

a modern **classic**

An Atlanta designer
puts **new twists** on tried-
and-true decorating ideas
in this **traditional**
Southern home.

Writer and Field Editor: **Lisa Mowry** Photographer: **Chris A. Little**



Drawing attention to the contrast of dark and light, designer Janie Hirsch upholstered these light French-style chairs in a dark gray fabric. To evoke Swedish style, floors throughout the house wear a light gray wash.







Hirsch chose charcoal-hue paint as a sophisticated backdrop to the dining and music area. "It's important to choose a gray that's not too bluish or purple," she says. "This one is a true charcoal." A painted gray trestle table features a classic-looking patina. To soften the room, she added dark gray linen draperies on two walls. "I wanted to make you feel like you're being wrapped in a blanket," Hirsch says.

a

A clever combination of two distinctive looks—Scandinavian style and Southern traditional—is the basis for interior designer Janie Hirsch's design for a traditional brick home near the historic square in Marietta, Georgia. With a dash of rustic and modern mixed in to give each space its own personality, Hirsch incorporated a few design maxims that can freshen just about any home.

★ Gray is the new black. "People are often nervous about using gray because they think it's too cold," Hirsch says. "But gray is so beautiful if you choose a tone with the right warmth. It combines well with any other color." Hirsch chose a true charcoal gray for the music/dining room, noting that the dark walls instantly create drama in the space. "Most of the house has more of a Scandinavian color palette, so the dark gray is a great contrast," she says. Lighter gray tones grace other rooms in the house: the painted table and chairs in the dining room and the sophisticated cabinetry in the kitchen. Knotty pine floors upstairs and down, for which Hirsch commissioned a light gray wash more similar to stain than paint, carry a soft gray into every room.

★ Pick a pair. "I love having two of something," Hirsch says. "It really makes you notice whatever it is." She plays up this coupling notion in the music/dining room, where a pair of chandeliers and two slipcovered end chairs grace the dining area. A pair of French chairs, *page 62*, holds court near the grand piano. The master bedroom features delicate twin chandeliers hanging over the matching bedside chests. "I love the symmetry of two sides of a room being alike," Hirsch says.

★ Paint adds a fresh face. Southern homes are often filled with family antiques, but Hirsch made sure this house didn't appear too heavy with dark woods everywhere. In the dining room, a painted table and chairs lighten up the room. Golden-yellow walls in the family room, kitchen, and casual dining area provide a sunny backdrop for other painted furnishings Hirsch selected. Every room has a piece or two that brightens the space: a blue sideboard in the family room, custom gray stools in the kitchen, creamy chests in the master bedroom. Best of all, these pieces can be repainted in any hue for an updated look when their current finish falls out of fashion.

★ Custom touches add the magic. A few custom splurges in a house are worth it, Hirsch says, giving homeowners a one-of-a-kind look they won't see repeated in friends' neighboring homes. *Let's make a statement*, she thought when she picked the spring-green patterned fabric for the guest bedroom. She then used the fabric to fashion a headboard after the shape of a wing chair. Thanks to a comfortable two-tone settee that Hirsch commissioned, the breakfast room is a place a family might hang out for hours. In the master bedroom, an upholstered tufted-silk headboard takes on the swagger of a fine oil painting framed with gold molding.

★ Old standbys inspire new designs. Hirsch scattered Oriental rugs throughout the house, but she skipped the usual jewel tones in favor of a muted color palette that complements the home's design. Similarly, she plays with the common kitchen look of three pendant lights hanging over the island, swapping them out for sparkly mini chandeliers in a mod shape. The claw-foot tub in the master bath is another classic element, although this one wears a coat of charcoal gray with silver on its feet.

RESOURCES ON PAGE 112



adding instant character

Janie Hirsch decorated this house as a model home for Manget, a European-style new community situated in an older neighborhood of Marietta, Georgia. In this role, it was her job to take a newly constructed house and give it the character of a historic property alongside the warmth of a family home. Here's how she did it:

CHOOSE PAINTS WITH A VINTAGE LOOK. In addition to using paints based on historical colors, Hirsch often dilutes the saturated hues for a muted tone.

MIX TRUE ANTIQUES WITH CUSTOM AND PAINTED PIECES. A house full of grandma's old furniture can look and feel dated, so Hirsch prefers to strike a balance: mahogany mixed with plenty of upholstery, metal, and painted pieces.

ADD ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST WITH ELEMENTS THAT RECALL ANOTHER ERA. Tongue-and-groove walls, thick moldings, splurges of marble, and wide-plank wood floors all offer architectural echoes of the past.




“Gray is so beautiful if you choose a tone with the right warmth. It combines well with any other color.”

—DESIGNER JANIE HIRSCH



OPPOSITE: Details such as striped linen draperies and nailhead trim add Hirsch's magic touch to the family room. **ABOVE:** Warm wood tones—including an antique Irish folding bench—combine with the comfort of an upholstered banquette. “I wanted comfortable seating so this area could be used as a desk,” Hirsch says. Overhead, an oval-shape silver-leaf light fixture contrasts with the shape of the table. **LEFT:** The gray color scheme continues with glazed kitchen cabinets and honed marble countertops. Hirsch chose the sparkling pendant lights because of their airiness—they don't take away from the overall look, she says.

A bedroom interior featuring a bed with a gold headboard, a nightstand with a chandelier, and a patterned rug. The room is elegantly furnished with a mix of classic and contemporary elements. The bed is dressed in a gold and cream patterned duvet and pillows, with a light green patterned pillow and a light green cylindrical pillow. A wooden tray with a glass pitcher and a napkin sits on a white ottoman in the foreground. A nightstand with a chandelier and a vase of flowers is positioned by the window. The room is decorated with a large patterned rug and a green curtain.

“This room is elegant and feminine, but at the same time, a man would feel at home here.”

—DESIGNER JANIE HIRSCH

THIS PHOTO: A slipcovered linen side chair is a transition between the master bedroom and bath. A claw-foot tub painted charcoal gray and framed intaglios (the reverse of cameos) make striking artwork. OPPOSITE: This room started with the headboard, Hirsch says. She chose thick gold framing and commissioned her sewing workroom to add the upholstered back.

