

life in color

GALLERIST GREGG IRBY'S REMODELED HOME IS A STRIKING COMPOSITION OF THINGS SHE CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT

BY LISA MOWRY
PHOTOGRAPHY BY LAURA NEGRI CHILDERS

art and interior design are



"A Chippendale railing isn't what you'd expect when you walk in from the French exterior," says Gregg. "But it's one of my favorite things in the house." Wallpaper by Thibaut has just enough pattern for visual interest.

creative cousins, which is why gallery owner Gregg Irby's house is a natural extension of her lifelong love of color, scale, and pattern. Her eponymous Westside gallery, located in an industrial space on Huff Road, is a treasure trove of bright, approachable pieces from emerging and established artists.

In 2013, Gregg and her husband, Mike, didn't hesitate to buy this 1961 cottage in a family-friendly Buckhead neighborhood, seeing beyond the mold and mildew problems and dated electrical system. "I loved the charming French-country architecture, so I knew we could make it ours," says Gregg, who also appreciated the Goldilocks-like, just-right size for her family of four. "Everyone has a place to get away if needed, but it's small enough that it feels like we're actually living together."

They remodeled the house in two phases, enlisting Greg and Lauren DeLoach of Cottage Industry in 2013 to address a myriad of issues—both exterior and interior—and expand and upgrade each room. Architect Frances Flautt Zook helped with the earlier phase and also designed a spacious family room addition in 2017 that became a centerpiece for entertaining.

All the while, Gregg was acting as her own interior designer, collecting furniture and art and always revising. Rooms are filled with art from her gallery, family heirlooms, repainted flea-market finds, and custom architectural features. She's not afraid to change things around frequently. "Most of the way I decorate just naturally evolves," says Gregg. "Obviously, I like an eclectic mix of patterns and colors. The color combinations can be an obsession of mine and what makes it hard for me to edit."

As Gregg tells customers in the gallery, buy what you love, and figure out a place for it later. She likes to apply the same logic for designing a house: "It's not about making the right decision versus a mistake," she says. "Trust your instinct, and don't overthink it."



"I can't do a serious dining room—it's just not us," says Gregg, who painted the chairs Farrow & Ball's bright "Yellow Cake." The painting is by Tommy McDowell. A cube pendant from Stanton Home Furnishings and aquamarine lamps from Circa Lighting show light fixtures are another form of art.

The bar-height table from One Kings Lane makes for a sunny perch in the corner of the family room. The barstools are from Serena & Lily.



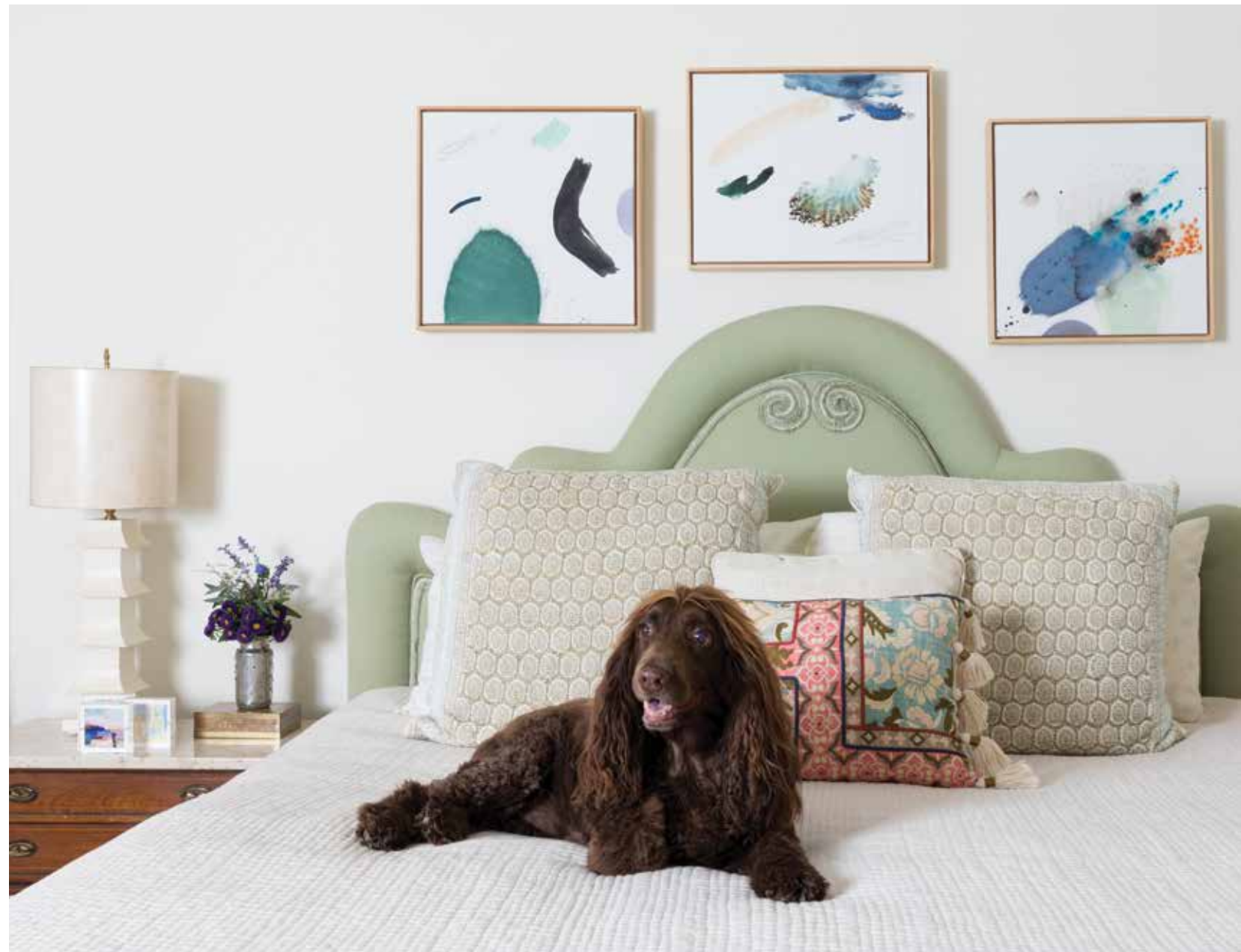
The vaulted family room addition by Powerhouse Inc. gave the family a light-filled gathering spot near the kitchen for easy entertaining. The upholstered furniture is from Lee Industries, and the hexagon-shaped coffee table is from Anthropologie.



ABOVE | The festive bar area is painted in Benjamin Moore "Southfield Green."

BELOW | An ethereal 48 x 60-inch mixed-media painting by Lynn Sanders.





“Color combinations can be an obsession of mine.”

FAR LEFT | The Ashley Hicks–designed rug anchors the living room and complements the art, including the Erin McIntosh painting over the mantel.

LEFT | Interior designer Lauren DeLoach helped Gregg pick finishes in the original house redo. “We chose a large tone-on-tone chevron marble tile to add a pattern that wasn’t overwhelming to an otherwise neutral bathroom,” says Lauren. The tiles are vein-cut, resembling wood.

ABOVE | Soothing greens in the master bedroom reflect the homeowners’ wooded lot. Both make for happy retreats for their field spaniel, Birdie.



In the den, Gregg mixed painted rattan chairs with gray linen upholstery for a relaxed look. The sconces are from Circa Lighting and the coffee table is from Acquisitions.



A quartzite-topped island, sourced at Atlanta Kitchen of Construction Resources, is perfect for both meals and homework. "I've had marble countertops in the past and have chipped and stained them," says Gregg. "Quartzite is indestructible." Shelves made of steel and brass rods add an artistic touch.



FAR LEFT | The multifunctional breakfast room has built-in seating and storage. "The breakfast chair hand-me-downs have been painted over four or five times," says Gregg. They're now wearing Benjamin Moore "Evening Dove." The rug is from Serena & Lily, and the wall-covering is Thibaut.



LEFT | French-inspired architecture was updated with custom white paint on exterior brick and a new cedar-shake roof with an extended roofline. Gas lanterns and simple landscaping add to the charm.