

SIMPLY STYLISH



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Interior designer Elinor Jones spends her days beautifying the homes of others, but after more than 20 years ... she decided it was time to pay attention to her own.

Tom and Elinor Jones' formal living room houses a piano once played by their two daughters as well as Tom's own trumpet.

Photo: Sean Horne Photography



KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES

An interior designer gives her own Buckhead home some TLC

FEATURE: Giannina Smith Bedford | PHOTOS: Sara Hanna

Interior designer Elinor Jones spends her days beautifying the homes of others, but after more than 20 years in her Buckhead abode, she decided it was time to pay attention to her own. Back in 1988, Jones and her husband Tom Jones, a partner with the Chamberlain Hedlicka law firm, worked with William T. Baker & Associates to design their five-bedroom, four-and-a-half-bath brick home, hiring Phillip Clark Custom Builders to construct it. After their two daughters left home, Jones redecorated the upstairs bedrooms in 2007 as guest rooms, but it wasn't until 2009 that she decided to take on a larger project: Gut the kitchen and add a screened-in sun porch with the help of architect Kenneth Lynch and Associates and contractor A.J. Thomas.

"Being a designer, you see wonderful kitchens at various show houses and kitchen showrooms, and you realize it's time for a

remodel," Jones says. "We wanted to have a space that would be updated, good-looking, and function well for us."

Especially since the Joneses became new grandparents of four—triplets born to their eldest daughter and a son born to their youngest daughter, all in the past year—they wanted a comfortable place for family gatherings.

Jones expanded the entryway connecting the kitchen to the family room by 5 feet and lengthened the dark cherry wood island 2 feet to create more space for prep work and serving food. She bumped out a kitchen wall for a new Viking cooktop area, which she outfitted with a Calacatta marble tile backsplash (which includes an inset of Calacatta mosaic tiles). For the surrounding counter, she chose Tropic Brown antiqued granite. She replaced the island's Corian countertops with White Spring polished granite, the oak

Top: Complete with garden views, the kitchen sitting area is decorated in wrought-iron lamps, plush tub chairs and an earth-colored rug from Hyes Carpet.

Above: The Joneses built the sun porch with plans to add glass windows eventually, but they loved the screened-in ambience so much they left it as is.

Right: An interior designer since 1989, Elinor Jones' classic style includes contemporary and Astaire-inspired touches.





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cabinets with creamy custom cabinetry, and the ceramic tile floor with taupe porcelain tile. She also traded the blue-and-white wallpaper for soft green walls to give the kitchen a soothing and elegant feel.

The kitchen's double ovens became stainless steel Viking ones and moved from one side of the kitchen to the other. Jones also added tall built-in storage cabinets, dish drawers, a pull-up mirror stand and a larger butler's pantry near the garage door entry. A hidden gem of the overhaul is hard to notice unless you're searching for a snack—the custom-made, tall dark cherry wood armoire actually disguises a Sub-Zero refrigerator, microwave, toaster oven and freezer drawers.

At the end of the long island, Jones fashioned an inviting seating area where the chocolate love seat is flanked by two large antique French olive oil jars from Fabulous Things on Bennett Street, each topped with glass to create unique side tables. Backed by a large bay window, this comfy seating area overlooks the home's backyard forest. "We used to have wood blinds, but now with the Hunter Douglas shades, we can pull them down when needed for light control, but

they usually stay folded completely up, so you feel like you're in the trees," Jones says.

Steps away, French doors open up to the home's sunroom addition, which is done in Bluestone floors and wood furniture from AuthenTEAK accented by colorful touches like a large cerulean blue platter from Jerry Pair at ADAC.

"We enjoy entertaining family and friends in our newly remodeled kitchen and new screen porch," Jones says. "We love the open feeling that was created between family room and kitchen, which makes entertaining flow exceptionally well."

The kitchen renovation and sunroom addition took about five months, but Jones says the dust and microwave dinners were all worth it. In fact, this savvy designer took on another home rehab in 2011, redoing all her guest bathrooms with Crema Marfil marble, lighting scones from Design Lighting and custom framed mirrors. She moved on to her master bath in 2013, working with contractor Carsten Jensen of Viking Works. Finished in the summer of 2013, the master bath features counters in polished dark Emperador marble and cappuccino marble floors and shower walls. ▶



Top: The Joneses' remodeled kitchen offers ample cooking space on an expanded island illustrated by a pendant fixture from Design Lighting Group.

Above: To create a united look from the family room into the kitchen, Jones commissioned a custom furniture-style armoire to house the Sub-Zero refrigerator, freezer drawers, microwave and toaster oven.

The centerpiece of the room is the antique Chinese carved window from Miami Circle's Mandarin Antiques hanging behind the new Chivot cast iron tub.

"I chose the carved elm window because I wanted to use an art object that would not deteriorate with light and moisture in a bath setting as a print or painting might," Jones says. "The carved piece is more sturdy and practical, as well as being very unusual, and I love to look at it every day. The foo dog represents good luck I also wanted something that would be a large focal point."

The Chinese window joins the ranks of Jones' favorite home accents. Other beloved items include the dining room's antique crystal chandelier, which illuminates Brunschwig & Pils wallpaper that is a documented reproduction of wallpaper in the Royal Pavilion in Brighton, England. The chandelier is from Parc Monceau Antiques in Peachtree Hills, but most of the antiques in the Joneses' residence are family heirlooms. Antique clocks, side tables and mirrors can be found at every turn, mixed among colorful paintings done by Southern artists, including South Carolina painter Dina Lowery and Atlanta artists Ann Rhodes and Isabelle Lamar.

While Jones is already planning the redesign of her closets and addition of a photography gallery in the back hall, she says there is not much else she would change about her home. Well, at least not for a few more years. ■



Above: The formal dining room showcases a dining table purchased from J. Irrible. Jones had Designer Rugs create the striking blue rug for her after she saw a smaller version at the antique rug dealer.

Right: The month-long renovation on the master bathroom added marble from Scotland by Stones International, custom cabinetry and Rohl fixtures in a brushed nickel finish.



Left: The master bedroom combines antiques—including a family heirloom clock and chairs with needlepoint seats stitched by Tom's mother—with paintings by Atlanta artists Ann Rhodes and Isabelle Lamar.

ELINOR JONES' HOME RENOVATION TIPS:

Get a good architect, designer and contractor.

Do your homework: Make sure all the items you order are available to be delivered before you will need them for your project.

Exercise lots of patience!

Go over your project and make sure everything is included before getting plans drawn and getting estimates from the contractor. Changes are easy in the beginning, but very expensive after construction has begun!

Enjoy your new space!