

# HOME & DESIGN

WHITEHALL

PHOTOGRAPHY BY KEITH ROCKE

# Whitehall

A Southern Architectural Masterpiece

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY KEITH ROCKE

A

true testament to architectural magnificence, Whitehall is breathtaking, even unfurnished, as it prepares to be re-appointed and presented as The Atlanta Symphony Associates 37th Decorators' Show House & Gardens. This Buckhead beauty needs no fancy furnishings to look fabulous. It stands alone as one of the city's finest examples of Greek Revival style architecture.

Architect Kenneth Lynch designed Whitehall in 1989, for the original owners who were inspired by the classic 1840s New Orleans sugar plantation, Oak Alley. The stately mansion sits high above Harris Trail at the corner of Northside Drive on over five majestic acres. Approached from a sweeping drive through an expansive lawn with lush landscaping, the gated estate is graced with elegant gardens, a spectacular pool, fountains and a gazebo. Crowning the pinnacle of the property, Whitehall, like its muse Oak Alley, boasts 28 massive classical columns that soar 25 feet high, surrounding wide upper and lower level verandas. Large triple-hung windows with heavy shutters and French doors allow indoor space to flow onto the verandas and out to the beautiful views.

Massive antique iron urns from Barcelona and hand-crafted leaded, beveled glass doors give a glimpse of the grand scale of the interior spaces, which collectively total over 20,000 square feet. The elaborate two-story entrance hall features ornate period arches and a grand staircase. From the entry, a view of the formal English perennial garden is seen through a stunning 24-foot-tall paladium window and glass doors. To the right of the main entrance foyer is a banquet-sized dining room which can accommodate up to three dozen seated guests. Beyond the dining room is a well appointed butler's pantry providing a great convenience for entertaining. An equally grand formal living room is highlighted by a marble fireplace with an elaborate mantel and an adjacent music room with an exquisite starburst inlaid into the center of the rich pine floors.

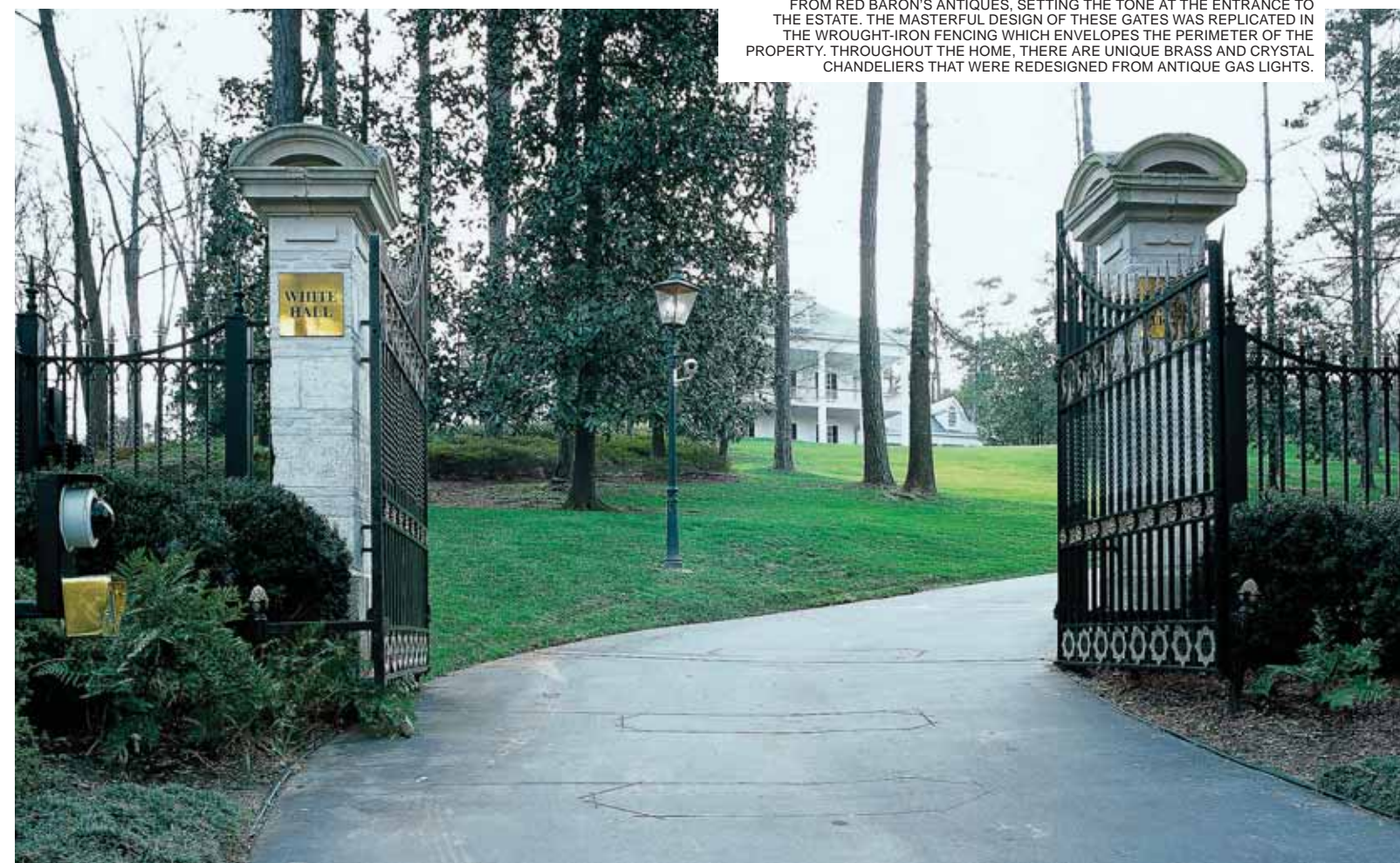
The home's twelve-foot-high ornate ceilings and nine-foot-tall mahogany paneled doors with ornate polished brass hardware reflect a love of nineteenth century plantation homes. Indeed, while the house itself is relatively young, it's constructed of many



THE GRAND HAND-CUT LEADED GLASS FRONT DOORS ARE QUINTESSENTIAL SOUTHERN DESIGN ELEGANCE.



A NUMBER OF MAGNIFICENT VINTAGE DESIGN ELEMENTS GRACE THE STRUCTURE OF WHITEHALL. A DAZZLING FIRST IMPRESSION IS MADE BY THE STUNNING IRON GATES WHICH WERE ACQUIRED FROM A GRAND ESTATE IN UPSTATE NEW YORK. THEY ARE SUPPORTED BY EXQUISITE ANTIQUE ITALIAN STONE COLUMNS FROM RED BARON'S ANTIQUES, SETTING THE TONE AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE ESTATE. THE MASTERFUL DESIGN OF THESE GATES WAS REPLICATED IN THE WROUGHT-IRON FENCING WHICH ENVELOPES THE PERIMETER OF THE PROPERTY. THROUGHOUT THE HOME, THERE ARE UNIQUE BRASS AND CRYSTAL CHANDELIERS THAT WERE REDESIGNED FROM ANTIQUE GAS LIGHTS.





RICH MAHOGANY WALLS ENVELOP THE ELEGANT STUDY.

architectural elements that are centuries old including the heart pine floors which were cut from a 200-year-old New Orleans riverfront warehouse. The mahogany kitchen cabinets and two-inch-thick solid mahogany doors throughout the home were crafted from antique mahogany by artisans in Bath, England.

The mahogany paneled study and a corner guest suite on the main level face the south veranda, as does the stately family room, punctuated by heavily molded trim work, richly stained floors, and an impressive fireplace with wood millwork. French doors open on to the veranda and the formal garden beyond. In the centerpiece of the formal garden is a fountain with a bronze sculpture created by Barvo of the owner's three daughters during their childhood.

The gourmet kitchen, family dining room, and morning room have large windows that overlook the patterned brick terraces and pool. The family entrance opens to the north veranda through large French doors and connects to an over-sized four-car garage. The garage and family entrance open from a walled/fenced parking court with brick stairs to the pool terrace.

The second floor, accessed from three stairways and an elevator, features a master suite surrounded on three sides by the upper veranda. The spacious master bedroom, with marble fireplace and study, is adjoined by two marble master baths with dressing closets. The views from the veranda are extraordinary.

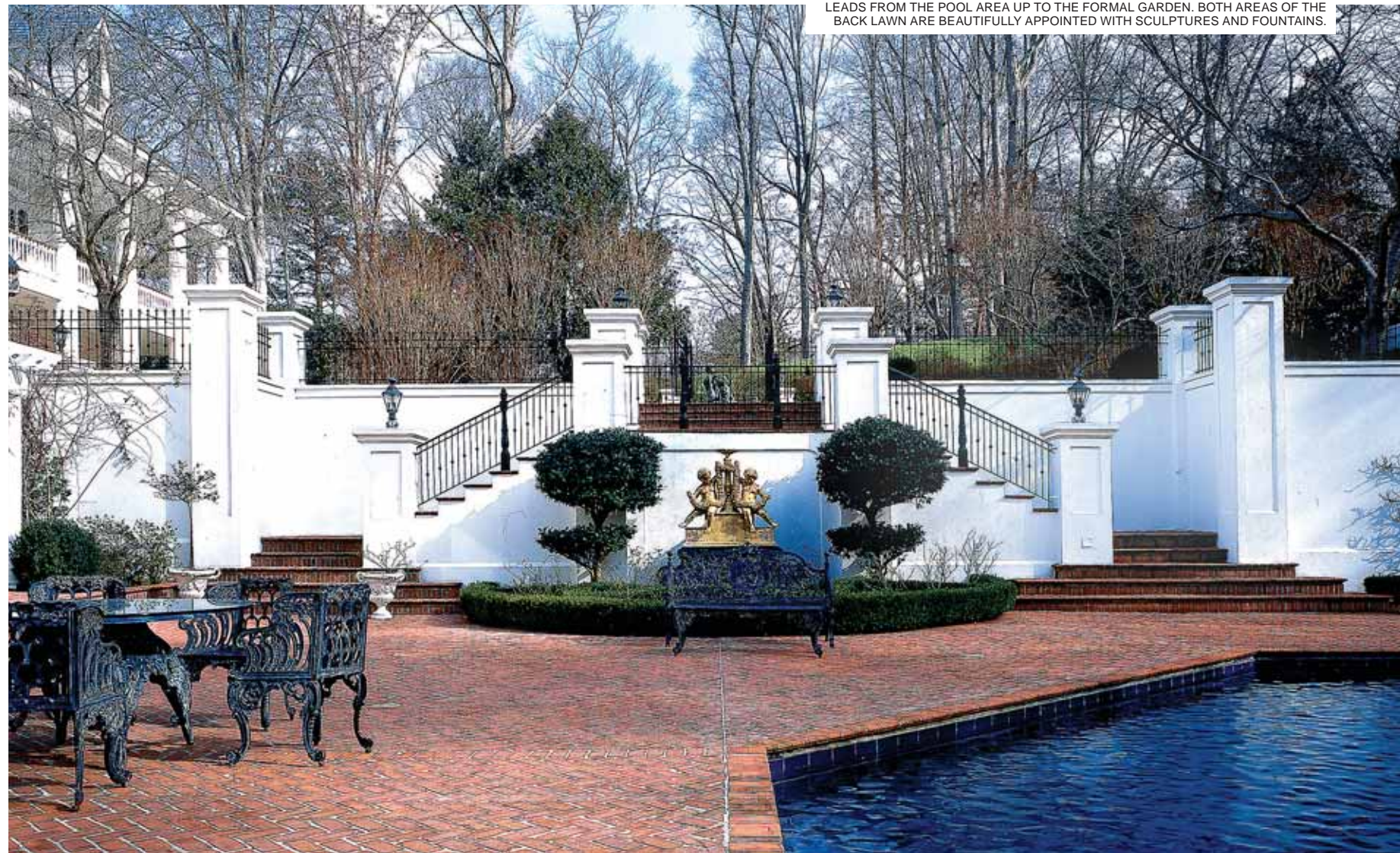
Also on the second level are four additional large family bedrooms, each with a private bath and walk-in closet. The twelve-foot-high ceilings, magnificent doors and period trim on this level are in keeping with the nineteenth century architecture of Whitehall.

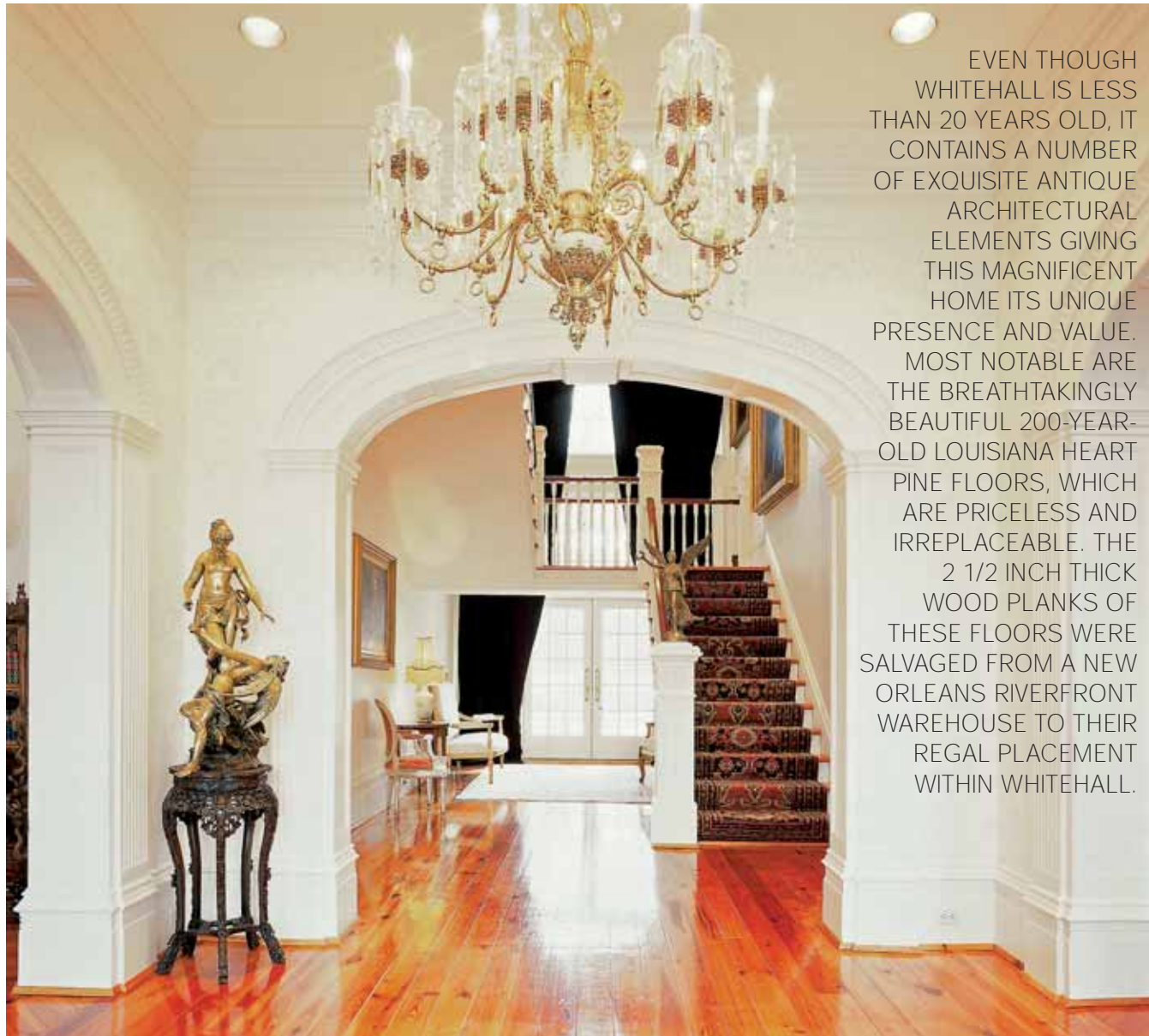
An additional au pair bedroom and guest apartment are accessible from the second floor family quarters as well as from a separate stair from the family entrance. These areas feature sloped ceilings and dormer windows.

From the main level, a rear stairwell leads upward to the third floor which contains a media room, golf



ABOVE: SPECTACULAR VIEWS ARE PROVIDED FROM THE VERANDA THAT SURROUNDS THE HOME'S UPPER LEVEL. BELOW: A PAIR OF CURVED STAIRS LEADS FROM THE POOL AREA UP TO THE FORMAL GARDEN. BOTH AREAS OF THE BACK LAWN ARE BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED WITH SCULPTURES AND FOUNTAINS.





EVEN THOUGH WHITEHALL IS LESS THAN 20 YEARS OLD, IT CONTAINS A NUMBER OF EXQUISITE ANTIQUE ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS GIVING THIS MAGNIFICENT HOME ITS UNIQUE PRESENCE AND VALUE. MOST NOTABLE ARE THE BREATHTAKINGLY BEAUTIFUL 200-YEAR-OLD LOUISIANA HEART PINE FLOORS, WHICH ARE PRICELESS AND IRREPLACEABLE. THE 2 1/2 INCH THICK WOOD PLANKS OF THESE FLOORS WERE SALVAGED FROM A NEW ORLEANS RIVERFRONT WAREHOUSE TO THEIR REGAL PLACEMENT WITHIN WHITEHALL.



ABOVE: ABOVE THE KITCHEN'S PINE FLOORS ARE THE MOST EXQUISITE CUSTOM MAHOGANY CABINETS THAT WERE HAND CRAFTED IN BATH, ENGLAND. BELOW: THE MASTER BEDROOM FIREPLACE IS FLANKED WITH MASSIVE MAHOGANY DOORS LEADING TO THE MASTER PARLOR.

practice room, memorabilia room, craft room and large storage areas. It leads downward to a spacious lower level recreation room, an office area, an exercise room, an Old World-style wine cellar, and a bath with two changing rooms. This level features gorgeous sand-colored Italian tile floors. The recreation room opens to an expansive brick terrace, featuring a large black freeform swimming pool, outdoor cooking area and a charming intimate gazebo. To the left of the pool terrace is a decorative gilded fountain centered between a pair of curved brick staircases leading up to the formal garden above.

While Whitehall revels in the grandeur of a by-gone era, it remains a functional, livable home enhanced by the amenities of today's lifestyle. This Atlanta landmark will be open to the public April 28-May 20 at the ASA's 37th Decorators' Show House & Gardens.

KENNY ROGERS, ALONG WITH PARTNER JIM WEINBERG OF KENJI DESIGN STUDIOS WILL BE DESIGNING THE GREAT ROOM AT WHITEHALL FOR THIS YEAR'S SHOWHOUSE. PRESENTING THE "KENJI STYLE OF DESIGN." A BLACK-TIE PREVIEW PARTY, "MOONLIGHT AND MAGNOLIAS," WITH HONORARY CHAIR KENNY ROGERS, WILL TAKE PLACE APRIL 26, FEATURING DINNER, COCKTAILS, JAZZ MUSIC AND DANCING.

THE HOME IS CURRENTLY LISTED FOR SALE BY GLENNIS BEACHAM AND COMPANY.

