

# Simply Stylish

## Minor details

By Giannina Smith

**W**hen John and Sharon Minor began renovating their Buckhead home, they wanted to create an ambiance that personified their laid-back, clean style and showcased the outdoors. Both nature lovers, they decided to convert their home's original deck into an inviting sunroom and add a new deck overlooking the property's densely wooded grounds.

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The foyer of the Minor home showcases a traditional tapestry picked out by John Minor. T.J. Hart | hartografie



The sunroom opens up to a deck overlooking the property's wooded grounds. Photos by T.J. Hart | hartografik

## Thoughtful renovations and a sunroom addition help a Buckhead couple bring a casual, fresh feel to their home.



The renovation of the dining room followed a whimsical theme, with painted leaves on the ceiling matching the fabric on the dining chairs.

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"We wanted to continue the openness and airiness of it all and ... really bring the indoors and outdoors together," says Sharon Minor, a Delta Air Lines flight attendant. "We've got these great woods in the back; we are half a mile from I-75, but you don't hear it. It doesn't feel like you're in the middle of Atlanta or the big city."

Situated on West Wesley Road in the heart of Buckhead, the charming 3,500-square-foot home stands as a quaint gem among grand old Georgia mansions. Built in 1969, the residence became the Minors' home in 1997. Shortly after moving in, the duo began accessorizing the house with an eclectic mix of modern and traditional décor, adorning it with pieces by local Georgian artists and art picked up during their travels to places like South Africa, the West Coast and Europe.

When they were prepared to tackle

some serious renovations in 2004, the Minors teamed up with two close friends, interior designer Vivian Bencich and architect John Bencich, the husband-and-wife duo behind Atlanta design firm Square Feet Studios, which is responsible for many of the unique spaces in West Midtown's White Provision District, including restaurant Abattoir and men's clothing boutique Sid Mashburn. The first big project was gutting the master bathroom, where they added limestone tile floors, French doors and a striped silver ceiling to give it a casual, cabana-like feel.

The dining room came next, with a redo that followed a whimsical theme. Square Feet Studios kept the home's original brass chandelier and painted floating leaves on the ceiling to match the fabric on the dining chairs. They also added a custom buffet table to match the height of the chair rail and

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The cabana-like bathroom features a ceiling with silver stripes.



Square Feet Studios assisted the Minors with decorating the living room, adding more modern chairs and pillows and properly lighting the art above the mantle, a piece John bought for Sharon in Florida.

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to showcase a family heirloom—silver service dating back to the 1900s. A unique gold border at the edge of the crown molding ties in the brass light fixture.

“It adds just the right definition,” Vivian says of the border. “John Minor was absolutely tickled that his architect friend had come up with that perfect little thing.”

The biggest overhaul, however, would come with the complete transformation of the outdoor deck into a sunroom. Habitual entertainers, the Minors wanted a homey, yet stylish room where they could spend time with friends. From November 2007 to May 2008, this vision became a reality. The Bencichs and Minors worked with contractor Buckhead Home Services to transform the deck into an indoor space with vaulted ceilings, window benches and tons of natural light. Next, they added an outdoor deck made of Ipe wood from Brazil, which is naturally dense and requires

*“The sunroom and deck are where we live”*

minimal maintenance. Once the construction was complete, Vivian and Sharon decorated the new space with furniture from Bungalow Classic and Kolo Collection in Midtown. They incorporated woodsy and modern pieces, such as a dark gray-and-brown Belgian linen sectional sofa and silver table lamps.

Since completing the addition, the Minors say they spend the majority of their leisure time relaxing in the brightly lit sunroom with their puppy, Oliver, reading and entertaining. While the space is only about 300 square feet, it has been known to hold up to 14 people during weekend football-watching parties. What’s more, the sunroom’s remote-control fireplace—one of John Minor’s favorite features—and the deck’s electric awning ensure these nature lovers can enjoy a view of the outdoors all year long.

“The sunroom and deck are where we live,” Sharon says. “John is a fanatic about the outdoors; he loves being outside. So it has just been great.”