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CONTENTS

- 18 Meet the Team
- 20 Exterior
- 22 Landscape
- 24 Floorplans
- 28 Entry
- 30 Living Room
- 32 Study
- 34 Passageway
- 36 Powder Room
- 38 Stair Hall
- 40 Side Entry
- 42 Wet Bar
- 44 Kitchen
- 48 Dining Room
- 50 Butler's Pantry
- 52 Outdoor Living
- 56 Main Bedroom
- 58 Main Bathroom
- 60 Fixtures & Hardware
- 62 Tile Gallery
- 64 Lighting Gallery
- 66 Closets & Storage
- 68 Landing
- 70 Bedroom
- 72 Bedroom
- 74 Bedroom and Bath
- 76 Upstairs Den
- 78 Natural Gas
- 80 Professional Services



Ticket and tour information:
 (Tickets will be available online and at the door.)
birminghamhomeandgarden.com

306 La Prado Circle
 Homewood, AL 35209
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 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday

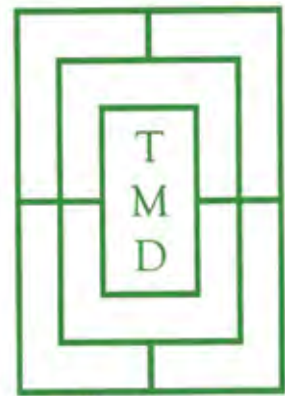
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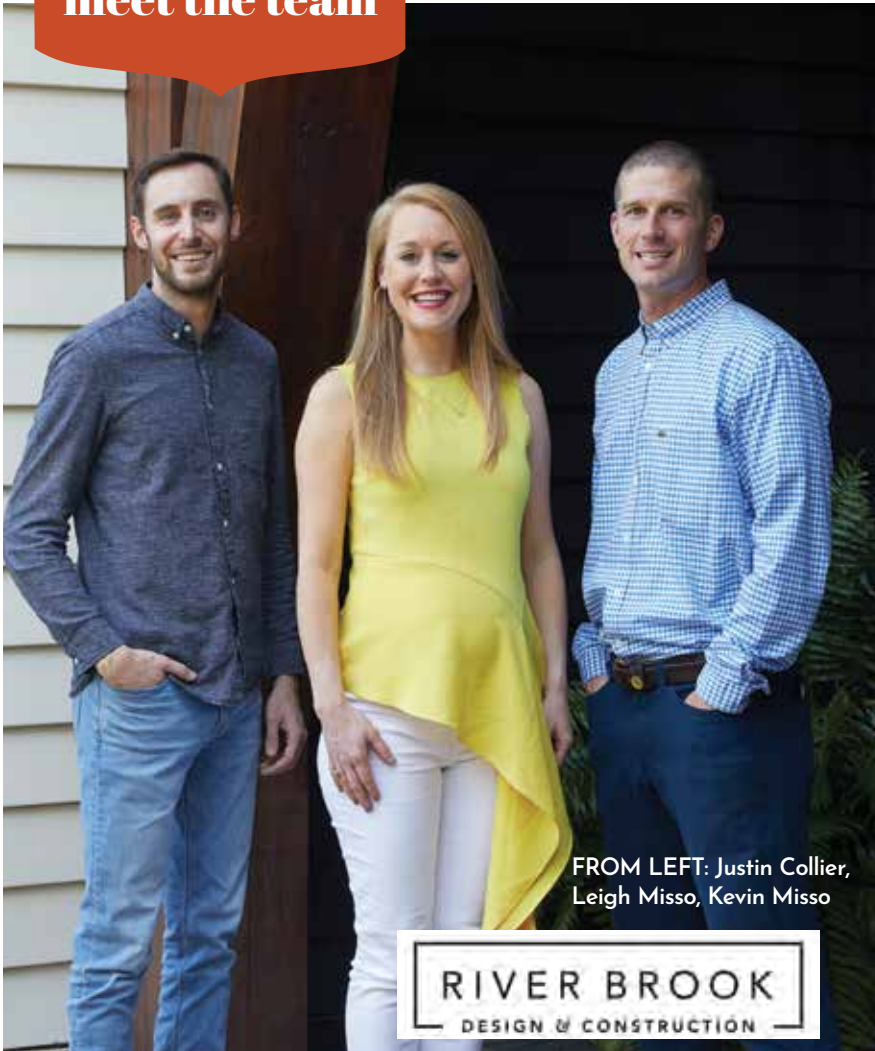
Landscape
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meet the team



FROM LEFT: Justin Collier,
Leigh Misso, Kevin Misso

*“Everything we do is tailored to our clients.
The Inspiration Home offered us the freedom to
showcase our abilities and push limits.”*

– Inspiration Home design team

Designer & Builder: *River Brook Design & Construction*

Kevin and Leigh Misso, owners
riverbrook.construction
205.383.9699
IG: riverbrook_

As a full-service design/build firm, River Brook Design & Construction uniquely offers all project needs under one roof. For both commercial and residential projects, the firm's teams specialize in making your dream a reality. "What makes us unique is that we offer full plan development, interior design, construction, project management, and full interior furnishings for your home or business," says owner Kevin Misso. Kevin explains that his team is composed of problem solvers, thinkers, and doers who make sense of what

can be a costly, time-consuming, and confusing process. Since River Brook is a full-service design/build firm, they are able to project and track costs and save client's time through preparation and excellent communication. River Brook's projects involve custom new builds, full renovations, and additions where everything is custom-tailored to each project's particular needs. From layout to flooring to color palette, lighting, and plumbing, River Brook ensures that every detail is thoughtfully crafted into a unique, timeless work of art.

Architect Justin Collier, NCARB, AIA, a member of the River Brook team, worked to make the home unique and inspirational. Justin's diverse experience extends to residential architecture, higher education, corporate, multi-family, and retail design. He graduated from Auburn University with a Bachelor of Architecture and is currently licensed in Alabama and Tennessee.

Charity Partner **MAGIC MOMENTS**

Magic Moments was founded with the sole purpose of providing happiness to children throughout Alabama who are diagnosed with chronic, life-threatening illnesses. To date, the organization has provided close to 5,000 special experiences. Not only does Magic Moments provide children with nonmedical opportunities, such as a family trip to Disney World, meeting a celebrity, or going on a shopping spree, they also offer events to enhance relationships between the staff and families, as well as relationships with other families.

BIRMINGHAM **HOME & GARDEN**

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Welcome to Hollywood

With homes that have only become more charming with age, as well as new homes that honor the community's history, Hollywood remains one of Birmingham's favorite communities.

One of the first Over the Mountain developments, the Hollywood district of Homewood was built by developer Clyde Nelson beginning in 1926 based on the charms, dreams, and home styles of Hollywood, California. Street names are pure L.A., such as Bonita, La Prado, Poinciana, and, of course, Hollywood Boulevard. Architect George P. Turner designed many of the homes in the Spanish Colonial Revival style. He also nodded to the English Tudor style which was already widespread in Birmingham. In 2002, Hollywood obtained registry with the National Register of Historic Places.

“Working in historic Hollywood gave us the opportunity to design something contextual while also setting a new

precedent,” says Leigh Misso of River Brook Design & Construction. “We wanted the architecture to harmonize with the neighborhood yet stand out at the same time.”

Inspired by European designs, the team created a home with striking features such as the stepped gable roof and the parapet wall of Oneonta stone. Hand-split, 18-inch cedar shake shingles from FireRock add a distinguished touch to the roof and are not only great looking, but also offer a longer life span (50-year warranty) than typical asphalt shingles. For even more value and durability, Capps & Co. Roofing installed ice and water shield protection to the exterior decking and copper flashing around the chimney, valleys, and drip edge—all important details to ensure beauty and longevity.



SOURCES:
 Design/Build Firm: River Brook Design & Construction
 Architect: Justin Collier
 Concrete walls, driveway and foundation: Kirkpatrick Concrete
 Landscape design: TMD Landscape Design
 Landscape installation: Specialist Landscaping
 Cedar shingles: FireRock Building Materials
 Roof installation, decking, and copper flashing: Capps & Co. Roofing
 Gas lanterns: Mayer Lighting
 Hardware: Avondale Specialty Hardware
 Title company: Land Title Company of Alabama
 Real estate agency: Ray & Poynor
 Waste management: VaVia Mortgage
 McGowin-King Mortgage

Partners

FireRock Building Materials

888.876.1025

firerock.us

FB: FireRock • IG: @firerock_inc

FireRock is the leading supplier of building products for the custom home market. The company partners with builders, architects, designers, distributors, installers, and homeowners to provide quality products and high-level expertise. FireRock offers products including concrete pavers, steel windows and doors, slate and cedar roofing, masonry fireplaces, and hardwood floors.

Capps & Co. Roofing

205.746.3993

FB: Capps & Co. Roofing • IG: @cappsandco

Founded by Josh Capps in 2009, Capps & Co. Roofing is one of the premier residential and commercial roofing leaders in Birmingham and beyond. The company has handled monumental projects such as the new Huffman High School, the Veterans Affairs Hospital in Tuscaloosa, and the American Village Veterans Museum. Recently, Capps & Co. has decided to focus more on residential projects and small businesses to create a more intimate bond with customers that will last a lifetime.

Kirkpatrick Concrete, Inc.

205.323.8394

concretesouth.com

Kirkpatrick Concrete, Inc., began in 1892 and is one of the oldest concrete companies operating in Alabama. The company serves both private and public sectors. With 23 ready-mix concrete plants in Alabama, its facilities are located from the northeast corner of the state to the metro Montgomery area. In addition to ready-mix concrete, Kirkpatrick offers concrete technical services, including concrete mix design and verification services, project support, and field trouble-shooting.



Landscape Designer

Todd Dorlon,

TMD Landscape Designs

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Award-winning landscape designer Todd Dorlon has been creating high-end landscapes in the Birmingham area for the past 19 years. When developing outdoor spaces, Todd works closely with clients while integrating the landscape and the architecture of the home to create a space that is timeless yet customized. He understands the importance of detail and craftsmanship and strives to provide a quality product that will improve the functionality and aesthetics of each client's space. Together, TMD Landscape and River Brook have been featured in *Southern Living* and *Southern Home*.

“Our goal was to make the interior and exterior have a cohesive European feel. Extensive consideration was given to the selection of all materials, plantings, and surfaces.”

– River Brook Design & Construction

Any lot comes with its particular set of challenges. This one proved especially complex. The grade was steep, and the pie-shaped parcel seemed limiting. “Because of these challenges, it was critical for landscape designer Todd Dorlon and Specialist Landscaping to be a vital part of the team,” says Leigh Warren Handrahan, owner of Specialist Landscaping. She cleared the land and lowered the grade by 12 feet. “Solid grade is one of the most important elements you can do for your landscape. It will help to ensure that water drains properly so a pleasing appearance can be achieved,” Warren says. Driveways, walkways, curbing, patios, and retaining walls were installed—all vital components to set the home and garden perimeters.

Landscape designer Todd Dorlon developed a master plan that visually connects the home and garden while maximizing every inch and creating an inviting experience. “The front has a very open feel,” says Todd of the stone steps and pavers leading to the dramatic facade. “The side and back gardens offer a more secluded courtyard feel, perfect for entertaining.” From the approach to the custom garden gate designed by Todd to the lawn and the peagravel surface beyond, every area is intermixed with beautiful containers and fountains, along with layers of plantings to make up varying textures, colors, and shapes that will appeal to all the senses.



SOURCES:
 Builder: River Brook Design & Construction
 Concrete foundations: Kirkpatrick Concrete
 Landscape design: TMD Landscape Design
 Landscape installation: Specialist Landscaping
 Cedar shingles: FireRock Building Materials
 Roof installation, decking, and copper flashing: Capps & Co. Roofing
 Gas lanterns: Mayer Lighting



Partner
Specialist Landscaping

205.907.9771
specialistlandscaping.com
 @specialistlandscaping

Specialist Landscaping is a landscape installation and horticultural maintenance company offering hardscape services, landscape installation, and ongoing services. The company partners with homeowners as well as experienced landscape designers, architects, and builders to design landscaping that provides appeal and functionality while increasing the value and satisfaction of the home. Through a collaborative effort, Specialist Landscaping works to design, install, and maintain landscaping that meets the needs of their clients.

floorplan

“There’s an added value when working with a design/build team. Communication is more nimble. When everyone is in the same place, it can accelerate the building process and expedite decisions.” – Justin Collier, architect



There’s a lot to be gained in an open floorplan. It brings family together, offers ample room for entertaining, and often makes a home feel larger than its actual square footage. But there’s also much to be said for intimate spaces, ancillary rooms, and private getaways.

The River Brook Design & Construction team balanced both concepts. “We wanted to design something spacious without being too open,” says Leigh Misso of River Brook. A wide passageway runs through the center of the home to connect—and separate—living spaces.

PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

- 4,200 square feet including a 20- x 20-foot open-air outdoor living room
- First-floor master suite
- 3 bedrooms upstairs with private baths
- Upstairs living room and reading nook
- Generous outdoor living areas including a courtyard and outdoor living room with fireplace and fountains
- 10-foot ceilings downstairs, 9-foot ceilings upstairs

Put it on repeat. Bring outdoor materials inside. River Brook chose the same stone for the fireplace and the front facade.



SOURCES:

Interior Elevation: River Brook Design
Room design, furnishings, art, accessories: L. Vogtle Interiors
Fireplace: FireRock Building Materials
Lighting: Mayer Lighting
Antique doors: Charles Phillips Antiques

The entry is a great connector leading to the living room, adjacent den, and passageway beyond. Laura Vogtle and Catherine Smith of L. Vogtle Interiors set the tone for the quadrant of rooms by situating a white lacquered hexagonal table in the center of the space. Stacks of coffee table books and sculptural decor on the tabletop and the floor beneath nod to the diverse range of artwork and accessories from Design Supply. “Because this space serves both the entry and the living room, we wanted it to be welcoming, multi-functional, and comfortable,” says Laura.

This warm welcome includes a stone-clad, gas-fueled, 48-inch prefabricated masonry fireplace from FireRock Building Materials. This see-through model can provide the ambiance of a masonry fireplace both indoors and out within any exterior or interior wall.



Bring it all together. Use a cohesive color scheme to unite antiques and new pieces. The coffee table, with its sleek lines and mirrored edge, happily coexists with the more ornate pieces thanks to coordinating tones.



As we often do in our designs, we mixed newer pieces with germane antiques and original artwork from Design Supply,” says Laura Vogtle, designer and owner of Design Supply. In the living room, an ornate, 17th-century enfilade resides against the interior wall and helps ground the large room. On top, a pair of altar-size candlestick lamps painted in white lacquer looks decidedly modern. Above, an oversized, mixed-media collage on canvas by Nashville artist Jennifer

Gibbs provides even more contemporary punch.

The furnishings display a gray, black, and white color scheme, taking cues from the graphite tones in California-based artist Emily Farish’s “Three Branch Magnolia” triptych.

A pair of swivel chairs, a Libeco linen sofa, and a tall 1860 French wingback chair covered in a knotted boucle offer plenty of seating for convivial gatherings. “The Moroccan wool rug and brass chandelier add the finishing touches of coziness and charm to the space,” Laura says.



SOURCES:

Room design, furnishings, art, accessories: L. Vogtle Interiors and Design Supply. Lighting: Mayer Lighting



Designer
L. Vogtle Interiors

L. Vogtle Interiors
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L. Vogtle Interiors, led by Laura Vogtle, consists of a diverse group of individuals with a singular mission to create unique, functional, comfortable, and artistic rooms for their clients. Laura has spent the last several years building her creative team, including taking on fresh, young designer Catherine Smith as a partner. The company has tackled projects of all sizes, from commercial renovations to ground-up residential builds. Laura and her team have a strong focus on collaboration with one another, as well as with their clients. As a result, each project is infused with both the client's personality and Laura's distinctive style.

SOURCES:

Room design, furnishings, art, accessories: L. Vogtle Interiors and Design
 Supply Fireplace: FireRock Building Materials
 Rug: EighteenthStreetOrientals
 Lighting: Mayer Lighting
 Antique doors: Charles PhillipsAntiques
 Hardware: Avondale Specialty Hardware

tip

Be versatile. Situated in the center of the room, the desk can easily double as a serving table or bar when entertaining. Remove the chair for easier flow.

Partner

Charles Phillips Antiques

Theodore, Alabama
 251.973.2885
 charlesphillipsantiques.com
 IG: ctpantiques
 Open Thursday, Friday, Saturday

CharlesPhillipsAntiquesisanimporter of European antiques, architectural accents, custom-built furniture, and one-of-a-kind accessories. With eight large warehouses, over 75,000 square feet of inventory, and new containers arriving weekly, Charles Phillips is well worth the trip to Theodore.

Opposite the fireplace wall in the entry, a private enclave awaits. Laura Vogtle and Catherine Smith of L. Vogtle Interiors envisioned this little getaway space as a den/study, filling it with an antique desk and a handsome antique wingback chair covered in green mohair. Here, the chair is angled to take in multiple views: the fireplace, the entry, views of the garden, and the adjacent dining room separated by a pair of antique doors—an architectural element signature to River Brook Design & Construction homes. “We love working with Charles Phillips to find antique doors for our projects. It’s a great way to mix the old with the new,” says Leigh.

Partner
*Eighteenth Street
Orientals*

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IG: @18thstorientals

A family-owned business, EighteenthStreetOrientals has been a fixture in the national decorative rug industry since 1986. While headquartered in Homewood, the company serves clients across the U.S. The sister-and-brother team of Paige Drummond and Jim Drummond specializes in decorative, one-of-a-kind, handmade pieces from Turkey, Morocco, Pakistan, Tibet, and India.



SOURCES:

Interior elevations: River Brook Design Furnishings, art, accessories: L. Vogtle Interiors, Design Supply, and Mark Kennamer Design Lighting: Mayer Lighting Rug: Eighteenth Street Orientals Powder room design (right): Laurin White, Cambridge Row

Running through the center of the house, a long, wide passageway serves as a dramatic connector for shared living areas. “This way, the rooms relate to one another but are still distinguishable as individual spaces,” says Leigh. Here, the curved ceiling, inspired by a classic barrel vault design, adds a distinctive touch. A trio of lanterns illuminates the path from the entry past the kitchen and dining area,

ending at a rear wall styled with a console and art from Design Supply. More moments along the way include the concrete containers Mark Kennamer planted with olive trees and a generously-sized Moroccan rug from Eighteenth Street Orientals. “Every step down the hall reveals a new view of the house,” says Leigh. “We wanted to create intrigue through the space and let the rooms reveal themselves slowly.”



tip

Create a focal point.

At the end of the passageway, a striking Belgian oak buffet and painting by Alabama native Arthur Price beckons guests and homeowners through the space.

Don't miss the powder room (right). Designer Laurin White used the inside of the powder room door to continue the space's salon-style art gallery (page 36).

“While I do find a lot of design inspiration right here in our own city, traveling has by far been the most influential instrument in shaping the way I think and the way I design spaces.”

– Laurin White, Cambridge Row

powder room



SOURCES:

Room design: Laurin White, Cambridge Row Select
art: Design Supply Sconce: Mayer Lighting
Vanity stone: Triton Stone Group
Plumbing fixtures: Fixtures & Finishes



Designer Laurin White, Cambridge Row

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Led by designer Laurin White, Cambridge Row specializes in thoughtfully tailored spaces reflecting the unique needs and personality of each client. Services range from architectural selection to furnishings—and everything in between. Laurin originally began the company in Houston, Texas, but later transitioned to Birmingham in 2018. Visit the website or follow on Instagram to learn more.

The powder room's petite, curated art gallery was inspired by Parisian salons of the 18th and 19th centuries. "Our modern approach to this includes current works from local artists blended with vintage pieces," says designer Laurin White.

As the powder room is often considered the jewel box of the house, Laurin played to the literal interpretation with a dramatic vanity she designed from a slab of Agatonia Gem, a semi-precious Italian stone. For even more shine, she lacquered the walls in Blue Gray by Farrow & Ball.

To illuminate the small space, as well as the artwork, Laurin chose an articulating double sconce from Mayer Lighting. "Its matte white finish with brass touches adds dimension and depth," she says.

stair hall



SOURCES:

Interior elevations:
River Brook Design
Furnishings, art,
accessories: Design Supply
Lighting: Mayer Lighting

Laura Vogtle with Design Supply Shares Art Buying Tips

How many different artists are represented at Design Supply? And how many of them are in the Inspiration Home?

We represent over 60 artists from across the country, and 20 of them are featured in the Inspiration Home.

How do you choose who you carry?

While Katherine Justice (gallery co-owner) and myself are the final decision makers, we consult with the entire Design Supply team when deciding whether or not an artist will be a good fit. I want the people selling the work to love it just as much as I do! We also try to be careful not to bring in artwork that feels too similar to any of the artists that we already represent—it's important that everyone has their own lane!

As a client, what are some of my top considerations for purchasing?

The most important thing is that you really love it! Of course, if you are buying for a specific wall then size, color palette and framing (and budget!) are also considerations.

Why are some pieces more expensive than others? Is it based on medium? Size? How well known the artist is?

All of the above can be factors. Some artists feel comfortable pricing their own work while others lean on us to help with developing their pricing structure. Of course, the more well-known and seasoned an artist is, the higher their prices are going to be.

How do you suggest mixing and matching art from different artists to create a curated look in your home?

Mixing and matching is what gives character to your home and your collection. When hanging pieces together on a gallery wall, look for some sort of common elements (pops of a shared color, similar mat in a frame, etc.) in order to make the wall feel cohesive even if the art pieces themselves don't necessarily relate.



Designer Design Supply

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designsupplyshop.com
IG: @designsupplyshop

Whether you are a designer looking for the perfect piece of art or a customer seeking direction to guide your design the right way, Laura Vogtle and her team can help. Design Supply is a one-stop shop for art, furniture, and design inspiration. With art at the core of Design Supply, the team has put together a tightly curated body of work representing artists from across the country.

A floating staircase inspired the design of this hallway. The airy effect is underscored by a wall of double-stacked windows and the lofty two-story space. On the upper level, two contemporary, matching fixtures in two sizes add texture and sculptural whimsy overhead. “We liked the idea of introducing a few cutting-edge elements into the home,” says Leigh. Design Supply created a vignette in the space below with a cushioned bench and a still life of oranges by artist and Auburn graduate Kathryn Gage.

side entry

“We love mixing English antiques and American pieces with a modern aesthetic. We believe in timeless style and quality.” –Hiltz-Lauber

SOURCES:

Room design, furnishings, accessories: Hiltz-Lauber

Art: Design Supply

Hardware: Avondale

Specialty Hardware

Landscape design:

Todd Dorlon, TMD

Landscape Design



Because the outdoor living area is such an integrated part of the house, the design team opted to create a second foyer on the side of the house. “This way, guests coming in via the garden gate have another way to be welcomed into the home,” says Leigh. A bubbling fountain and cedar-framed, covered porch offer a warm invitation (page 23) to come inside.

Hiltz-Lauber’s design philosophy incorporates old with new. “We mix in sentimental pieces, and we love an airy aesthetic combining beautiful textures, pops of color, and neutrals,” says the Hiltz-Lauber design team. Here, their light touch comes through with a perfectly-curated combination of furnishings and accessories. A pair of plaster lamps sit atop a custom, lime-washed oak console with woven, rattan insets and iron details. An antique Louis Philippe mirror stripped to the raw wood shows intricate carvings. A custom wool baseball stitch Moroccan rug adds warmth to hardwood floors.

Hiltz-Lauber and Rugko

Hiltz-Lauber Flooring: 205.879.3455

Hiltz-Lauber Furnishings: 205.879.0039

Rugko: 205.202.4053

hiltzlauber.com

IG: @hiltzlauber @rugko

Hiltz-Lauber is a family-owned flooring and furniture showroom celebrating 30 years in downtown Homewood. The company specializes in furniture, lighting, and carpets in a wide range of price points from all different corners of the globe. With installation crews in Florida, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Georgia, Hiltz-Lauber can accommodate projects across the United States. In addition, the business offers scratch-and-dent items, floor samples, and area rug and carpet closeouts at its outlet, Rugko (33286th Avenue South). Trained professionals at both Hiltz-Lauber and Rugko are happy to help customers with selections for both home and office.

Wet Bar



Look up. Adding a contrasting color or texture such as the Phillip Jeffries braided Coconut Shell wallpaper to the ceiling draws the eye up and cocoons a room from top to bottom.

SOURCES:
Room design, furnishings, art, accessories: Starling Interiors
Interior elevations: River Brook Design
Cabinets: Refinery Custom
Sconces: Mayer Lighting
Counter and backsplash: Triton Stone Group
Appliances: Ferguson Bath, Kitchen, & Lighting Gallery
Plumbing fixtures: Fixtures & Finishes
Hardware: Avondale Specialty Hardware



Designer
Sumner Starling & Anne Hurley, Starling Interiors

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Sumner Starling grew up poring over interior design publications such as *Architectural Digest*, as well as fashion magazines, at her grandmother's house. While her first career was as a banker, her passion for design and architecture was satisfied by renovating and building three houses of her own. Upon leaving the banking world, Sumner worked for several designers before launching Starling Interiors in 2017. Interior designer Anne Hurley, a longtime friend whose style Sumner has always admired, joined Starling Interiors as a collaborator in 2019. The two designers have been successfully brainstorming together ever since.



The wet bar and laundry is the home's main access point to the amazing back yard space, so it needed to be chic in addition to functional," says designer Sumner Starling. Ensuring that no one would be stepping through piles of laundry, floor-to-ceiling cabinets shield the stacked Whirlpool washer and dryer from Ferguson Bath, Kitchen, & Lighting Gallery and opposite, cabinets fit a standard-sized laundry basket and storage for housekeeping supplies. A convenient task sink serves laundry and bar service. "The counter and sink space are perfect for folding laundry, arranging flowers, or preparing margaritas," says Sumner

In addition to concealing hard working elements (there's a drink fridge and broom closet, too), Sumner and Anne Hurley strived to make the room feel guest-ready. Rich finishes include the deep hues on cabinets and walls. Hardware, inset ringpulls in an unlacquered brass, gleam against the dark background. The countertops and backsplash are black soapstone. Custom fabricated details include the backsplash deep, apron front, and ledge used to display French engravings. Accessories show the designers fondness for heirloom silver, and antique artifacts.

kitchen



tip

Keep it consistent. Custom panels on appliances, including the 42-inch, built-in Viking fridge, maintain the streamlined look of the wall-to-wall and floor-to-ceiling wood cabinets.

“My goal in designing the kitchen was for it to serve as the heart of the home. I did not want it to be strictly utilitarian. Instead, it is an inviting extension of the living and dining areas.”

—Leigh Misso

River Brook Design and Construction is committed to using authentic materials. “They transcend any time period and allow you to design something that is both ageless and modern,” says Leigh. “Real materials such as stone, wood, and metals age beautifully. Plus, they’re more durable.” To that end, Leigh sourced honest materials for the kitchen and throughout the home. She

worked with Refinery Custom Cabinets to execute the of the white oak cabinetry. The rear wall is comprised of a large, unobstructed bank of windows surrounded by a wall of stone (Calacatta Macchia Vecchia Honed Marble from Italy). The same material is repeated with a waterfall effect on the island. The wall design is even more striking with the showstopping, hand-crafted La Cornue range from Ferguson Kitchen and Bath Gallery. A



Designer
Leigh Misso
River Brook Design & Construction

Leigh Misso, a Building Science major from Auburn University, launched River Brook Design & Construction with her husband, Kevin Misso, in 2017. Since then, River Brook has expanded to include custom luxury new builds, renovations, and additions, as well as residential and commercial design. Most recently, they opened a showroom in Homewood filled with furnishings and accessories designed to complement their project's interiors.

Partners
The Refinery Custom Cabinets

205.908.7943
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The Refinery Custom Cabinets creates custom cabinetry for builders, designers, and architects. The company prides itself on its team of artisans displaying stellar service. All cabinetry is American-made with plywood box construction, solid hardwood face frames, superior Blum soft-close glides and hinges, solid maple dovetailed drawer boxes, and UV clear-coated interiors. Finishes consist of earth-friendly, waterborne coatings that are free of any solvents or harsh chemicals.

Wolf flush inset vent hood takes the place of a traditional hood to maintain the clean look. Leigh chose a thin, contemporary fixture above the island to blend and modernize the space.

Finishing accessories include a pair of antique olive jars-turned-lamps topped with black shades, a trio of black leather barstools, and handmade pieces from Earthborn Pottery. Leigh commissioned the painting

by artist Joe Turner to reflect the warm tones of the cabinetry and marble while also highlighting the room's dark accents.

As a final touch, custom steel-and-glass doors were installed to create a place to showcase heirloom pieces. "Layering antique and modern elements, as well as cherished collected items, is one of the most important components of design."

kitchen



SOURCES:

Room design and interior elevations: River Brook Design
Countertops and backsplash: Triton Stone Group
Appliances: Ferguson Bath, Kitchen & Lighting Gallery
Cabinets: Refinery Custom Cabinets
Hardware: Avondale Specialty Hardware
Gas: Spire
Pottery: Earthborn Pottery



Partners

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FB: Ferguson Bath, Kitchen & Lighting Gallery

IG: @fergusonshowrooms

Ferguson Bath, Kitchen & Lighting Gallery is the premier destination for access to the latest concepts of quality home fixtures and appliances. Whether you're a homeowner, a professional designer, or a remodeler, you'll find that the Ferguson showroom associates are dedicated to providing world-class customer service. They will work alongside you to make any style dream a reality.

dining room

tip

Hang it up. Chandeliers should hang 30 - 36-inches above the center of the dining table. For round tables, opt for a width measuring between one-half and three-fourths of the table's diameter.



I love a formal dining room,” says Mark Kenamer. “Actually, I love any formal room.” Using creamy tones, acrylic, glass, and metallic accents, Mark outfit the room with glamorous, sophisticated elements. The impetus for his palette? “I fell in love with the Richard Ginori dinner plates and used them to drive the overall design of the room.

Two sets of antique doors from Charles Phillips Antiques bookend the room. One leads to the bar and butler’s pantry (left). The other opens onto the study. “It’s rare to find two sets that match,” says Leigh, “so we purchased them before we even designed the house.”

Centering the space is a round, reclaimed wood dining table surrounded by ivory wool chairs with a curvy brass nailhead

trim. A two-tier brass-and-acrylic chandelier and companion sconces along with the acrylic-and-brass drapery rod add shimmer. Beneath the window, a painted French console with a faux marble top is set with a pair of glass lamps with pleated, silk lampshades. Here, a collection of crystal decanters and vases are corralled on a silver tray for more sparkle.

Fabrics and patterns are soft and muted. Window treatments in Schumacher cloud toile are trimmed with Samuel & Sons tassel fringe and finished in a goblet pleat. On the smaller window, Mark repeated the Schumacher cloud toile but changed it up with Greek Key embroidered tape. “I found the beautiful Oushak rug from Eighteenth Street Orientals,” says Mark. “It was a perfect fit to anchor the space.”

SOURCES:

Room design: Mark
Kenamer Designs
Lighting: Mayer Lighting
Rug: Eighteenth Street
Orientals Doors: Charles
Phillips Antiques Tabletop:
Table Matters Flowers:
Norton's Florist
Libations:
Campesino Rum



Designer

Mark Kenamer Design

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Mark Kenamer is a residential interior designer based in Birmingham, Alabama. His passion for the home has turned into a thriving design firm with clients throughout the country. Mark is known for creating classic, upscale interiors. He loves to mix beautiful antiques with modern art and lighting, as well as layer gorgeous textiles and rugs. Mark has a B.A. in interior design from Southern Institute School of Interior Design and has served as a tastemaker at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens "Antiques at the Gardens."



butler's pantry



The best thing about design is you can extract inspiration from anything that moves you,” says designer Heather Steen. For the butler’s pantry, a nook just off of the dining room, Heather took inspiration from the dramatic Onyx slab from Triton Stone to create an inviting niche with modern, glamorous appointments. “All materials, colors, and fixtures had to mingle with this dynamic backdrop,” she says.

To bring it all together, Heather designed simple slab door cabinets from The Refinery Custom Cabinets and had them (and the ceiling) painted Evening Grove (Benjamin Moore) to contrast with the organic nature of the Onyx. “This allows the eye to rest in places and be dazzled in others,” she says. “By using rich materials, along with twinkling metals and glass, we were able to evoke a feeling of refined elegance.”

Conveniences include an under-counter ice maker and task sink.



Designer Heather Steen, Steenhaus

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Husband-and-wife team Heather and Scott Steen are an architectural and interiors duo skilled at creating both commercial and residential projects. Branded as Steenhaus, the couple manages a small firm that gives clients personal attention. The Steens believe that planning for a sustainable, durable design is a process that starts with a multi-disciplinary team of talent consisting of architects, engineers, planners, building operations staff members, and future occupants. They make the process seamless as both architecture and design are methodically considered from start to finish. This type of collaboration is what drives Steenhaus, where form and function work in synergy together.

SOURCES:

Room design, art, accessories: Heather Steen, Steenhaus
Onyx Backsplash: Triton Stone Group of Alabama
Cabinets: The Refinery Custom Cabinets
Rug: Eighteenth Street Orientals
Lighting: Mayer Lighting
Under-cabinet ice maker: Ferguson Bath, Kitchen, & Lighting Gallery
Hardware: Avondale Specialty Hardware
Bar sink and fixture: Fixtures & Finishes



After looking at the landscape architect's plans for the house, I was immediately inspired. I loved the garden experience Todd was creating, so I wanted the outdoor living room to continue that feeling of refined outdoor elegance, yet stay organic to the nature surrounding it," says designer Shelby Ames.

The 20- x 20-foot, open air room framed with massive cedar beams suits year-round entertaining thanks to the

outdoor fireplace. An arrangement of outdoor furniture, an upholstered iron sofa, and chairs, along with all-weather wicker from Summer Classics and an iron-and-limestone coffee table from Maison, cozy up for easy conversation and to enjoy the splash of the nearby fountain, one of two in the garden plan by TMD Landscape Design.

Layering in texture and organic elements, Shelby brought in a woven rug, topping it with a faux zebra rug.



Reinvent antique garden tools. Shelby worked with a local antiques dealer to design the wall decor comprised of a trio of garden tools and a harvest basket.



SOURCES:

Design/Build: River Brook Design & Construction
 Room design, furnishings, accessories: Shelby Ames Interiors
 Fireplace: FireRock Building Materials
 Fan and lighting: Mayer Lighting
 Gas: Spire Landscape Design
 TMD Landscape Designs
 Landscape and bluestone floor installation: Specialist Landscaping

A chippy mirror above the fireplace reflects the garden. Concrete consoles flanking the fireplace store firewood and hold carefully-clipped topiaries in terra-cotta pots, along with wicker accessories. Gas lanterns complement the landscape lighting for an alluring evening glow. In the adjacent pea gravel court, Shelby set an outdoor dining table with more textured, natural elements and antique finds. “The array of accessories were gathered from Birmingham, to Fredericksburg, Texas, to Europe,” Shelby says.



Designer
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Shelby Ames Interiors, LLC, is an experienced, full-service, refined interior design firm. The company believes that combining the designer’s innate sense of style with the client’s personal collections, such as art and antiques, produces uniquely composed spaces. The design aesthetic of Shelby Ames Interiors spans across genres and is expressed through the distinctiveness of each client. The firm is known for executing beautiful, well-curated projects for both residential and boutique commercial or office spaces.

outdoor living

tip

Create a scene.
Working with Kirkpatrick Concrete, the design team installed a poured concrete wall to offer privacy to the small lot.



SOURCES:

Room design, furnishings, accessories: Shelby Ames Interiors
Construction: River Brook Design & Construction
Landscape Design: TMD Landscape Designs
Landscape Installation: Specialist Landscaping
Concrete wall: Kirkpatrick Concrete

Cocktail, anyone?

Looking for a fabulous fall libation to serve guests? Cozy up with this hard-to-resist rum drink made with Campesino Rum.

AFRICAN COCONUT COLD BREW

2 oz Campesino Aged Rum
.75 oz Amarula Cream Liqueur
.75 oz H.C. Valentine Ethiopian Cold Brew
.5 oz Coconut cream
Grated Cinnamon



Partner

Campesino Rum

Campesino Rum founder Hatton Smith II's affections for finding adventure south of the border comes naturally. The Birmingham native grew up traveling to coffee farms around the world with his father, the owner of Royal Cup Coffee. At 19, he took a trip to the wilds of Central America and continued to go back as often as he could during his college days. Those jaunts inspired his venture in rum making, something he started in the jungle and has since refined as Campesino Rum. Now based in Birmingham, the company sources its blends from the Caribbean and South America. Campesino can be found throughout Alabama at bars, restaurants, and ABC stores.



“My goal is to create living art—a mix of fashion, warmth, and nostalgia.”

—Danielle Balanis

My inspiration board for the main suite began with images of Andrew Allfree’s Normandy chateau, Dries Van Noten’s Belgian parlor, and Yves Saint Laurent’s house in Marrakech,” says designer Danielle Balanis. “The moody bed chamber is swathed in a deep French blue (Fiji from Benjamin Moore) with a yin and yang theme at play as the elaborate grazes the subdued. It’s wonderfully whimsical yet settling.” In keeping with the intricate, colorful, and complex designs of her muses, Danielle infused the room with illustrious,

compelling, and rigid components that engage all of the senses. “Layers are embedded in every nook and cranny,” she says. “No detail goes unnoticed or ignored.” From the fringe-trimmed, silk draperies and vintage portraiture to the contemporary art and antiques to the chinoiserie bar and shell bust, everything stands alone yet works in tangent as an artistic installation. And then there is the unexpected, exotic encounter of hide, tusk, and even a peacock perched beside the bed. “My desire in every design is to evoke new emotions while preserving treasured pieces of the past,” says Danielle.



Designer

Danielle Balanis Design

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Danielle Balanis developed an interest in design as a teenager. She would spend hours thumbing through the pages of *Architectural Digest* and *Southern Accents*. She also had a deep affinity for fashioning greats such as Dries Van Noten, Valentino, Oscar de La Renta, Givenchy, and Gucci as well as music legends David Bowie and The Rolling Stones. Danielle found the best use of her two passions by designing interiors that were a marriage of both. She discovered that palettes from the runway and stage easily translate into the home. Danielle is intent on listening to the needs of every client and then intertwining those into a common vision.

SOURCES:
 Room design, furnishings,
 art, accessories: Danielle
 Balanis Design Table lamps
 and chandelier: Mayer
 Lighting Antique doors:
 Charles Phillips Antiques

main bath



SOURCES:

Interior elevations: River Brook Design Room design, furnishings, art, accessories: Danielle Balanis Design Marble and shower tile: Triton Stone Group Hardware: Avondale Specialty Hardware Plumbing fixtures: Fixtures & Finishes Rug: Eighteenth Street Orientals Lighting: Mayer Lighting

Equally as enchanting as the main bedroom, the ensuite bath exhibits a range of rich finishes for more intrigue. The vanity consists of pure Statuario Altissimo honed marble on both countertops and drawer fronts. The deeply veined marble is repeated on shower walls. There, a checker board floor of 3- x 3-foot Danby Imperial honed marble tile from Vermont and Italian Galaxy Grey marble offers a contrasting, classic pattern.

To accessorize the room, Danielle chose a variety of warm finishes. An ornate, gold-framed mirror is suspended over the heavily-antiqued, mirrored wall. Decadent draperies in the tub alcove repeat the ones in the bedroom. A Moravian star lantern above adds an exotic, other-worldly feel. Walls are papered in a soft print and edged in wide, drapery trim. Curiosities and vintage finds include a wood vase, clam shell, bust, and patchouli incense holder.

fixtures & hardware

Partners

Fixtures & Finishes

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Fixtures&Finishesrepresentsanexclusive collection of well-edited plumbing, tile, lighting, and decorative products for the kitchen and bath. With a two-story showroom on 2nd Avenue South, it is thestate’sonlydealerformanyexclusive plumbing and tile brands. Designers, architects, and builders alike find a haveninthebeautifullydesignedspace, allowing for ease of collaboration with the company’s skilled staff. Whether homeownersarebuildingawholehouseor merelyreplacingafaucet,theycanexplore and dream among the many showroom vignettes that showcase a wide array of fixtures and tile.

Avondale Specialty Hardware

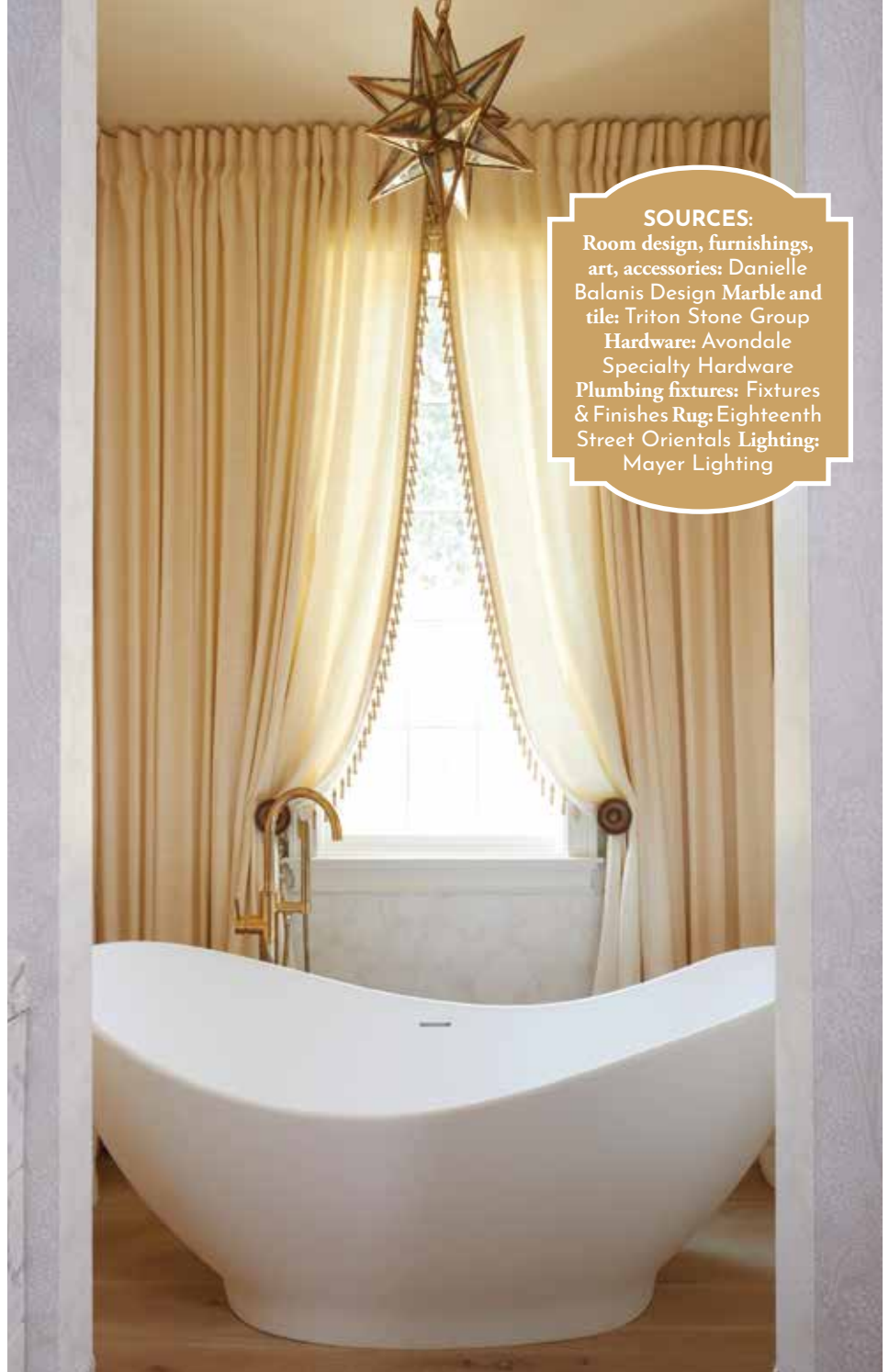
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AvondaleSpecialtyHardwareoffersan extensiveselectionofpremiumhardware for the entire home. The company is a division of HGH Hardware Supply, a family-ownedbusinesssince1963.Whether youleantowardthecontemporary,prefer a classic look, or want to add a touch of whimsy to your room, you’ll find it at AvondaleSpecialtyHardware.Customers can stop in to view hardware options on display or call for an appointment.



SOURCES:

Room design, furnishings, art, accessories: Danielle Balanis Design Marble and tile: Triton Stone Group Hardware: Avondale Specialty Hardware Plumbing fixtures: Fixtures & Finishes Rug: Eighteenth Street Orientals Lighting: Mayer Lighting

“We worked with the design team to choose unique pieces from a variety of specialty hardware brands to accentuate and balance the design and functionality of the home.” –Renee Smith, Avondale Specialty Hardware



tile gallery

SOURCES:

Room design, furnishings,
art, accessories: Danielle
Balanis Design Marble and
tile: Triton Stone Group
Plumbing fixtures: Fixtures
& Finishes Lighting:
Mayer Lighting

Partner

Triton Stone Group

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tritonstonebirmingham.com

Triton Stone Group is the largest distributor of natural stone and quartz slabs in Alabama. The company offers an extensive selection of marble, granite, travertine, limestone, and soapstone. Triton also specializes in boutique-style tile and plumbing fixtures. Triton Stone Group is Birmingham's exclusive dealer of Artistic Tile, Encore Tile, Barbie Kennedy Designs, Mediterra Handmade Tile, and Terra Bella. A full staff of knowledgeable designers is available to help with your project needs and ensure that you'll choose products to fit your lifestyle. Make an appointment to visit the showroom Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm and Saturday from 9am to 2pm.



“We stock marble, granite, quartzite, limestone, travertine, soapstone, onyx, and semi-precious and quartz slabs in our showroom so clients can see everything in person. Once a material is selected, we can work with fabricators who can craft amazing details, flourishes, and trims.”

—Jonathan Lambert, Triton Stone Group



lighting gallery



butler's
pantry



main
bedroom



dining room



passageway



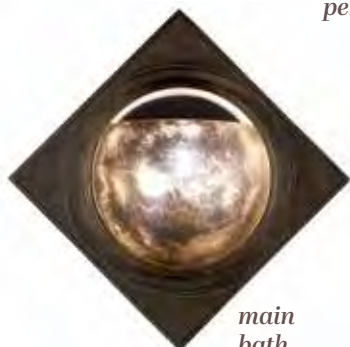
bath



staircase
pendant



main
bath



main
bath



great
room

“Our consultants will help you create a one-of-a-kind custom lighting design for your home. Our showroom offers extensive ideas. In-home consultations are also available.”

—Mayer Lighting

Whether you are planning to build, remodel, or redecorate a house, it's important to enlist the expertise of a professional to help plan a lighting scheme. The best-laid plans include a variety of options such as recessed lights, sconces, overhead fixtures, and ambient lighting, in addition to well-placed outlets for lamps. Dimmer switches are also important for setting the mood. For the Inspiration Home, the experts at Mayer Lighting Showroom worked directly with River Brook Design and Construction and individual room designers to find the perfect fixtures for each space. The assortment of lighting showcases a mix of materials and styles that brings individuality to each room.

Partner Mayer Lighting Showroom

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Since 1930, Mayer Lighting Showroom has been the place to go for lighting in Alabama. Whether you are building a new home, remodeling an older house, or simply updating fixtures, you'll find an extensive selection of lighting. Mayer Lighting Showroom also includes offerings from Generation Lighting designers such as Kelly Wearstler, Ellen DeGeneres, and Thomas O'Brien. The company is committed to providing smart, beautiful, and design-forward lighting.

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EARTHBORN POTTERY

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closets & storage



“When we evaluate a home’s spaces and a client’s needs, we take detailed notes to develop a plan for organization.”

– Kim McBrayer



Designer

Kim McBrayer,
Space Cadets

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Kim McBrayer may not have been born organized, but she was absolutely born to organize. Since 2001, Kim has been helping people find simplicity through organization using the methods that have changed her own life. With a team of designers, installers, and organizers, Space Cadets focuses on quality space planning with excellent custom closet systems and organizing accessories. At Kim’s retail showroom, clients will find solutions to any cluttered space and multiple types of storage systems for everything from the attic to the basement. Clients begin the process with a Space Walk, where designers develop a game plan. This could include installing a new storage system or organizing what someone already has in place. Regardless, the Space Cadets will be on a mission to launch clients into a simpler, more organized space.



Bins, rods, drawers, containers, and hangers. Designer Kim McBrayer knows the keys to creating well-organized storage spaces. In this house, she considered everyone’s needs as she and customized closets to serve every bedroom. There are adjustable systems featuring drawers, shelving, and shoe cubbies, as well as built-in hampers, valet rods, and pull-out belt racks. In addition to closets, Space Cadets offers a complete line of products to tidy up pantries and garages.

birminghamhomeandgarden.com



Designer

Ashford Hill for Henhouse Antiques

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Located in charming English Village for over 20 years, Ashford Hill for Henhouse Antiques offers beautiful, unique pieces personally selected by owners Barbara Ashford, Judy Hill, Laura Ashford Gessert, and Libby Hill McGowan. From the traditional to the unexpected, Ashford Hill for Henhouse Antiques offers a fresh approach to decorating. The team expertly mixes English with French, 18th century with 21st century, and primitive with formal. Customers will enjoy repeatedly visiting Henhouse Antiques as its offerings are constantly changing and evolving.

The purveyors at Henhouse Antiques are serious experts when it comes to fine antique furniture and accessories. They also have a talent for presenting old pieces in fresh ways. In addition to large-scale antiques, the English Village shop carries smaller, accessory pieces and new pillows in designer fabrics. In the upstairs landing, the team situated an impressive antique Dutch Linen Press (circa 1860). Its sky blue finish showcases a perfectly preserved patina. The pretty hue is replicated in a pair of new, patterned pillows. Caramel-colored velvet upholstery adds a fresh look to a pair of antique Bergère chairs. On the walls, new mirrors framed in bristly antique brushes, beg to be touched. An antique rug underscores the space's blue and brown hues.



“Throughout this project, I was inspired by the marriage of antiques and all things handmade and artisan-led.”

—Jeremy D. Clark

Jeremy D. Clark Studio

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Jeremy Clark is the founder of his eponymous firm, Jeremy D. Clark Studio, a full-service design studio specializing in luxury residential, commercial, and hospitality projects from coast to coast. The designer excels at tailoring spaces to honor both the lifestyle and persona of his clients. Whether it's global influences, collected art, or the juxtaposition of texture and color, Jeremy skillfully incorporates the nuances of the storytelling that is design and allows them to play out in thoughtful, unexpected ways. Current residential projects range across the country in places such as Mountain Brook, Alabama; Atlanta, Georgia; Cashiers, North Carolina; and Nashville, Tennessee.



Fresh, tailored, and timeless. These words make up the mantra that drives Jeremy Clark's designs. "Whether I'm working with global influences, collected art, or the juxtaposition of texture and color, I enjoy skillfully incorporating these pieces in a myriad of nuances into the story of my design work, allowing them to play out in thoughtful, unexpected ways," he says. In this upstairs bedroom, he layered rich chocolate and caramel tones to evoke a masculine tone. Walls are adorned with a hand-painted Gracie Studio chinoiserie paper. The canopied bed is covered in two of Jeremy's favorite decorating devices—silk and stripes. A William Kent-inspired console table and a handmade grotto mirror speak to the designer's personal aesthetic that a collected space tells the most exceptional story.



Details matter. In lieu of mouldings, Jeremy trimmed the room in a red fabric trim that is further emphasized by strategically-place art, florals, and accessories. Custom silk taffeta draperies feature flirty, wide pleats.



SOURCES:
Room design, furnishings,
art, accessories: Jeremy D.
Clark Studio
Ceiling fixture:
Mayer Lighting
Ceiling color: Appalachian
Brown (Benjamin Moore)

bedroom

“My designs reflect my love of natural elements combined with my affinity for original artwork.”

—Ashley Ayer



Designer

Ashley Ayer,
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Ashley Ayer Interiors (formerly Ashley Gallion Interiors) is a full-service interior design firm located in Montgomery, Alabama. The company offers comprehensive decorating from the floor up with a focus on creating beautiful spaces that are both functional and valuable. Ashley also has incorporated her style into a showroom, shop, and e-commerce platform, Shoppe Ayer, featuring lighting, pillows, art, and décor.



Designer Ashley Ayer leans toward a contemporary look with her clean, minimalistic spaces that result in a simple yet timeless look. She also loves mixing antique and classic pieces with new items in order to curate a unique space. For this bedroom, Ashley wanted the design to feel fresh and modern with layered textures and pops of color. She focused on

a summery palette dominated by blues and greens with sprinklings of yellow and white.

Chartreuse green draperies frame a trio of windows. Beneath, a bench upholstered in vibrant blue holds a bevy of patterned pillows. An armchair covered in a cheerful blue-and-white fabric continues the bold color scheme. The custom headboard made of white velvet strikes a



Add definition to architectural accents. Ashley accented a sloped ceiling with a grasscloth wall covering.

bright silhouette against a celery green grasscloth accent wall.

Along with color, Ashley infused plenty of texture. Woven rattan shows up in bedside tables while a white dresser is detailed with diamond-patterned drawers and hardware. The small, round ottoman, covered in faux fur, offers a cozy feel. Lucite legs on the bench add a sleek, modern element to the room, while the softly-patterned rug keeps things warm underfoot. Art in the form of gold-leaved botanicals and abstracts add a finishing touch to clean white walls.

SOURCES:

Room design, furnishings, art, accessories: Ashley Ayer Interiors
Lighting: Mayer Lighting
Rug: Eighteenth Street Orientals



My design philosophy involves creatively building the most beautiful spaces possible while keeping comfort and livability as priorities,” says Pandý Agnew. This bedroom perfectly reflects this mindset as the designer demonstrates that simplicity sometimes makes the most impact.

“Neutral colors in the bedding, rug, and linen-striped, sheer drapery create a serene space,” says Pandý. The headboard, upholstered in a faux fawn print and trimmed in nailheads,

adds texture. “My real inspiration comes from the colors, proportions, and images in nature,” Pandý says. Accent colors—golden sunset pinks in throw pillows, a pale blush coverlet, and the inked dramatic dark skies in the paintings—add contrast. The heavenly tones are also evident in the adjacent bathroom. There, an original painting by Pandý visually connects the two spaces thanks to correlating hues, while the statuary marble countertop exhibits complementary gray and gold veining.



Punch things up. Choosing a neutral palette for bedding, rugs, and paint color offers the flexibility to change up accent colors on a whim.

SOURCES:

Room design, furnishings, art, accessories: Pandy Agnew Interiors
Bathroom cabinet: The Refinery Custom Cabinets
Marble and tile: Triton Stone Group
Plumbing fixtures: Fixtures & Finishes Hardware
Avondale Specialty Hardware
Handmade soaps in bath: Freedom Soap Co.



Designer

Pandy Agnew, Pandy Agnew Interiors

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Pandy Agnew Interiors has been in business for over 40 years. Pandy and daughter, Sunni Glidewell, along with Pandy's son, Hunter Yarborough, work together day in and day out at their design studio and shop. "We feed off each other's ideas, experiences, and creative accomplishments," Pandy says. "The shop is a reflection of the never-ending search to create beautiful spaces."

upstairs den



Designer

Stock & Trade Design Co.

Christopher Rankin &

Barbara Williams

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Stock & Trade Design Co. offers a wide selection of custom upholstery, furniture, lighting, rugs, accessories, and unique objects, as well as custom pieces from local artisans. The company is committed to providing beautiful and affordable home furnishings—pieces infused with clean lines, modern sensibility, and classic style, making them a desirable part of your décor for years to come. With a vast inventory of in-stock pieces, as well as thousands of special order options, the design choices are almost limitless. Stock & Trade has locations in Atlanta, Birmingham, Destin, Nashville, and Spanish Fort with design consultants who are always happy to assist with your design needs as you work to make your space special and uniquely your own. In-home and virtual design consultations are available by appointment. Stock & Trade Design Co.—creating spaces that indulge the mind, body and soul.



Go Big. A pair of oversized tripod floor lamps provide ample light and complement the scale of the room.



SOURCES:

Room design, furnishings, art, accessories: Stock & Trade Design Co. Hardware: Avondale Specialty Hardware

The team at Stock & Trade Design Co. created a clean, calm space that beautifully addresses the needs of a relaxed family lifestyle in the upstairs den/media room. “We brought in plush, comfortable seating with layers of texture and rich color to add warmth and visual interest,” says Christopher Rankin, chief creative officer with Stock & Trade.

The walls and ceiling, painted Urbane Bronze (Sherwin-Williams), create a moody backdrop for the expansive 12-foot-long linen sofa from the company’s private label collection that faces the media console. “The sofa is the showstopper in the space and definitely adds a major wow factor,” says Christopher. A pair of swivel chairs covered in



a soft playful boucle fabric and a pair of hide-on-hair ottomans comply with the neutral scheme while adding texture. Accent fabrics, accessories, and a gallery wall bring in more layers of intrigue. “A gallery wall is a way to carefully curate and display personal collections,” says Christopher. For this display, the designers selected varying sized gold frames holding modern art, found items such as feathers and shells, antique relics, an African Kuba cloth, and engravings.

For more entertaining options, the designers chose a round marble dining table for hosting games and gatherings. “The seating, ottomans in a rich saddle brown leather, also have tops that lift off for storage” says Christopher.

natural gas



Every day, Spire serves 1.7 million homes and businesses, making it the fifth largest publicly traded natural gas company in the country. The company stands by the belief that natural gas is the best energy choice to ensure a home stays comfortable and energy efficient. Spire provided the 2021 Inspiration Home with natural gas to run appliances and fixtures. Here are some of the ways this energy choice will benefit customers now and in the future.

Natural Gas Stoves: In addition to costing less to operate and working even when the power is out, natural gas stoves provide precise temperature control and options for charring, toasting, and flambéing. It's no wonder natural gas stoves are preferred by professional chefs.

Natural Gas Water Heaters: With water that heats twice as fast, you'll have warm water in half the time—even when the power is out.

Natural Gas Tankless Water Heaters: Since they only heat the water you're actively using, natural gas tankless water heaters are 34% more efficient than traditional models. And with their small size, you'll have space to spare.

Natural Gas Furnaces: No matter how cold it gets, natural gas furnaces keep your home warm. When compared to electric heat pumps that need supplemental heat when temperatures drop below 32 degrees, there's no contest. Plus, natural gas furnaces are more durable and have twice the lifespan.

Natural Gas Fireplaces: Say goodbye to chopped wood, ashes, and soot. Natural gas

fireplaces easily provide warmth and comfort, even when the power is out.

Outdoor Lighting: When the sun goes down, natural gas outdoor lights offer dependable security and safety. They also work when the power is out, and they don't attract bugs.

Natural gas brings value to home buyers for years to come. Here's why:

It's Affordable. On average, U.S. households that use natural gas for heating, cooking, and drying clothes save nearly \$900 every year compared to homes using electricity for the same activities.

It's Reliable. Thanks to its efficient, underground delivery system, natural gas remains one of the safest, most reliable forms of energy for homes and businesses—even during the most severe weather.

It's Clean. More efficient energy means cleaner energy. 91% of natural gas from the original source makes it directly to your home. In comparison, by the time electricity is generated and transported to you, only 36% of the original energy makes it to your home.



Partner

Spire

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Spire believes energy exists to help people's lives. It's a simple idea, but one that's at the heart of the company. Every day Spire serves 1.7 million homes and businesses, making it the fifth largest publicly traded natural gas company in the country. Spire helps people fuel their daily lives through gas utilities serving Alabama, Mississippi, and Missouri.

SOURCES:

Room design and interior elevations: River Brook Design & Construction
Countertops and backsplash: Triton Stone Group
Appliances: Ferguson Bath, Kitchen & Lighting Gallery
Cabinets: Refinery Custom Cabinets
Hardware: Avondale Specialty
Gas: Spire

Beautiful décor and thoughtful design can go a long way in making your house enjoyable. But there are many “behind-the-scenes” aspects that also need to be addressed to ensure the comfort of your investment for years to come. With the help of these partners, the 2021 Inspiration Home is a place that offers peace of mind for the homeowner. Turn to these top professionals to experience the same sense of security in your own home.



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VaVia (Italian for “it goes away”) exists to help create or restore order in the lives of its customers by providing a smart, easy solution for residential and/or commercial disposal. The company offers fast, clean dumpster rental service to the Birmingham area. VaVia restores order to jobsites by removing excess “stuff” that helps clients finish their projects on time and on budget.



McGowin-King

McGowin-King Mortgage

(205) 879-7774
mcgowinking.com
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McGowin-King Mortgage has been helping homeowners buy, build, and renovate their homes since 1998. The team of loan officers delivers unparalleled one-on-one service, on-time closings, and common-sense solutions. There are no call centers, no offsite processing, and no remote appraisers who are not familiar with the Birmingham market. McGowin-King believes local lending is the best lending. Contact the company today and let them help finance your family’s dreams.

Getting Started: McGowin-King Mortgage shares their list of documents needed to secure a loan.

Exact documentation varies depending on the loan you get, but you can typically expect to be asked for the following:

- Signed sales contract (if a purchase)
- Copies of paystubs for the most recent 30-day period
- W-2 forms for the past two years
- Names and addresses of all employers for the last two years
- Tax returns for the last two years
- Copies of bank statements for the last 2 months
- For any stocks and bonds, copies of your statement from your broker or copies of certificates

NOTE: This is a basic list. Several factors may mean that we’ll need more documentation: If you receive alimony or child support and wish to claim it as income; if you are self-employed; if you receive VA or Social Security benefits, etc.

Thank you to our partners! Your talents and services continue to inspire us!

2021 Inspiration Home Partner Ad Index

Tier One Level Partners

- 2 Triton Stone Group of Alabama
- 5, 47 Ferguson Bath, Kitchen, & Lighting Gallery
- 6 Land Title Company
- 8 Mayer Lighting
- 10 Ray & Poynor
- 12 Summit Media
- 14 ABC 33/40
- 26 Specialist Landscaping

Tier Two Level Partners

- 4 Avondale Specialty Hardware
- 25 Kirkpatrick Concrete
- 33 Charles Phillips Antiques
- 39L. Vogtle Interiors and Design Supply
- 81 FireRock Building Materials
- 84 Stock & Trade

Tier Three Level Partners

- 17 VaVia
- 17 ServePro
- 19 River Brook Design & Construction
- 19 TMD Landscape Design
- 29 Mark Kennamer Designs
- 29 Norton’s Florist
- 37 Laurin White, Cambridge Row
- 41 Hiltz-Lauber
- 41 Capps & Co. Roofing
- 43 Starling Interiors
- 43 Space Cadets
- 51 Heather Steen, Steenhaus
- 55 Shelby Ames Interiors
- 55 Campesino Rum
- 59 Danielle Balanis Design
- 59 KC Projects
- 61 McGowin-King
- 61 Fixtures & Finishes
- 63 B & A Warehouse
- 63 Henhouse Antiques
- 65 Jeremy D. Clark
- 65 Earthborn Pottery
- 67 Spire
- 67 The Refinery Custom Cabinets
- 69 Ashley Ayer Interiors
- 69 Pandy Agnew Interiors
- 79 Eighteenth Street Orientals

professional services



R
Ray & Poynor

Partner Ray & Poynor

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Ray & Poynor is a trusted real estate firm serving the Birmingham metro area since 2010. With an average of 17 years in the industry, the residential real estate experts at the firm guide their clients through the buying, selling, and relocation process. As a locally owned and operated company, Ray & Poynor knows the market and is invested in its clients and the community.

Pictured from left to right: Erin Myrick, Harriet Cochrane, Amanda Davis
Photo by: Beth Hontzas

A residential real estate company formed in 2010, Ray & Poynor has a history in Birmingham that goes back decades further. With an average of 17 years in the industry, their experts guide clients through the buying, selling, and relocation process. The company is locally owned and deeply invested in the Birmingham community. As the market grows more competitive, Ray & Poynor is ready to help. The company has expanded its tool box in response to changing client needs. The team is adjusting to market changes to not only meet, but exceed clients' expectations. Here, Amanda Davis of Ray & Poynor shares more insights about their services, commitment, and new developments.

How is Ray & Poynor evolving to meet the needs of buyers in this current market?

At Ray & Poynor, we are known for having deep relationships with our clients and for providing unmatched service for the residential market. Covid brought that to the forefront as the needs of our expanding clientele required adaptation. Smart and safe showings of homes, flexibility with regard to meetings and communication, closings organized more tightly, digital marketing experiences and on-call availability all became the norm. Even with regard to our brand presentation and office arrangement, modifications were made to ensure that the needs of our clients came first so that we are equipped to deliver the level of service and expertise our clients expect, in whatever format they desire. This pays off for our team and helps us recruit the top talent in residential real estate to remain one of Alabama's leading professional real estate companies.

Tell us about your new role and the new management team at Ray & Poynor.

Another component to our evolution, and one I am very excited about, is our new management team. I started with Ray & Poynor—then Ray & Company—in 1998 as an office administrator. Since then I have worked as a licensed agent for over 21 years. I am now transitioning out of my role as a realtor and taking on the role of Managing Broker for our office. As such, I will serve and lead our agents in their brokerage business. Harriet Cochrane, our Vice President of Business Development, leads all company referral and relocation programs, as well as community and corporate development. Erin Myrick, our Vice President of Finance, oversees the accounting division

and compliance of the brokerage business. We are excited about this new woman-led management team because we feel it is a representation of our agents and our industry, the majority of whom are women. By serving our realtors together as a solid foundation, we feel this will translate to the best possible experience for our clients.

Where do you see Ray & Poynor going in the future?

Clearly we will continue to be strategic in how we administer the Ray & Poynor process and ensure that we are at our top performance in everything we do. We win in the future through adaptivity and working wisely.

Ray & Poynor's passion for the industry shines through in every transaction. "Our goal is to build lasting relationships with our clients in order to be their real estate resource for life." – Ray & Poynor

professional services



Partner Land Title Company

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Land Title Company of Alabama has been insuring the land title needs of residents throughout Alabama for the last 70 years. And with a dedication to providing only the highest quality services, this family business isn't slowing down.

Founded in Birmingham in 1951, Land Title Company has been insuring the land title needs of residents throughout Alabama for the last 70 years. Dedicated to providing only the highest quality services, this family-owned business isn't slowing down. William Miller, Jr., CEO, shares the company's story, successes, and more about their services. "The foundation of Land Title's legacy is generations of dedicated employees as well as the trust of our most loyal customers," he says.

What is the Land Title story?

The story of Land Title is really a story of family. My father started the company in 1951 as just one of three title companies in Birmingham at the time. He wanted to build the best title agency in the state. He started with just six employees, and together they worked tirelessly to build that foundation.

When my father passed away, I joined the company, as did my brother, Jack. The third generation, my son Tripp, is now president. Though the leadership changed over the years, the core values never did. We continued with that original vision, and thankfully we have an incredible team that helps us do it every day.

What does the company offer?

With our records that go back 70-plus years (and with access back to the U.S. Patent), we perform title searches for both residential and commercial

properties to provide title policies in order for real estate transactions and closings to occur.

Why do people need Land Title's services?

Peace of mind. Whether it's a lender or someone purchasing a property, they need confidence that the transaction is safe and secure. And if it's not, we're here for that too—to discover any problems and work with them to find the solutions.

What is Land Title's constant for serving clients?

We've been around a long time, and we've worked hard over those years to show our clients they can trust us, not only to do the work efficiently and accurately but also quickly. A commitment from us means something. It always has, and it always will.

What has led to the company's longevity?

I attribute it entirely to our staff because the product we produce and the

reputation we have is created by them. We have such a wonderful team that comprises the Land Title family. We have around 40 employees, and we have upwards of 900 years of combined experience. That longevity brings with it savvy, experienced, and competent service.

"We've been around a long time, and we've worked hard over those years to show our clients they can trust us."

—William Miller, Jr., CEO,



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