



ASHLEY GILBREATH is a Southern-based, award-winning, interior designer who studied at Auburn University and the New York School of Interior Design. She is a winner of the Institute of Classical Architecture and Art's coveted Shutze Award and has been nominated for Southeast Designer of the Year by the Atlanta Decorative Arts Center. Ashley's fresh take on interiors has been seen in *Southern Living*, *House Beautiful*, *Luxe*, *Coastal Living*, *Country Living*, *Atlanta Homes & Lifestyle*, and in homes from Florida to New York. She is renowned for creating casual, elegant spaces where the family can gather to discover their own joy of home.

Design by Doug Turshen with David Huang
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THE JOY OF HOME

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FOREWORD BY JAMES T. FARMER III

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Bringing families together by creating homes where they can celebrate life's joys is Ashley Gilbreath's drive and desire. Her fresh approach to Southern decorating is guided by her respect for family and tradition with an eye on practicality and warmheartedness.

The projects featured herein show how Gilbreath starts with the client's list of wants, dials into their happy memories of home, and translates those into a studied selection of furnishings, colors, fabrics, and décor. Whether it's in town, at the beach, or in the mountains, each home exhibits thoughtful planning and attention to detail in harmony with the client's vision.

Gilbreath's signature design strategies are distinguishable in each home: a mixture of both new and old pieces; the liberal use of drapery to highlight and disguise; an eclectic mix of art; carefully selected lighting; and favorite custom treatments, such as banquettes for dining, dress-maker details on chairs; and beautiful, well-placed wall coverings.

Every space is influenced by this designer's passion for gracious everyday living. Her thought and planning are directed toward functionality, comfort, beauty, and creating a welcoming spirit grounded in tradition.



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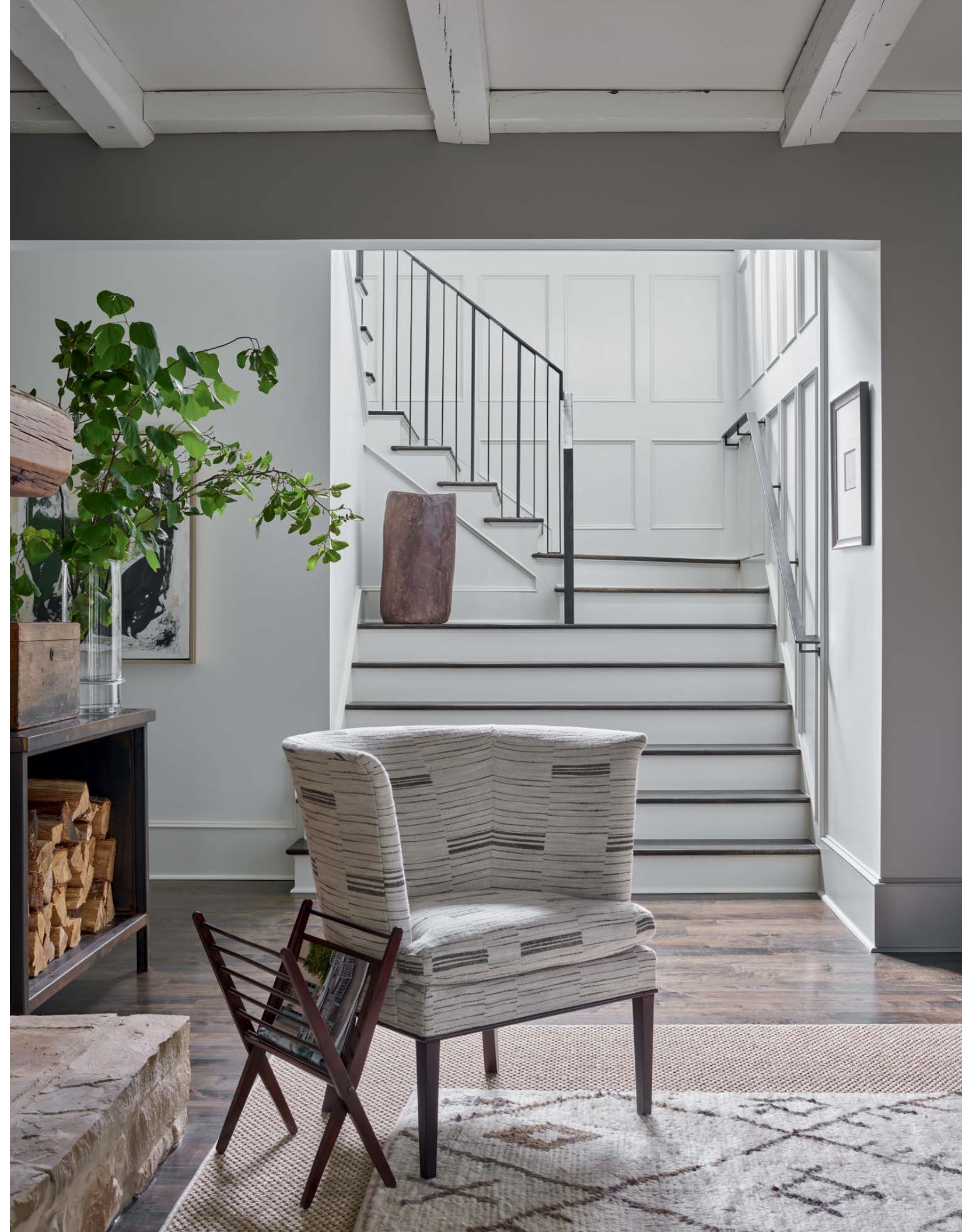
Restrained Elegance

I am no stranger to home renovation; my husband and I have lived in an embarrassingly high number of houses over the last two decades. But I often say that renovating a house is the key talent God gave me. While many of our client jobs are ground-up new construction, our team loves working with talented architects and contractors on renovation projects to keep us on our toes. With renovations, there are always a few unforeseen issues to be addressed, and decisions are made on-site and on the fly.

Wish lists, however, don't have to be for the sake of preexisting conditions. The wish list for this project was short and sweet: sophisticated and luxurious entertaining spaces. This is not to suggest that these rooms can't be enjoyed and lived in, but rather to point out the focus of the detail shifts slightly from function to form. After all, how elegant could we be without a pair of stunning yet slightly uncomfortable shoes?

To entertain guests on the lower level of this renovation, architect David Baker of Tippet Sease Baker created a certain level of intrigue with a new staircase complete with paneled walls and a custom railing leading to a moody but warm area below grade. A wine room and a fireside sitting area help make this space a magnetic enclave for both pre- and post-dinner conversation.

A sculptural armchair makes an inviting spot for a pause, and a new iron stair rail added during the renovation gives the stairway a simplistic statement.





A mix of finishes, including a wooden table with a marble base, a textured wall covering, a vintage gilded mirror, and a custom concrete console table keep the eye engaged in the dining room.







Southern hospitality toes the line between proper and relaxed. We “pull the string” to sit tall in our chairs for dinner, and we sink back into comfortable chairs with a glass of sweet tea for a conversation.

Coral pinks, burnt reds, blues, and botanical prints are used here, but in a slightly more updated fashion. The feeling is intentionally formal in certain places and less so in others, but still collectively cohesive. Balancing the elegant with the casual in a home requires a studied approach; the rooms need to be similar enough to recognize familial kinship but have distinct personalities and pleasant surprises.

A formal foyer serves as a well-mannered first impression but quickly gives way to an elegant blend of textures. The house is unmistakably traditional, in a Southern way, but not at all stuffy. Woven rush seats, wood finishes, wicker, natural rugs, and lively traditional prints offer warmth and a sense of well-being. A fireplace in the keeping room off the kitchen serves up nostalgia as it plays host to morning coffees and cozy chats. This connecting pass-through space becomes a destination, allowing a pause before traveling on your way.

The generous breakfast room returns as more refined. Linen portieres impart softness to the walls and can be drawn closed for more privacy and separation. Additional woven rush-seat chairs provide consistency but are elevated with blue slipcovers piped in coral. They are complemented by wicker head chairs, hearkening back to childhood memories. For uniqueness, I included a beautifully carved, scalloped-back bench with a family crest dating back to the seventeenth century.

Slipcovers in a treated fabric provide a fresh update to the otherwise traditional rush-seat dining chair while also working to continue the color story used throughout the home.



A floral theme as seen in the headboard, vintage textile on the bed, and the framed preserved botanicals add a feminine touch in the main bedroom. The color palette here is an extension of the rest of the home.

