

A RANCH TO CALL

HOME

A BUCKHEAD COUPLE MODIFIED THEIR
1960S HOUSE OVER THE YEARS, ENDING
WITH THE LATEST AND BEST VERSION

BY LISA MOWRY | PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFF HERR

"In the living room, we revamped the fireplace and furnishings, but the star of the show is the Casamance fabric on the draperies," says interior designer Whitney Ray. "The drapes bring drama to the space while feeling like they were always meant to be there. I'm also drawn to the wood-framed Baker chairs—the leg detail is a personal favorite."



The entryway greets guests with a welcoming bench reupholstered in Thibaut fabric, as well as artwork from the homeowners' travels.



In the 31 years that Anne and Tim Sheehan have lived in their circa-1960s ranch house, they've raised two children, entertained hundreds of friends, and hosted their annual oyster roast with great success. The hardworking house recently earned a glow-up, which gave the couple a chance to remain with neighbors and the fond memories of past decades. "We've renovated this house four times over the years," says Anne, beginning with smaller projects and eventually expanding to outdoors and a large sunroom.

For the latest go-round, the couple connected with interior designer Whitney Ray, whose work they had admired at a friend's house. Whitney's mix of sophistication with livable and friendly design fit the Sheehans' vision for the home. Remodeling began with a complete kitchen renovation, enlarging the room by borrowing space from a previous breakfast room. Opening up the house like this was a consistent theme, Whitney says; the goal was to have a cleaner layout, widened doorways, and more natural light, while still maintaining some separation of individual rooms.

Because the Sheehans' adult children no longer live in the home, the bedrooms could accommodate personal tastes. "Whitney asked us what we wanted our design to reflect, and Tim suggested the idea of a contemporary hotel suite with four individual bedrooms and consistent design elements throughout," says Anne. "We wanted the bedrooms to be very individual, reflecting our style as a couple as well as our grown children's styles and tastes." The family's passion for travel also became a theme, with the designer incorporating paintings and mementos picked up along the way.

Whitney also made sure to maintain the character of a ranch house. "One of our favorite decisions was keeping the original wood paneling in the den," she says. "While some people might have ripped it out, we saw it as a nod to the home's heritage and painted it in a

high-gloss green to celebrate it rather than hide it." An updated bar area and a bronze-surrounded fireplace further elevate the room and create a sophisticated place to gather.

The Sheehans' love of entertaining influenced every design decision. In addition to the den, the much-used sunroom brings natural light into the house, and its sofas are equally suited to naps or parties. The now-airy kitchen originally had dark cherry cabinets and a separation between cooking and dining. The new configuration uses the entire room's footprint for communal living, with steel windows and doors that flood the room with sunlight. As another nod to daily life or get-togethers with friends, a dedicated hidden coffee station allows counter space to remain uncluttered.

But it's the outside entertaining area that is still the star of the home. "In 2018, we renovated the yard and built an enormous patio with a fireplace for entertaining, along with a firepit," says Anne. It's where grown son Ted is master of the grill, with daughter Mallory (and her husband Sam Gruchawka) helping with cooking and cocktails. Whitney brought in new pillows and accessories to spruce up existing teak furniture that's lasted for years.

Aside from entertaining family and friends, Anne and Tim are known for hosting an oyster roast each February that fills the entire house with guests who follow a dress code of jeans, boots, and furs. Whitney kept the party in mind for the house renovation, saying that the Sheehans needed a home that could reflect their warmth and charm while being fit to host a huge event like the oyster roast.

As a metaphor for this family and their beloved home, some good things need to stay the same, with a few improvements along the way. Says Whitney, "They knew it was time for the house to get an update, but they didn't want to erase the character that made it theirs."

The biggest before-and-after story is the kitchen, now wrapped in light-oak cabinetry by Block & Chisel (complete with a hidden pantry). New steel windows keep the look minimal and light filled.





THE SHEEHANS' LOVE OF ENTERTAINING INFLUENCED EVERY DESIGN DECISION.

ABOVE | A fluted table and console in the dining area bring texture to the sophisticated room, highlighted by a light fixture from R. Hughes and gray wallcovering by Phillip Jeffries.

OPPOSITE | In the much-used sunroom, Whitney added sheer drapery to soften the light. Comfortable furnishings work equally well for lounging and entertaining.

RIGHT | The outside entertaining area features a fire pit surrounded by Adirondack chairs. The homeowners frequently host outdoor gatherings with family and friends.



“We wanted to create the ultimate sanctuary with softness and layered texture in the primary bedroom,” Whitney says. “We draped the bed wall in a beautiful Holland & Sherry wool and chose a fully upholstered bed with an integrated bench. Paired with a thick wool rug, the room feels enveloping and is the perfect place to rest.”



Custom cabinetry and an L-shaped layout allowed the primary bath to include a seated vanity area.



RESOURCES

Builder: Brookside Custom Homes
Interior Designer: Whitney Ray, Wyeth Ray
Photographer: Jeff Herr

Dining Table: Custom, Jack Ellis Company
Console: Maxime Console, Hickory Chair
Wallcovering: Tinseltown, Phillip Jeffries
Ceiling Fixture: Gaia Pendant Oak, Ochre
Rug: Designer Carpets

Entry
Bench Fabric: Thibaut

Kitchen
Counter Stool: Savanna Counter Stool, Ben Soleimani
Counter Stool Fabric: Lovey Dovey, Perennials
Wall Lamps: Magari Adjustable Wall Lamps, 1st Dibs
Hardware: Riverside Pull, Top Knobs
Appliances: Subzero, Wolf & Cove

Living Room
Chairs: Athens Tufted Lounge Chair, Baker
Coffee Table: Montpelier Cocktail Table, Hickory Chair
Sofa Pillow Fabric: Benjamin Colibri, Zinc through Romo
Chair Pillow and Drapery Fabric: Chant des Cigales, Casamance through Ernest Gaspard
Table Lamps: Matero
Tall Table Lamp, Visual Comfort
Rug: Designer Carpets

Sunroom
Sofa: Custom, Century Upholstery
Sofa Fabric: Wit’s End, Perennials
Sofa Pillow Fabric: Kiesler Cypress, Zinc through ROMO
Swivel Chair: Luca Swivel, Hickory Chair
Swivel Chair Fabric: Faye, TheSign through Jerry Pair
Chair Pillow Fabric: Pia,

Dining Room
Dining Chairs: Custom, Century Upholstery
Dining Chair Fabric: Olea Doeskin, Black Edition through Romo

Holland & Sherry
Rug: Designer Carpets
Drapery Fabric: Romo

Den
Existing Sofa Fabric: Soft Touch, Perennials
Sofa Pillow Fabric: Estagnol (front/back) and Amaluna (sides), Zinc through Romo
Coffee Table: Bonnard
Ottoman with Nailheads, Bungalow Classic
Coffee Table, Cuba Leather, Holly Hunt through Jim Thompson
Bar Wallcovering: Metallic Paper Weave, Phillip Jeffries
Ceiling Fixture: Stamp Triple, Urban Electric

Primary Bedroom
Bed and Bench: Custom by

Century Upholstery
Bed/Bench Fabric: Ishi, Perennials
Bed Lumbar Pillow Fabric: Play Misty, Jim Thompson
Swivel Chair: Susan Swivel Chair, Hickory Chair
Swivel Chair Fabric: Wit’s End, Perennials
Lamps: Ashlar Large Table Lamps, Visual Comfort
Bedding: Pavilion, Ann Gish through CMA Home
Rug: Designer Carpets
Drapery Fabric: Glace, Holland & Sherry

Primary Bath
Vanity Stool: Custom from Century Upholstery
Vanity Stool Fabric: Soft Touch, Perennials
Hardware: Riverside Pull, Top Knobs

High-gloss green paint now covers the existing wood paneling in the den. A bronze-surround fireplace and an ottoman with nail heads from Bungalow Classic add a complementary touch of sheen.

