



HOME & DESIGN

PHOTOGRAPHY BY KEITH ROCKE

What a Way to LIVE!

BY EILEEN FREEMAN • PHOTOGRAPHY BY KEITH ROCKE

At nearly 19,000 square feet, the East Cobb home of Scott and Cyndi Smith is spectacular in size and scope. But even more impressive is the warmth that radiates from every exquisitely detailed living space within. Form without function would not have worked for this family of six, particularly for the Smiths' four young sons who play in and run throughout their fabulous home where the natural wood and stone surfaces are as durable as they are beautiful.

A true testament to divine design, the house is as inviting as it is inspiring. It was done, in full, by the Smiths themselves, who didn't want their home reflecting the tastes of hired architects and designers. They planned, contracted and decorated their heavenly home – from the architectural details to each and every artifact and accessory. The neutral palette of the walls and floors feature a variety of textures, adding warmth and depth to the architecture and providing the perfect backdrop for the art and antiques.

Dinner at the Smiths is served promptly at 7:30, with the clan converging at the round breakfast room table. "No one sits at the head of a round table," Cyndi said. "This is our family and the most important time each day for us to come together and share the events of the day." Scott, too, treasures these precious moments.



SCOTT AND CYNDI SMITH

Scott and Cyndi Smith take the great American dream home to a whole new level

As the owner of three car dealerships in Atlanta, he makes it a top priority to be home for dinner on time.

The ease at the dinner table exemplifies the environment throughout the Smith home, which comes complete with nine fireplaces to warm the winters and a breathtaking swimming pool worthy of a tropical resort. The home also includes a classic disco-tech for the family to entertain in, a home movie theater and an arts and crafts room where the boys' creativity can flourish. Each living area has been brilliantly designed with its own purpose.

The Smiths love planning parties for family and friends, though Cyndi admits to having her nerves tested at their recent New Year's Eve event. "We planned a terrific party which would take place on the lower terrace level of the house, which, by the way, wasn't finished being built or furnished at the time the invitations went out," Cyndi said. "On the day of the party, we had close to 20 crews of carpenters, painters and stone masons finishing up the very rooms that we were entertaining in! It was four o'clock in the afternoon and our driveways were filled with 20 trucks."

Luckily, the work crews had all departed by 7 o'clock, a full hour before the first guests arrived, she said, recounting her worry





THE LOWER LEVEL OF THE SMITH HOME CUTS NO CORNERS ON EXQUISITE DESIGN ELEMENTS. AT THE BOTTOM OF THE CURVING STAIRCASE, THE ENTRANCE TO THE WINE CELLAR IS BORDERED BY HUGE KEGS, FROM FLOOR TO CEILING, AND A TOAST-WORTHY COLLECTION OF CORKS FILLING AN ANTIQUE TRUNK. IDEAL FOR WINE TASTINGS, THE SECOND FORMAL DINING AREA EXUDES AN OLD WORLD AMBIANCE. DOWN THE HALL, THE DEN AND BAR BECKON, LIT BY A RARE HAND-PAINTED OVAL VENETIAN GLASS WINDOW SET INTO THE CEILING. THIS LEVEL ALSO ENTERTAINS WITH A DISCO-TECH, MOVIE THEATER, PUB-STYLED GAME ROOM AND ART ROOM FOR THE KIDS. DOORS LEAD OUT TO THE VERANDA, OVERLOOKING A FREE-FORM POOL AND A BEAUTIFULLY-LANDSCAPED ELEVATION OF BOULDERS. A TRICKLING CREEK RUNS ALONGSIDE THE PICTURESQUE PROPERTY, A SECTION OF WHICH THE BOYS HAVE CHRISTENED "SMITH BEACH."





BOLD ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES AND RICH EARTH TONES CREATE THE IDEAL BACKGROUND FOR THE NUMBER OF IMPORTANT ANTIQUE FURNISHINGS IN THE MASTER SUITE.



THE MASTER BATH FEATURES A HAND-PAINTED DOMED CEILING, BEAUTIFULLY LIT BY A STUNNING VINTAGE CHANDELIER. RICH CHOCOLATE SILK DRESSES THE WINDOWS AND A CLASSIC NICHE PROVIDES A CENTERED FOCAL POINT IN THIS SIMPLE AND ELEGANT SETTING.

with a sigh of relief. Scott just chuckled at his wife's pre-party jitters. He doesn't sweat the details.

Scott and Cyndi share a passion for fine European antiques. The grand scale of the rooms in their home allowed them to collect pieces of equally grand scale. They had begun amassing their collection even before they broke ground on the property. "We had antiques stored everywhere," Cyndi said. "The garages and basements of a number of close friends were loaded with our stuff!"

Though their house is seemingly fully furnished, the Smiths claim they're far from finished. Cyndi reports that she has barely begun the upper floors of the house, which includes the boys' bedrooms, den and guest suite. For this couple, the fun is in the hunt for the rare, unusual and exceptional. They have become hooked on the fabulous auctions at Red Baron's Antiques since they first stepped into the Roswell Road showroom.

While the two share a mutual love for their joint acquisitions, there is the occasional difference of opinion, most notably a rather sizable "bison's head" that still hasn't found its way in from the garage.



ARCHED WINDOWS WITH EXQUISITELY FINISHED CASINGS SURROUND THE SMITH FAMILY'S FAVORITE DINING AREA. THE ROUND TABLE IS INVITING TO THIS FAMILY OF SIX WHO COME TOGETHER HERE EACH EVENING FOR DINNER AND TO SHARE THE NEWS OF THE DAY.