

Charlotte

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2018

# HOME

DESIGN & DECOR®

## KITCHEN & BATH

THE MATTE BLACK KITCHEN

EXPLORE AN EASTOVER HOME  
DESIGNED WITH A LITTLE DRAMA

# Pokerface

AN EASTOVER COUPLE  
CHANGES THE FACE OF A  
GEORGIAN HOME - IF NOT  
IN FACE, IN STYLE.



Architecture by Pursley Dixon | Interior Design by Heather Smith  
Written by Blake Miller | Photography by Chris Edwards



Interior designer Heather Smith kept the color palette neutral to not only allow for the layering of textures and rustic elements but also allowing the home's original circa-1940s architectural details to shine. In the living room, existing molding and trim and subtle details add a dose of tradition to the more modern aesthetic.

To avoid a monotonous look to the kitchen, Heather Smith suggested concrete for the island in a mushroom hue as opposed to continuing with the marble on the backsplash. “We wanted a casual, low-key vibe in this space,” Smith explains, “And concrete is a great material for that and also complements the marble by pulling out the darker veins in the marble.”



**N**atalie Homesley and her husband, David, had been waiting for the opportunity to move. They'd been living in their Eastover home since 2004, a neighborhood they loved, and while they enjoyed the home, the family of four had outgrown it. So when a house just down the street went on the market, Homesley jumped at the chance to

take a peek. But she didn't go alone.

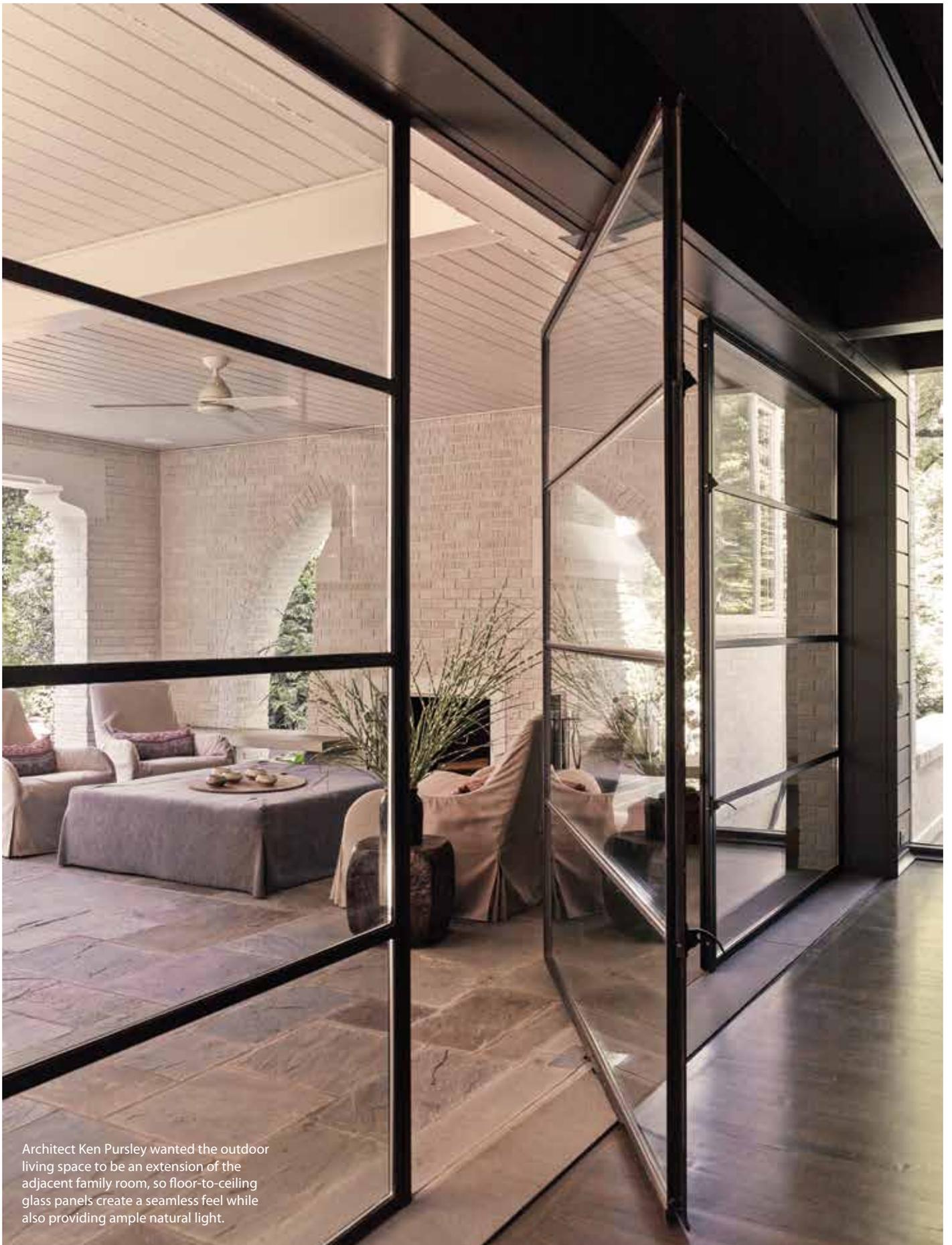
Having already fallen in love with architect Ken Pursley's work after walking through many of his past clients' homes, the Homesleys knew that if they ever had to renovate or build new, they'd enlist Pursley. "Every house that I've loved, Ken designed," Homesley says, who relied on Pursley's discerning eye to look over the for-sale home to see if it had potential.



"The goal of the previous home was to choose furniture that had longevity and that would be classic in style," Heather Smith explains. "It allowed the clients to have the confidence to invest in new pieces that were right for this house knowing they didn't have to completely furnish the whole home from scratch."

After walking through the circa-1940s traditional Georgian-style property, Pursley was convinced that the home was not a teardown. In fact, he felt it had strong bones and a deep enough lot that would allow for expanding without feeling overcrowded in the backyard. "It had a pretty face, and I loved the little wing walls on either side, unique and elegant," he explains. Within a few days, the Homesleys went under contract.

Pursley's goal with every project is to maintain the integrity of the original home while also modernizing it and adding to the home without it feeling tacked on. "Georgian architecture has a bit of a poker face," Pursley says. "It doesn't tell you a lot about itself from the front versus a Tudor-style home that's more gestural in style. Natalie and David liked that it was unassuming from the front but that there was so much potential in the back.



Architect Ken Pursley wanted the outdoor living space to be an extension of the adjacent family room, so floor-to-ceiling glass panels create a seamless feel while also providing ample natural light.



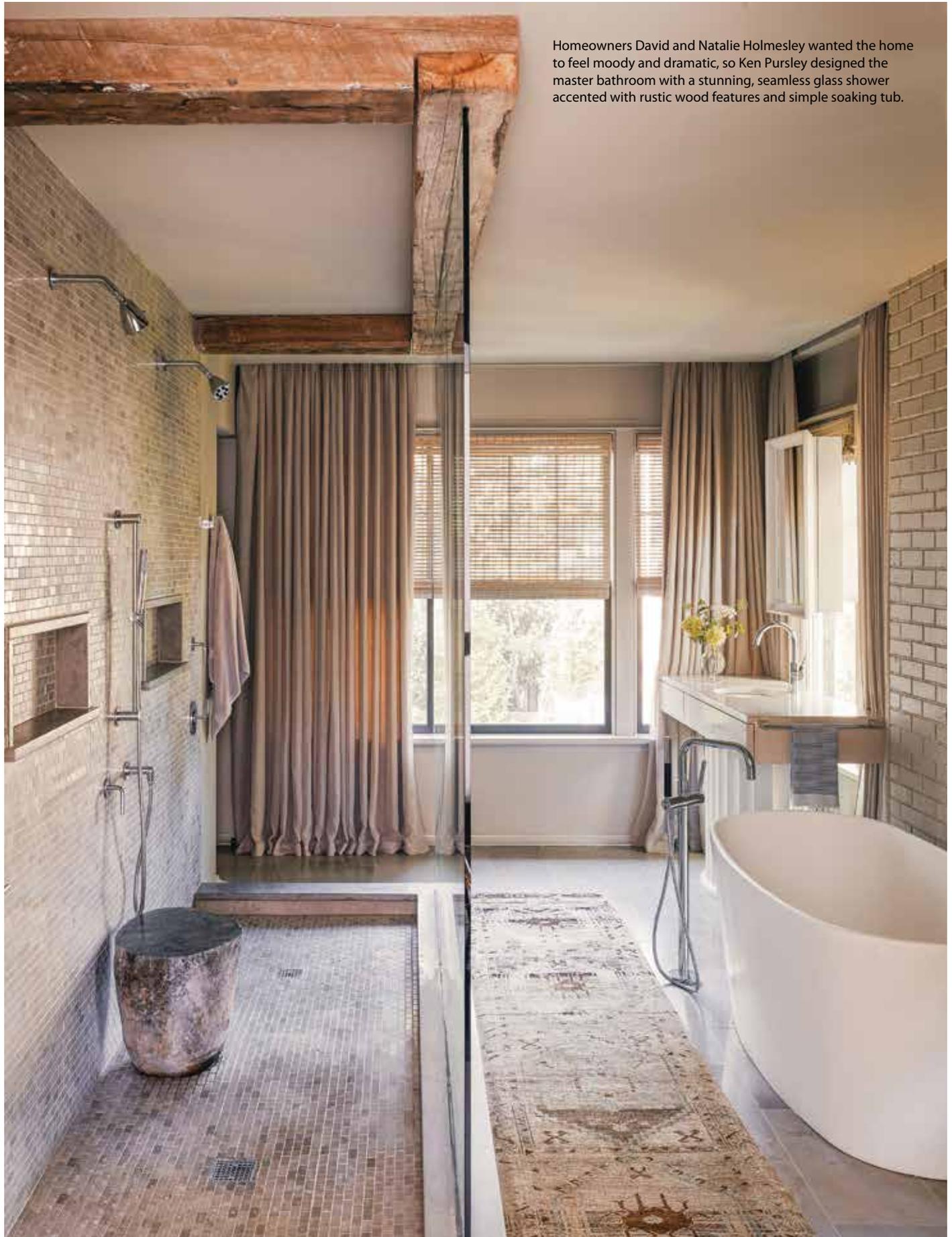
I really wanted to walk the line of creating something that's contrarian but also would be relevant fifty years from now."

Toeing the line between tradition and modern meant keeping the existing architectural details and proportions in the home and maintaining the original footprint but with the addition on the back to create a more open floor plan. "A lot of times architects go in and try to turn a house into something it's not," Pursley explains. "If there's something that's already working why undo it? I didn't want to change it for change's sake." By painting the interiors the same color, it gave the home an edge and made it a little quieter and understated and, in some ways, more modern and less busy.

The upstairs catwalk to the master bedroom in the back of the home was one area of Pursley's design that really opened up the home and modernized it. As you pass over the bridge to the master bedroom, you walk by a dramatic wall of windows that are dressed with three-story-high custom draperies, an idea by interior designer

*Top:* The unassuming facade of the circa-1940s Georgian home was one of the elements that Ken Pursley loved about this project. "The project felt successful because it all goes together, but it's not boring or predictable," he says. "It's an addition to an existing structure, but it feels respectful but also contributing in some way as well. I like that balance."

*Bottom:* To modernize the traditional home, Ken Pursley removed the existing small door and replaced it with a larger opening and a paneled door on a pivot.



Homeowners David and Natalie Holmesley wanted the home to feel moody and dramatic, so Ken Pursley designed the master bathroom with a stunning, seamless glass shower accented with rustic wood features and simple soaking tub.

Heather Smith layered heavy draperies throughout the home including the master bathroom to create the dramatic aesthetic the homeowner wanted.







Heather Smith of Circa Interiors. “It creates this treehouse experience with lots of light, but it’s done in a mature way,” Pursley says. “Sometimes with a more restrained language with Georgian classical architecture, you lose some of those moments. So, I like that there are these emotional experiences within a fairly restrained architectural language.”

To help bring to life Pursley’s architecture, the Homesleys reached out to Heather Smith of Circa Interiors, who had designed their previous residence. “We loved what Heather had done in our original home, and we knew we wanted her to work on this one,” Homesley explains. This time, though, the Homesleys wanted a moodier, darker interior that felt dramatic yet comfortable. Having installed the interiors on their last home, Smith was able to seamlessly transition those pieces into their new house. “We chose things that were truly timeless, which is why they work so well in this new space, too,” Smith explains. The designer’s approach was to start with lighter interiors in the front of the home, and as you transition to the back of the home, you end with darker hues and furnishings – the perfect complement to Pursley’s dramatic architecture.

With two young sons, the Homelseys needed function and comfort in not only the layout of the home but also the finishes. Concrete kitchen counters with a subtle mushroom hue are durable as well as complementary to the marble backsplash. Slipcovered double benches at the kitchen counter by Lee Industries “keep it cleaner and less choppy in the space,” Smith explains.

The home is the result of both Pursley and Smith seamlessly weaving traditional with modern. “I like that there are these emotional experiences within a fairly restrained architectural language,” Pursley says. “The project felt successful because it all goes together, but it’s not boring or predictable.”◆

Having designed David and Natalie Homesley’s previous residence, Heather Smith was able to easily transition the couple’s existing furniture and accessories into their new home.