

NATURALLY GRAND

IN GEORGIA, ARCHITECT TIM ADAMS AND WESTBROOK INTERIORS BUILD A HOME WITH A CONNECTION TO ITS SETTING AND PLENTY OF SPACE FOR MULTIPLE GENERATIONS TO GATHER.

STORY TIFFANY ADAMS | PHOTOGRAPHY LISA ROMEREIN

Once you pass through the property's gate, you feel as though you are miles away from the neighborhood setting. Materials such as the Tennessee fieldstone, iron windows and doors, and shingles made of Vermont slate keep the house in step with its surroundings. "The builder, Rob Marrett, was fantastic and played a huge part in bringing it all together," Westbrook says.





When the opportunity to purchase a lot adjacent to their Athens, Georgia, home presented itself, this couple had a vision in mind: a family compound where they, their daughter and son-in-law, and grandchildren would all be in close proximity. Having previously worked with Tim Adams of T.S. Adams Studio Architects, they reached out to get his take on the land and their dream. Upon walking the newly purchased property, Adams was taken with a narrow, low ridge he felt would be an ideal house site, allowing for views of both a creek and the wooded landscape. With the couple's daughter and her family making plans to move into the existing house, Adams set to work on a new home—and true generational retreat—for the couple.

Mindful of the setting—a neighborhood with acreage-sized lots that feel set apart from the world—the architect began to develop a structure that connects the indoors to the out. This is especially evident in the great room, which is lined with steel doors, creating a seamless connection between the interior, the garden, and the pool terrace. “Throughout the day, the dynamic and experience of the room change as the light changes,” Adams says. “This concept of centering life around the pool and terrace was applied to all main living areas, creating an indoor-outdoor experience that serves as the heart of the home and brings everyone together,” he adds. Similarly, Adams connected the two homesites with a bridge that crosses the small creek along the footpath, making it easy for the family to go back and forth between the two residences. The use of natural elements on the exterior, such as Tennessee



The living room's antique mantel is accented with an acrylic and pencil on canvas work titled *The Consciousness of Guilt* by Marc Ross from Johnson Lowe Gallery. Opposite: Three sets of iron doors connect the interior to the outside. An antique chair from Robuck acts as a sculptural piece. “If we are going to have something look old, then it is old and has heart and soul,” Westbrook says.



fieldstone, oak, and Vermont slate, also make the structure feel like an extension of its environment.

Indoors, this refined selection of materials continues with Belgian minimalism influencing much of the design. Adams referred the owners to interior designer Barbara Westbrook, whose office is located on the same Atlanta street as his. Westbrook and lead designer for the project, Amanda Leibson, worked with the couple to create cohesive spaces that play into the desire to connect the home and grounds while giving it a character reflective of the family. A design book enthusiast, the client brought inspiration from London designer Rose Uniacke and Belgian architect Vincent Van Duysen. “She likes a current look that still has a foot in traditional design,” Westbrook says,

Above: Visible from the foyer, the dining room’s burnt caramel-hued chairs hint at the home’s grounded feel, while puddled silk draperies and a crystal chandelier dress up the more formal space. Right: In the kitchen, white oak cabinetry and a marble that continues up the backsplash from the counters create a clean backdrop for everyday

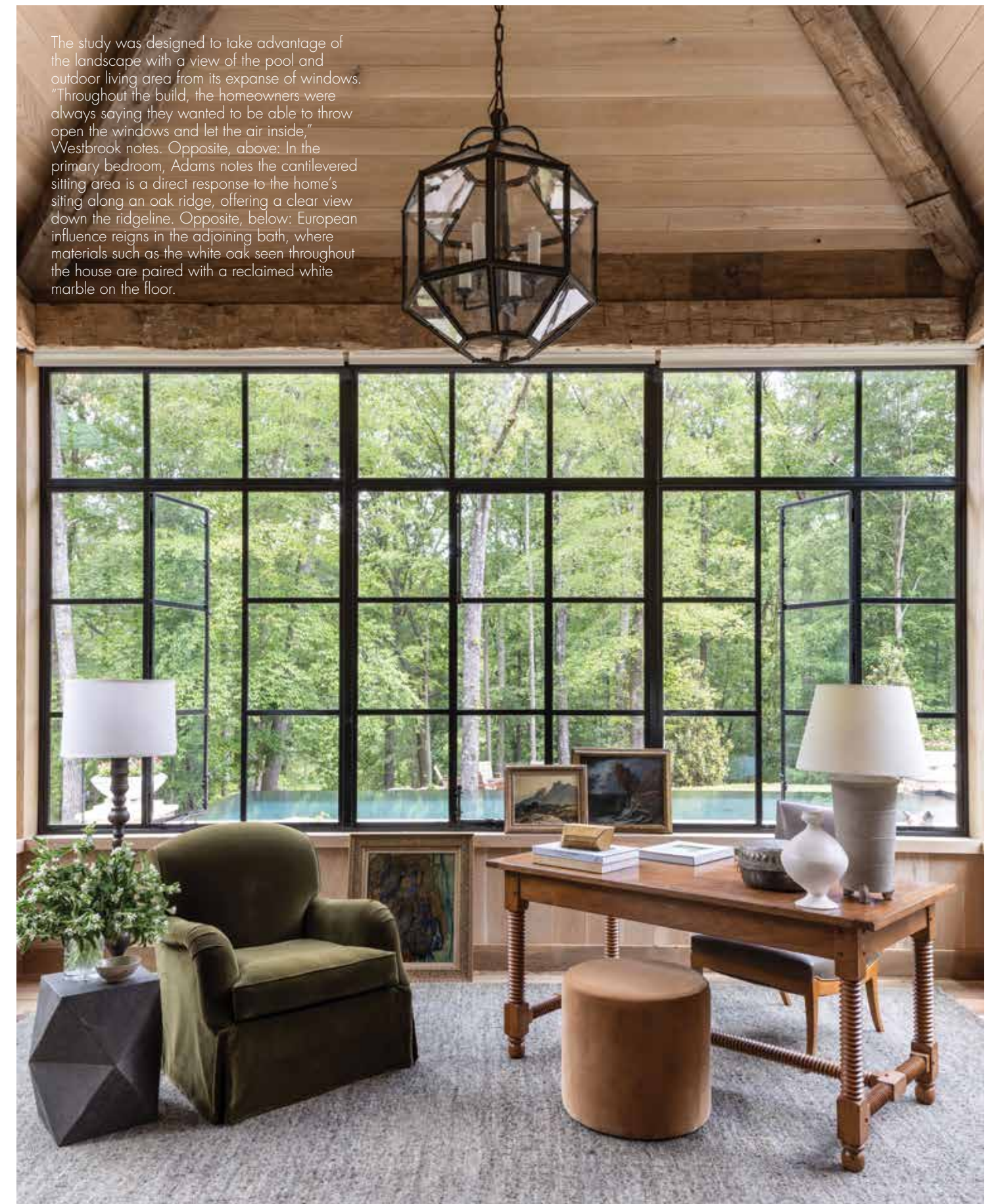




noting that the client is drawn to antiques. “It’s a relaxed house that is beautiful but not overcrowded with stuff,” the designer explains. “There are casual pieces mixed in with formal, but there’s nothing fussy about it.”

Westbrook notes the home’s strong architecture also plays heavily into the interior presence. “Tim is so good with scale,” she says, pointing out features such as the arched doorways that frame glimpses of a room from a hallway and the vaulted, beam-adorned ceilings. Adams also drew the kitchen plan with crossover between him and Westbrook on finishes. “It’s very important to us that we are an asset to the architect and builder,” Westbrook says of the relationship.

Remaining authentic in selections was also key to the interiors. This is evident in the main living room, where an antique mantel and fireplace lined with reclaimed terra-cotta tiles are balanced with a contemporary piece of artwork by Marc Ross from Johnson Lowe Gallery and a Rose Uniacke stool. Across the room, a desk is paired with a sculptural antique chair for a similar mix. “If we are going to have something look old, it is old and it has heart and soul,” Westbrook says. “Whether a house is modern or traditional, we use the same principles.”



The study was designed to take advantage of the landscape with a view of the pool and outdoor living area from its expanse of windows. “Throughout the build, the homeowners were always saying they wanted to be able to throw open the windows and let the air inside,” Westbrook notes. Opposite, above: In the primary bedroom, Adams notes the cantilevered sitting area is a direct response to the home’s siting along an oak ridge, offering a clear view down the ridgeline. Opposite, below: European influence reigns in the adjoining bath, where materials such as the white oak seen throughout the house are paired with a reclaimed white marble on the floor.



Above: The casual sunroom has a wall of windows that are often open on breezy days along with a fireplace that is ideal for chilly nights. Left: Outdoors, distinctive areas for dining, lounging, and conversation surround the pool, where the grandchildren frequently play and swim.