lights in the past.
- Twin wall sconces and lighting fixtures were custom made from scrap iron.

**Below: Sitting Room** - One of the largest contributors to indoor air pollution is the chemicals present in the space, whether used in fabrics and furnishings or present on the walls. Here, low- and no-VOC stains and paints from AMF Safecoat allow homeowners to breathe easier.

- Using reclaimed and antique furnishings conserves resources. Here, the acrylic in the coffee table is reclaimed, the baby grand is an heirloom and the chair by the window is an antique.
- New furnishings, like the sofa and chair, were slip covered in organic fabrics.



**Below: Dining Room** - In terms of green design, sustainable materials are those that can be replaced within one to two years. Products like cotton, hemp and hay that produce one or two crops per growing season and wool, which can be shorn up to four times a year, are perfect examples of natural, sustainable materials.

- This striking rug was created using 100 percent vegetable dyes, thus eliminating harsh chemicals.
- These draperies are made from beautiful, sustainable linen that was hand painted.

**Right: Family Room** - Natural light played a key role in the interior of EcoManor. "We only draped a small portion of the windows, which allowed 95 percent of the natural light to come through. So even though it's an English Tudor with dark trim and a lot of woodwork, it reads light and airy," Pritchard Cooke says.

- Reclaimed iron was used to make the curtain rods, while the beams were also reclaimed.
- Reclaimed fabrics were used extensively. "Half yard remnants are opportunities for us; we try to design with those when we can," she says. Pillows on the loveseats were made from 1960s draperies, while those on the sofa are made from vintage or remnant fabrics.





"That's really where we see the falloff," explains Jillian Pritchard Cooke, president of award-winning interior design firm DES-SYN, Inc., noting that most clients are now environmentally savvy about the construction of their homes. "Unfortunately, people don't really think about what they are putting in once the home is finished. It can be a tremendous waste of time and money if a client gets a home LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified and then fills it with furnishings made in China that emit formaldehyde."

To prevent mistakes that may take a toll on clients' health and derail the best intentions, DES-SYN's experts start from the initial planning phases of a project. "Many designers will start a design based on a client's favorite colors or pieces they want to keep. The first thing we do is analyze the floor plan and provide an expert opinion on the flow of color, texture and materials. If

you start from there, the home will open itself up and greet the interior design," she says. Considering the home's placement on its site, the flow of natural light, its architecture, and a client's needs and lifestyle results in a livable home that's an elegant and healthy reflection of its owners.

In 2006, Pritchard Cooke's commitment to environmentally responsible design led her firm to be charged with creating the fabulous interiors of Eco Manor, which was the first LEED certified residence in the Southeast. The photos on these pages illustrate a few things the firm did in EcoManor that can make a difference in your home as well. ■

*For more information on DES-SYN, Inc., visit [www.des-syn.com](http://www.des-syn.com) or call (404) 365-8131.*