

ARCHITECTURE / KEN LINSTADT,
KEN LINSTADT ARCHITECTS
INTERIOR DESIGN / MARIE TURNER CARSON,
M. ELLE DESIGN, AND CAROL KNORPP
AND KERRY BOGARDUS, KB DESIGN
HOME BUILDER / ED FAUBEL,
FAUBEL CONSTRUCTION INC.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE / JANELLE DENLER HOBART,
DENLER HOBART GARDENS LLC

PRIDE of PLACE

A TURN-OF-THE-CENTURY AThERTON HOME IS MADE
CURRENT WITHOUT LOSING SIGHT OF ITS PAST.

WRITTEN BY LINDA HAYES / PHOTOGRAPHY BY PAUL DYER



Architect Ken Linsteadt enlivened a turn-of-the-century Atherton house with an updated floor plan and new millwork, including a vertical-plank wall treatment in the entry. Designer Marie Turner Carson appointed the space with a pedestal table by Demiurge New York and an antique Gustavian chest. The Brand van Egmond pendant was chosen by designers Carol Knorpp and Kerry Bogardus.

We'd moved nine times, and we'd lived in London, Paris and New York. But until this one, I'd never before walked into a house and felt 'I have to live here,'" says the owner of a gracious, turn-of-the-century home in Atherton. "We dropped plans for a residence we were about to break ground on in Woodside, and bought it."

Set on just under two acres, the house that so captivated the couple was a two-story Georgian-style structure clad with yellow shingles and marked by formal gardens in the front. "Only three families had lived here previously, so each one had loved the home for more than 30 years," says the wife. "Plus we liked that every room was light-filled and bright." Although stately, the dwelling needed some updates. The couple called on architect Ken Linsteadt to restore the structure and make some changes that were more in-tune with their lifestyle.

The architect began by reorienting some elements of the structure. "It had a series of stepped moves that didn't have the geometry we were looking for," says Linsteadt. "The garage was in the back, so you had to drive along the side of the house to get there. We moved that to the front of the property, which also allowed for as big a garden in the back as possible." To connect the new freestanding garage with the main house, the architect designed a distinguished windowed breezeway. "It's a strong organizing element that stitches the property together," says the architect, who also removed a newer one-story addition in the back of the house and incorporated those spaces into a larger two-story form.

Linsteadt wrapped the streamlined volumes with new white clapboard and trimmed the windows with a crenulated detailing that matches the original design. Inside, the architect made strategic changes to the floor plan. The kitchen and family room, located at the back of the house, were made larger and opened to the backyard gardens. He also moved the laundry room upstairs, where he expanded the master suite. A considerable amount of

Opposite: Linsteadt created a breezeway to join the house with a new garage, which he designed to resemble a carriage house. The volume, illuminated by a tapered Lerou lantern in an oil-rubbed bronze finish, also opens to connect the gardens in the front and back of the house.

Below: Knorpp and Bogardus suspended a Masiero chandelier from Lunaria in the dining room, where Carson paired a custom walnut table with Simplified Crillon chairs by Soane Britain. The green hue of the Ashbury Hides leather covering the chairs gives a nod to the gardens.



new millwork, inspired by the structure's existing details, went in as well, and that fell under the bailiwick of builder Ed Faubel. "Ed's built more of my houses than any other builder," says Linsteadt. "His team is so excellent at finish work and paneling. It takes a talented group of carpenters to do this type of very tight work."

Furnishing the newly detailed spaces came under the auspices of Santa Monica-based designer Marie Turner Carson. "We took the narrative of the clients, who like cleaner, more contemporary things," she says. "They wanted to feel like they were in a stately home, but with fresh and current interiors." Working with that concept, the designer gave the main living areas a restful aesthetic that allows the eye to move throughout the spaces and out to the gardens. In the living room, Carson paired the clients' existing white sofa with two classic armchairs upholstered with a Loro Piana tone-on-tone stripe and then offset the pieces with a tufted bench covered with a blue mohair.

The bronze base of a coffee table and sculptural Michael Anastassiades floor lamps, lend modern moments to the design. "You'll see a lot of traditional shapes in the furniture," says Carson, "but then we paired those with more streamlined, contemporary pieces as well."

In the formal dining room, just off the entry, Carson infused flexibility into the room by pairing the owners' existing sofa with a custom walnut table and Soane Britain chairs. To upholster the latter, she chose a leather in a shade of deep green. "We were inspired by the lush gardens and brought the green inside the home," says the designer. Views of the gardens also feature prominently in the breakfast area, where the designer turned to lighter finishes and textural materials for a casual and comfortable feel. In the light-filled space she paired a bleached-oak table with Michele Bonan for Chelini chairs, featuring rush seats and backs, and hung draperies made with a sheer linen.



In the living room, Carson paired the owners' sofa with chairs by Howe, featuring seats covered in a Claremont silk, and custom armchairs upholstered with a Loro Piana fabric. A tufted bench upholstered with a Cowtan & Tout blue mohair faces a scalloped Mattaliano coffee table. The artwork above the fireplace is by Miya Ando.



Opposite: A breakfast area just off the kitchen features a custom, bleached-oak table by Sawkille Co. with a curved, four-arm base. Light-oak Michele Bonan for Chelini side chairs, with rush seats and backs, encircle the table, and a Pelle chandelier from Lunaria hangs above.

Below: Cabinetry executed by Anderson's Quality Woodwork is matched with countertops of Statuary white marble from Da Vinci Marble in the light-filled kitchen. Howe barstools feature beechwood frames painted metallic gray and seats upholstered with fabric by Holly Hunt Great Outdoors.



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—MARIE TURNER CARSON



Throughout the home, designers Carol Knorpp and Kerry Bogardus, who had worked with the owners on a previous residence, produced a curated lighting program and selected the fixed material surfaces, in collaboration with Linsteadt and Carson. “Lighting is our specialty,” says Knorpp. “We source things from all over the world.” The duo selected the elegant monochromatic resin-and-polyurethane chandelier in the dining room as well as the cluster of glass orbs by Pelle in the breakfast area. For the adjacent kitchen, Knorpp and Bogardus worked with Linsteadt on the cabinetry and then chose the countertops of Statuary marble.

The updated spaces look out to the masterful grounds, which landscape designer Janell Denler Hobart, working with project landscape designer Paul Ip, began designing before the renovation even began. The landscape contractor, Siteworks Landscape, “dug up all of the existing plant material and stored it in a nursery on the property for a year during the renovation,” says Denler Hobart of plantings

including boxwood, citrus and lilacs. “Then we re-installed everything and more when it was done.” Where the garage was previously located, Denler Hobart designed a classical garden defined by boxwood hedges and jewel-toned plantings centered by a stone armillary from England. “It’s based on a French parterre, where you view the garden from above,” she says. “The house and garage look down on this garden.” She also planted smaller beds outside the kitchen window and redesigned the grid of boxwoods at the front of the house. “This property is unique in its long history and beautiful 100-year-old residence,” she says. “We wanted the garden to be timeless and classical in its design.”

The grounds contribute to—as do the architectural details and quiet interior palette—what Linsteadt refers to as the residence’s innate calmness. “It’s a very consistent home,” he says. “The simple palette of materials highlights the existing structure while setting the tone for a space more rooted in the present.” ■

Above: Landscape designer Janell Denler Hobart created what she calls a “jewel garden,” where boxwood hedges frame green zinnias, magenta peonies and other gem-toned plantings. The stone armillary was shipped from England.

Opposite: Linsteadt added a new pergola located off of the dining room, and Denler Hobart furnished the alfresco space with a dining table and chairs by McKinnon and Harris. The hanging lantern is by Jasper from Shears & Window.



