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DESIGN-INSPIRED GIFTING

The original den was transformed into a formal living room because it was a space that Krissa and Glenn Gaston had to walk through to get to and from their bedroom. "For that reason, I wanted it to be 'my pretty room,' where we could keep our piano and more," Krissa Gaston says.



HOUSE ON THE HILL

A SERENDIPITOUS CALL FROM
A FRIEND BRINGS A FAMILY
TO ITS FOREVER HOME.



Written by Blake Miller | Photography by Michael Blevins



Above: The Gastons reused or repurposed most of their furniture and accessories from their previous home, including their Henkel Harris reproduction inlaid dining room table and Hepplewhite antique dining chairs. Lewis then had the chairs recovered in durable mohair by Rogers & Goffigon accented with nailhead trim, which instantly revamped them. A dramatic circa-1920 chandelier rounds out the timeless look.

Opposite: The homeowners' love for the craftsmanship found in older homes is what brought them to add additional architectural details such as thicker crown and dental molding and bolder casements around the doors and windows.



Krissa Gaston and her husband, Glenn, thought they'd found their forever home. After renovating their four-bedroom home in Eastover for their family of four, they were certain that this was where they'd raise their children and eventually retire. However, when the couple had their third child, they knew that they needed more space. "We never wanted to move," Gaston says, who reluctantly started looking at homes in the same neighborhood.

But one home in particular always caught the Gastons' attention. A stunning white-brick Colonial sitting atop a hill caught their eyes every time they drove by or went for a walk. "I never really thought anything about it, though," Gaston says of the house, which was, at the time, not for sale. It was a phone call from a close friend, however, saying she'd found the perfect "Krissa and Glenn home" that was about to hit the market that





“THE GASTONS’ LOVE FOR TRADITIONAL ARCHITECTURE AND DETAILING INSPIRED THEIR LOVE OF ANTIQUES AND VINTAGE ITEMS, WHICH LEWIS WOVE THROUGHOUT THE INTERIOR DESIGN.”

changed everything. “I got the address and drove over that day, and when I pulled up to the house, I couldn’t believe it,” she says. “It was as if it was meant to be.”

A quick tour inside the circa-1990s home and Gaston was smitten. “I knew exactly what I wanted to do with the home the minute I walked in,” she explains, noting the layout, which put the master bedroom on the first floor and the additional bedrooms on the second. High on the priority list: updating the ‘90s-style design details such as outdated brass hardware and all-white ceiling fans in lieu of light fixtures. “The bones of the house were perfect; it just needed updating,” Gaston says, who

Opposite: The couple loves to scour antique markets and vintage stores for unique pieces for their home. Glenn Gaston found the circa-1890 Louis XVI-style antique doors at Architectural Accents in Atlanta and had them installed as the doors for their bar in the formal living room.

Left: Lewis chose a textured Cowtan & Tout Merida grasscloth for one of the downstairs powder rooms. “There’s a small diamond pattern with a hint of blue,” Gaston says. “It’s so beautiful.” The Restoration Hardware vanity and antique Venetian mirror and sconces create a classic look.





worked with Todd Carter of Sonoma Builders to design the new plans for the home. It also needed a touch more space, which resulted in an addition off the back of the house and moved the existing den—which became the formal living room—to the new portion of the home. The expansion also gave the Gastons a sixth bedroom, which they transformed into an at-home gym.

While Gaston has a keen eye for design, she knew she couldn't tackle the project on her own. So the Gastons enlisted designer Patrick Lewis to help bring their vision to fruition. "Most clients don't really know what they want; they just know what they like or don't like," Lewis says. "Krissa was refreshing in that she knew exactly what she wanted. While most people were skewing towards a

Left: The guest bedroom features a custom headboard, as well as bed linens by Matouk found at Bedside Manor. Classic drapery fabric by Mary McDonald for Schumacher in Chinois Palais is the finishing touch for the space.

Right: The master bathroom needed a major facelift as the finishes and overall bones were more than thirty years old. A stunning soaking tub from Victoria + Albert coupled with a dramatic crystal chandelier from Dilworth Lighting set the tone for the sophisticated and relaxing space.

In lieu of marble, which the Gastons had in their previous home, the couple opted for quartzite counters complemented by a walnut top island to add warmth to the newly renovated kitchen.



Durable and kid-friendly materials were important to the Gastons, who have three children and three dogs. In light of that, Lewis used Stark's Amilios indoor/outdoor carpet. But then he softened the space with a side table from Bliss Studio, lamp by Visual Comfort, and traditional furniture such as the sofa upholstered in a Lee Industries fabric.





Opposite: Lewis took advantage of the curved wall of windows in the breakfast nook by designing a custom banquette that allows for more seating and extra space overall. Durable, kid-friendly faux leather makes cleanup simple without sacrificing style.

Below: “The house always had a beautiful courtyard that the previous—and original—owners had taken such great care of,” Gaston says. “With the new addition and pool, though, we needed to reimagine it.” The removal of several large willow oaks opened up the space and created a beautiful and mature landscaped yard that lends itself to entertaining and playtime for the kids.



soft modern look, the Gastons really loved a more traditional, Southern aesthetic.”

“We’ve always been drawn to older homes,” Gaston says. “We’ve always lived in homes built in the 1920s and just love the craftsmanship put into them.” To replicate that level of detail, heavy crown molding and detailed fireplace mantles were added while all of the eight-foot doors were replaced with heavier, thicker nine-foot doors to help heighten each room. Brand new casement was added to each window to make each one more prominent. With its dark cabinetry and exposed brick, the kitchen was completely gutted, and in its place brighter, lighter finishes such as a quartzite counter coupled with a walnut-top island were added. Lewis incorporated a color palette of creams and whites, which further brightens each of the rooms and take advantage of the home’s surplus of natural sunlight throughout.

The Gastons’ love for traditional architecture and detailing inspired their love of antiques and vintage items, which Lewis wove throughout the interior design. “I love adding a little something—like a tiny silver bowl or another accent—that might seem insignificant alone but really helps create a cohesive

look,” Gaston says. The couple’s travels have led them to various antique markets and collectibles stores where the Gastons are constantly scouring for the next item to layer into the design Gaston and Lewis have created together. One such find are the circa-1890 Louis XVI-style antique doors to the bar, which Glenn Gaston found at Architectural Accents in Atlanta. “We wanted something old that would really stand out,” she says of the find. “The doors are works of art themselves.”

Though Lewis was the designer on the project, he is quick to add that this project was a partnership between him and Gaston. “She has impeccable style and a great eye for design,” he says. “She knew what she wanted, and we worked so well together.” Adds Gaston: “What I love is that Patrick really took what we wanted in the home and helped us pull it all together. He was such a pleasure to work with.”

For the Gastons, finding this home and eventually making it the place they’d raise their family was a dream come to fruition. “It was really important to me that my kids had a childhood home,” Gaston says. “So that when they come back from college, they can come back to the place where they grew up.”◆