Atlanta MAGAZINE'S

HOME

City Style

16 BEST LOCAL DESIGN FINDS OF THE YEAR

COOL CURIOSITIES AT ELIZABETH INGRAM AND ALTON BROWN'S MARIETTA LOFT

CREATIVE LIVING IN AN OLD CASTLEBERRY HILL FACTORY

BALANCED OUTLOOK

A SOPHISTICATED COLOR PALETTE KEEPS THE LOOK CLASSY IN THIS CITY TOWNHOUSE

By **LISA MOWRY**

Photography by **ANTHONY-MASTERSON & RUSTIC WHITE**

RIGHT | The living room is high contrast with its dark and light furnishings but warmed up with touches of wood and texture-rich furnishings such as an animal-hide pouf, furry pillow, and shagreen-style coffee table. The sofa is from Lee Industries, and the coffee table is by Gabby.

LIVING ROOM: ANTHONY-MASTERSON

INTERIOR DESIGNER Sherry Hart is a believer in two guiding principles when it comes to houses: Location is everything, and you can't go wrong with black and white. When her friend Melissa Morrow was waffling about whether to rent or buy a home after a divorce, Sherry swooped in. "I'm picking you up at noon tomorrow, and we've got an appointment to look in Manchester," she announced.

Manchester, a new townhouse community by design-savvy developer Pam Sessions of Hedgewood Homes, sits at the lively intersection of Midtown, Morningside, and Buckhead in a former industrial area. Sherry saw a townhome there as ideal for an investment—and for Melissa's new single life. As luck would have it, Melissa snagged the only lot left with a yard, perfect for her two small dogs.

Sherry tweaked the existing plans, switching the living and dining rooms and upgrading the pantry. The open floor concept on the main level lent itself well to Sherry's love of black and white, with a few surprises here and there. "I love a dark wall for the TV to sort of disappear on, so we added a brown grass-cloth wall," says Sherry. "It helps define the space in the living room."

Melissa's decorating requests: a navy sofa to anchor the living room, a few midcentury pieces, and some light fixtures with personality. While the townhome was being built, the two shopped for furniture to fit the space, sometimes going custom, other times lucking out with a retail score.

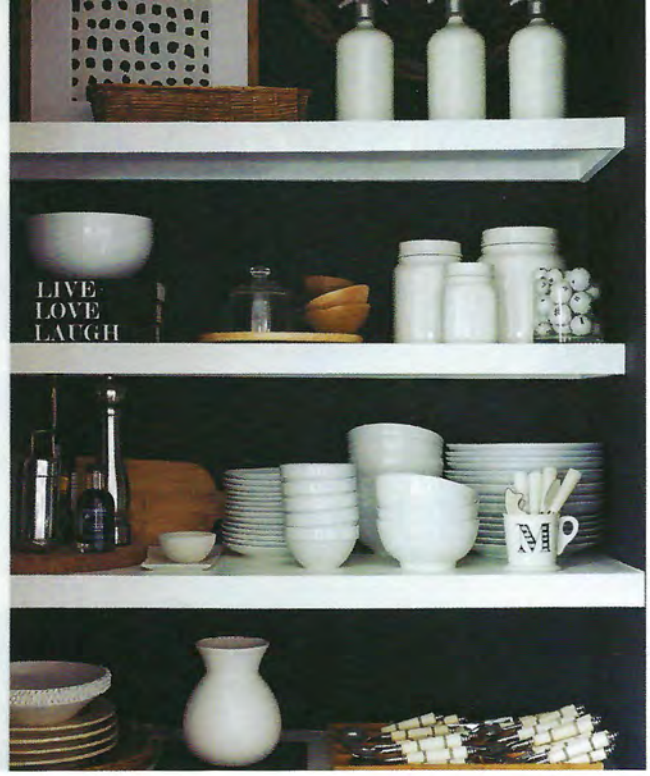
Sherry added in conversation pieces, such as the sleek shagreen-style coffee table and artsy wallpaper. The result is a collected look, enhanced by the plentiful windows and natural light of a corner unit. Says Sherry: "I really think it feels like a Manhattan townhouse."

OPPOSITE | Melissa Morrow, left, with friend and designer Sherry Hart, who helped create her chic, new, downsized home at Manchester in Buckhead.

BELOW | The light-filled dining area showcases a table from Four Hands, a light fixture by Arteriors, and faux bamboo Chinese Chippendale-style chairs from Ballard Designs. As evidence of trust between client and designer, Sherry called Melissa one day to convince her to buy the classic black dining chairs and finally admitted that she'd already bought them and loaded them all into her SUV.

PORTRAIT: RUSTIC WHITE; DINING ROOM: ANTHONY-MASTERSON

"I always feel like a black-and-white kitchen is timeless," says interior designer Sherry Hart, who chose black leathered granite for perimeter countertops but a dark island with marble countertop for contrast. Roman shades in Schumacher fabric add pattern and texture.



ABOVE | The open pantry is an elegant extension of the kitchen, featuring white wooden shelves against black walls. "We decided to use it more for glasses, dishes, and serving pieces and as a place for the microwave," says Sherry. Melissa hides the less-attractive pantry items in a cabinet.

LEFT | An abstract wallpaper by Kelly Wearstler in a powder room off the kitchen fits the black-and-white scheme. The sleek sconces are from Circa Lighting, with a mirror by Four Hands.

ALL IMAGES: ANTHONY-MASTERSON

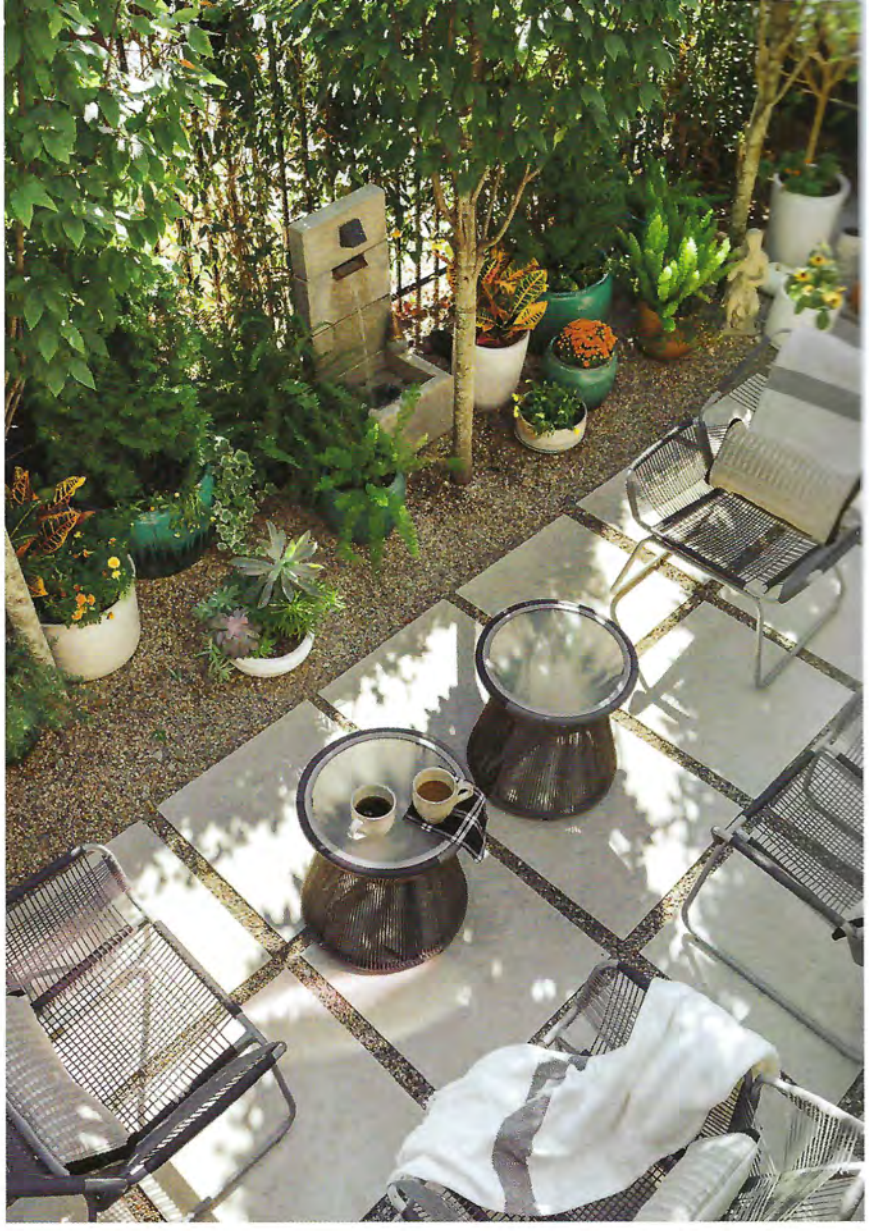
ABOVE | The master bedroom has a more feminine look, says Sherry, with cloud-like wallpaper from Bradley USA on an accent wall. A bed from Bernhardt and linens by Lili Alessandra are luxe additions. Vintage-looking lamps are bargain finds from Home Goods.

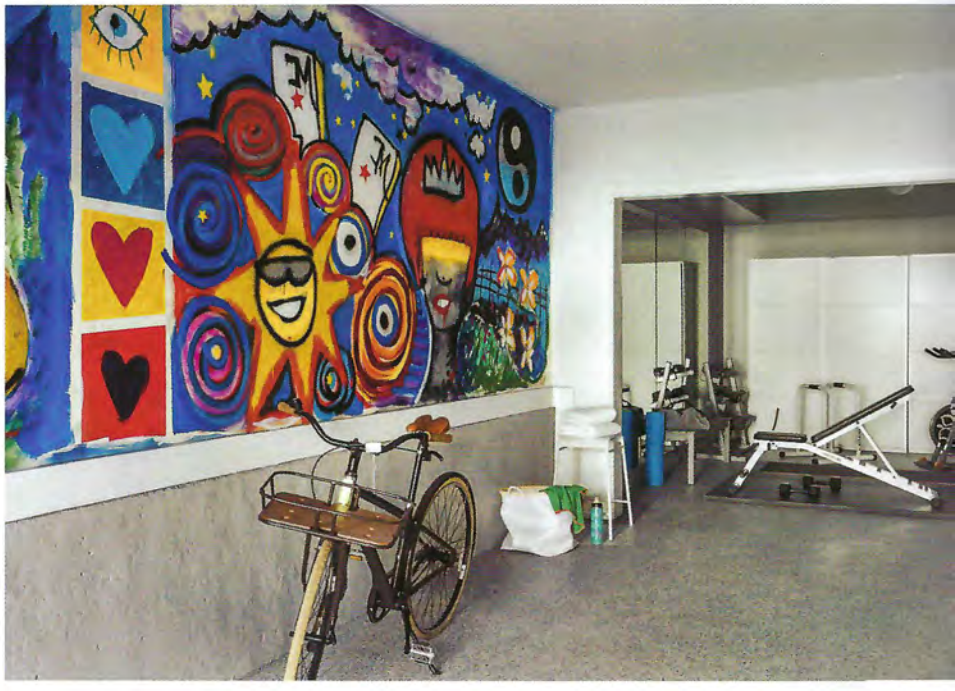
OPPOSITE TOP LEFT | A white Pottery Barn dresser provides more storage in the master bedroom, and a watercolor-style pillow from West Elm accents a side chair.

OPPOSITE TOP RIGHT Sherry helped outfit the courtyard garden with wood fencing for privacy, large concrete pavers to break up the pea gravel, and a variety of potted plants.

OPPOSITE BOTTOM LEFT | Melissa's intown neighborhood with a European vibe features semidetached homes and low-maintenance landscaping.

OPPOSITE BOTTOM RIGHT | Melissa hired friend and graffiti artist Nick Mantia to jazz up her garage. The second bay she converted into her home gym.





RESOURCES | **INTERIOR DESIGNER:** Sherry Hart, sherryhartdesigns.com | **BUILDER:** Hedgewood Homes, hedgewoodhomes.com
TO SHOP THIS STORY, SEE PAGE 84.

MASTER BEDROOM: ANTHONY-MASTERSON; EXTERIOR, COURTYARD & GARAGE: RUSTIC WHITE