

OUR SPECIAL ART & ANTIQUES ISSUE

SEPTEMBER 2002

atlantahomes

and lifestyles®

A WIESNER PUBLICATION

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HOT TIPS FROM THE PROS

HIGHLIGHTS
FROM THE
DECORATORS'
SHOW HOUSE

DISPLAYING COLLECTIBLES
ARTFUL GARDENING SIPPING SYRAH
ARTISTS' OWN SPACES

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from grandma's attic

INTERIOR DESIGNER ALLISON McCONAUGHEY EXPLAINS HOW TO USE THE TREASURES YOU CAN FIND LOOKING HIGH AND LOW.

BY ALYSE HARRAL • PHOTOGRAPHY BY ERICA GEORGE DINES

WHETHER you are lucky enough to have a grandmother whose attic is jammed full of special items or you have to search for them in flea markets, a one-of-a-kind treasure lends character and personality to any house.

It can be tempting to fill that empty

space in your living room with the first thing that fits, but taking your time to discover the perfect "found object" yields a lifetime of enjoyment.

Allison Bates McConaughey, IIDA, of LaPrade Design, sought ideal objects for every nook and cranny of her home. She

was lucky enough to find a few in her grandmother's attic, as well as while flea-market shopping with husband Warner.

When Allison first begins with new clients, she likes to go through their attics, garages and basements looking for surprise finds. You never know what you

designtalk

may rediscover in yours.

OLD OBJECTS, NEW PURPOSE

Allison found an old Japanese bowl, used for tea ceremonies, stuffed in Warner's attic. He'd grown tired of it collecting dust on a bookcase and had stored it away. Allison decided it would make a unique plant container on the coffee table in the couple's living room.

DISPLAY IDEAS

- "Bookshelves add so much to a room when they are packed with wonderful old hardback books," Allison says. Find ones with gold leaf or leather covers.

- Mix old drawings found at flea markets with pictures of your family to highlight and complement both.

- If you've found a beautiful antique table, use it to its full impact and put it in an entryway. People get their first impression of your house within 10 seconds.

PERSONALLY YOURS

An object doesn't have to be out of someone's attic. "Just make your house personal—memories are so important," Allison says. "It could be that you bring things home from a trip and the pieces remind you of the good time."

REFRESHING A ROOM

"When you focus a room on certain important articles, you can become bored with it after a while," Allison says. "Evolve your home by moving pieces around to new rooms. If a prominent item must remain in a room, change the things that surround it more often. And remember, painting a room does wonders."

SPOTLIGHT OBJECTS

"When I have something I absolutely love, I want it to speak for itself," Allison says. "So I find less expensive things to put around these objects. I call them highs and lows. Don't create a visual overload."

SLOW DOWN

"It's a process, not a product," Allison says. "It shouldn't be too overwhelming. It's smart to take it one room at a time." ❖



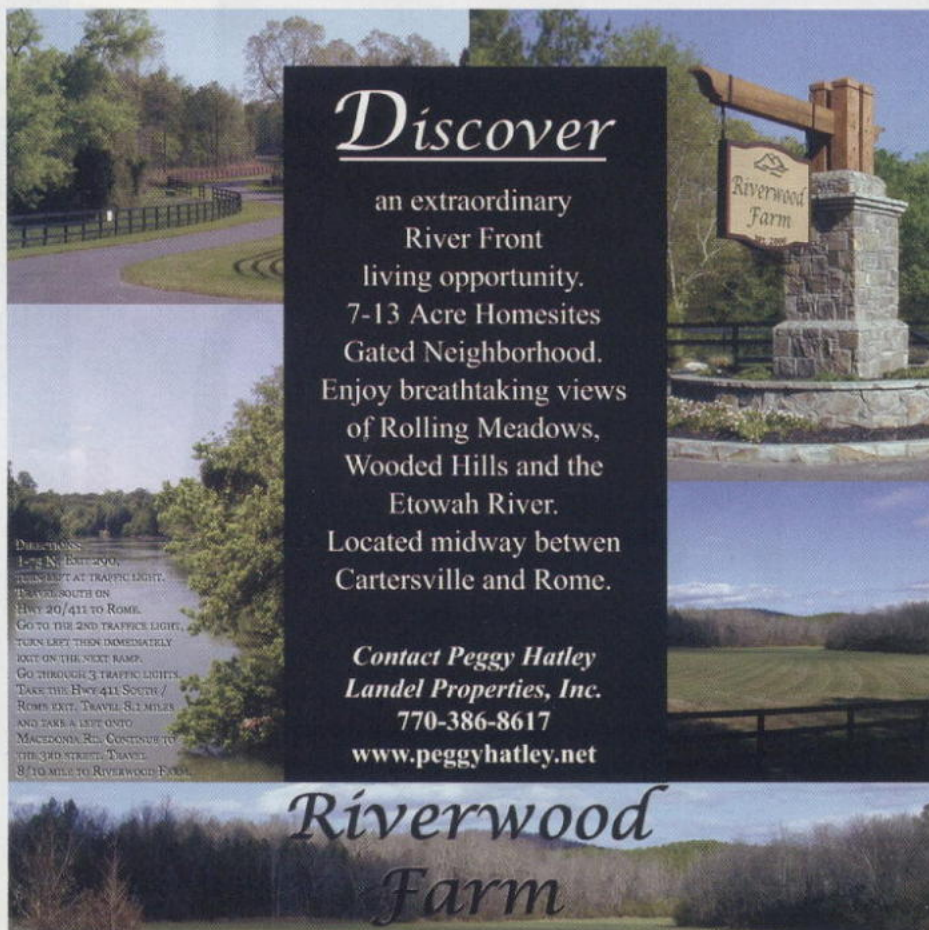
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