

COVERING ATLANTA AND THE SOUTHEAST

season

SPECIAL EDITION

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**STYLE AND
ELEGANCE
REFLECTED**

**IN DESIGNS OF
JOHN S. BANKS
INTERIORS**

KELLY GRAY

TRAVEL
FASHION
HEALTH &
BEAUTY





Style and Elegance Reflected

in Designs of John S. Banks Interiors

In the heart of Buckhead, John Banks's new home reflects his design philosophy of uniting traditional elegance, contemporary comfort and an arresting collection of fine art, European and Oriental porcelains and period furnishings. Working with Spitzmiller & Norris Architects, John undertook an extensive renovation of the existing Neo-Classical style home.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVID SCHILLING



John, whose firm John S. Banks Interiors has opened a new office on East Paces Ferry Road, is currently designing the Master Bedroom Suite for the 2002 Atlanta Symphony Decorators' Show House. Interiors which John has created for clients over the past two decades have been featured on Lynette Jennings' "House Smart" and in leading design magazines.

Artfully blending periods and styles to create a sophisticated ambiance, John has given equal emphasis to comfort and livability.

In the living room and foyer, a bronze doré lantern chandelier from a provincial French chateau illuminates Chinese 19th century porcelain jars and 18th century dragon figurines in the foyer. As guests look into the living and dining room, other blue-and-white plates and vases in John's collection serve as a counterpoint.

Warm neutrals in the living room impart a restrained backdrop for John's paintings, including works by American artist Ted Gershner, his antique book collection and period furnishings. A green-hued bronze suede fabric adds contemporary flavor to the Louis XVI *fauteuil*, while a bronze and green silk stripe fabric on chairs and pillows harmonizes with the cream-colored textured sofa. An Italian-style black lacquer and gold-accented tabouret and mirrored coffee table are among decorative touches.

The addition of a dramatic tray and a three-foot increase in the ceiling height of the dining room, combined with a wall expansion to craft a raised panel arch with oval Neo-Classical style windows, fashioned a luminous dining room. Gleaming in the light of the cut-glass French birdcage chandelier are a Louis XV mirror, which John discovered in New Orleans, a *Vietux Paris* epergne and Imperial Russian silver candlesticks.

Convinced that "Accents of fine Oriental art, porcelain and sculpture give warmth and richness to almost any room," John has indulged his passion for Oriental art during travels in Asia and while browsing in antique shops in London, Europe and New York. A magnificent turn-of-the-century Coromandel screen anchors John's family room, where his collection of antique Imari porcelains and 18th and 19th century Chinese terra cotta and stone figures are displayed.

Muted golds, reds and blues in the Italian-inspired design of the curtains are repeated on the wing chair and complemented by the small red and cream print on the two club chairs. The English Restoration period armchair, in a subdued green, provides balance to the red leather wing chair. John designed the faceted acrylic base for the glass-topped coffee table.

To create what John calls "an inviting space for casual entertaining," he had the existing room expanded outwards by seven feet, adding full height windows for maximum daylight. After raising the ceiling height, John designed the elaborate coffered ceiling for an even more spacious effect.

In the master bedroom that John calls "my haven," a rich mossy green color treatment reinforces the feeling of serenity. "I chose this subdued green because it's a soothing color which blends the entire room with the outside woods." After a seven-foot wall extension and installation of three large windows, a sitting area now overlooks the patio. An antique Irish saddle seat chair and curved sofa in green upholstery highlight the oak leaf-patterned linen curtains with elaborate silk tassel fringe. The oak-leaf fabric recurs on the comforter, pillows and dust skirt. A soft cream and taupe trellis design carpet reinforces the tranquil ambiance.



