The wine room opens onto a garden of olive trees, thyme, and wisteria. Table, the Gables Antiques; custom campaign stools; wineglasses, Simon Pearce. OPPOSITE: On the entry porch, shutters in Gray Area complement the stucco facade in Travertine, both by Sherwin-Williams; lantern, Smithworks Iron & Design; antique French planter from Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat.

MODERN HISTORY

Architect D. Stanley Dixon and designer Carolyn Malone craft a new residence with the charm of an old country house—albeit one that sits comfortably in the midst of modern Atlanta.

INTERIOR DESIGN BY **CAROLYN MALONE** | ARCHITECTURE BY **D. STANLEY DIXON**
LANDSCAPE DESIGN BY **BOXWOODS** AND **GARDENOLOGY** | PHOTOGRAPHY BY **ANNIE SCHLECHTER**
PRODUCED BY **DAVID M. MURPHY** | WRITTEN BY **FRANCES SCHULTZ**

The design of the home was inspired by rural English architecture. BELOW: In the living room, the leather armchair and cocktail table are from Travis Antiques & Interiors; custom sofa in a Cowtan & Tout fabric, Bungalow Classic; side table, the Gables Antiques. OPPOSITE: The living room's curtains in a C&C Italia fabric match walls in Farrow & Ball's Shaded White; armchairs in a Holland & Sherry linen, Bungalow Classic; wingback chair, Coup d'Etat; plaster chandelier, R.L. Goins; artwork, Brian Coleman.

TO WALK INTO A SPACE AND FEEL A SENSE OF CALM IS A BLESSING of good design. "It's always a goal to create architecture that affects a person in a positive way," says architect D. Stanley Dixon, who has clearly achieved that in an Atlanta house he designed in collaboration with decorator Carolyn Malone.

The clients had for many years occupied a large, traditional, and antiques-filled house. But with their children grown, they no longer wanted quite so many rooms, or needed as many things. They were ready to embrace a new start: a home with uncomplicated spaces and uncluttered interiors.

The couple were drawn to the romance of the rural houses and barns they had seen on trips to the English countryside. But while they wanted their new home to have that ambience, it also needed to fit into its milieu in the heart of the city. Atlanta-based Dixon, with his well-edited approach to traditional architecture, and Malone, known for conjuring beauty out of simplicity, were enlisted to make the dream a reality. "They definitely didn't want a theme house," Malone says, "but rather one that could exist comfortably anywhere."

Dixon managed a balancing act. He retained the higgledy-piggledy charm of country houses by incorporating a multilevel roofline and several chimneys. But he was also able to impose order with a symmetrical and logical layout.

Many windows and doors open onto an interior courtyard, connecting the interior spaces to nature and a tranquil garden. The rooms themselves are intimate yet graciously proportioned, with high ceilings and large steel casement windows that welcome the light. The effect is "calm, bright, and warm, all at the same time," says Dixon.

In the living room, a French gilt mirror from the Gables Antiques hangs above an antique pearwood chest; artwork, Felice Sharp. BELOW: Cedar-slat chairs from Gardenology offer a place to repose on the back terrace.

The table and chairs on the covered back porch are from the Gables Antiques; light fixture, Palecek. ABOVE: Set into a limestone vanity, the powder room's sink and fittings are by Waterworks.

An angled passage with a doorway framed in fumed oak leads from the double-height living room into the more intimate library; cocktail table, Palecek. CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: A carved limestone console is a focal point in the entry hall. The family's dogs, Sadie and Tucker, on the entry porch. A sculpture by Kit Reuther in the master bedroom.

Throughout the home, a neutral palette and a deliberate repetition in the materials—white and tan plaster walls, limestone floors, veined white marbles, all illuminated and brought to life with washes of soft daylight—create a soothing and almost meditative atmosphere. “I think as we get older, we all want to live in settings that feel lighter, brighter, and cleaner,” Malone says.

Embracing the less-is-more construct, the main floor comprises two bedrooms and baths, a kitchen, living and dining rooms, and a small library. A capacious lower level allows for future expansion should the need arise, though it isn’t likely to on Malone’s watch. “I subtract more than I add,” she says with a laugh. Her overall aesthetic is restrained and elegant—as reflective of her Southern roots as it is of her disciplined eye and open-minded approach.

There is a push-and-pull tension in her designs. A contemporary white ceiling light hangs from limed reclaimed-oak beams in the kitchen, suspended over an island luxuriously clad in white marble. The living room’s voluptuous camelback sofa visually balances the boxy and angular shapes of the room’s armchairs, while in the master bedroom, a chandelier glitters extravagantly above a steel-and-oak campaign-style bed that is an ode to understatement.

Rooted in the present but respectful of the past, this new house can be said to have an old soul, at once comfortable and comforting. In what both Dixon and Malone claim is the highest compliment, the client has told each of them that she constantly feels as if she is on vacation in her own home. □

Malone gilded an iron lantern to give the dining room a golden glow. Verellen banquette in a Kerry Joyce stripe, Bungalow Classic; chairs, the Gables Antiques. LEFT: The floors throughout the home, including in the kitchen, are of French limestone; countertops and drawer fronts are of Imperial Danby marble; cabinetry, Stewart Custom Cabinets; midcentury oval starbursts, Parc Monceau; chandelier, David Weeks Studio.

THE ROOMS ARE INTIMATE YET GRACIOUSLY PROPORTIONED, WITH HIGH CEILINGS AND LARGE CASEMENT WINDOWS THAT WELCOME THE LIGHT. THE EFFECT IS “CALM, BRIGHT, AND WARM, ALL AT THE SAME TIME,” SAYS DIXON.

ABOVE: Atlanta-based furniture designer Raymond Goins crafted the master bedroom's campaign-style steel-and-oak bed based on Malone's design. Custom Verellen chair, Bungalow Classic; chandelier, Travis Antiques & Interiors. OPPOSITE: The master bath is clad in Calacatta Gold marble; fittings, Lefroy Brooks; chandelier, Artemide; curtains in a Larsen fabric. For more details, see Sourcebook.