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8

WAYS TO
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COUNTRY GARDEN p46



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A MODERN RENOVATION RELAXES A HISTORIC HOME AND PUTS A LIGHTHEARTED SPIN ON A GRANDMOTHER'S TREASURES

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Catherine Fleetwood wasn't about to box up and hide her grandmother's delicate porcelain bird sculptures, hand-painted urns, and English antique furniture. The dyed-in-the-wool Southerner admits the treasures might seem old-fashioned to some (even many of her own family members have said, "No thanks"), but she adores them.

"I know they look like old-lady things to some people, but I've grown up with and love them," says Catherine, who, with husband Thomas, tapped architect Norman Askins and interior designers Heather Dewberry and Will Huff to weave family treasures and character into their home in the Buckhead district of Atlanta.

When the Fleetwoods bought the 1930s, early-Federal-style home, it was sorely in need of updating (the kitchen was original to the house), but tearing it down was not an option. "We wanted to save the integrity of the old house," Catherine says.

Built on a flat plot of land (a rarity in Atlanta) on top of a hill, the house "had a lot going for it," the architect agreed. "It had an unusually nice entrance hall and good-sized living and dining rooms. The rooms were not big but well-proportioned, with nice windows," Askins says. "Catherine's mantra was keep the charm. She wanted charming and old-fashioned, but not old lady."

Askins punched up the house's street appeal, adding a columned portico on the front and three arched dormers on the slate roof. Inside, the house was torn down to the studs so wiring, heating and cooling, plumbing, and other mechanicals could be updated. Rooms basically stayed in the same configuration, but some door-



Foyer A wall at the end of the center hall was eliminated to allow for views through the house. Black-painted baseboards and a Circa chandelier add a bit of drama. **Dining room** Porcelain birds perch on brackets above an Italian table. **Family** Thomas and Catherine Fleetwood with their daughters, Caroline, 12, and Elizabeth, 9. **Preceding pages** Petite antique chests flank the new living room fireplace. Yellow-checked pillows on Baker sofas and a custom coffee table with a Caesarstone top give the room a relaxed feeling.

Dining room An arrangement of framed intaglios complements the blue-and-white wallcovering. The Fleetwoods inherited the antique crystal chandelier and hung it above the pedestal dining table from Baker. Striped Carlton V silk draperies with goblet pleats hang from hand-painted rods.





Kitchen A pair of *bouillotte* lamps were wired into the walnut-topped island. The Wolf range is tucked into a marble-lined niche. Rustic beams above the range and on the ceiling add a sense of age.
Family dining area Antique side chairs are covered in a Cowtan & Tout check. The chest, painting, and plates on the wall are family antiques.
Family room In the new family room addition, matched seating groups face off in front of the limestone fireplace. The custom coffee table was inspired by Italian trestle tables. The chandelier is by Edgar-Reeves.

