

Features

BeltLine Beauty

Kathleen Knowles



**THIS NEW
BUILD HAS
THE
GRANDEUR
OF A
HISTORIC
HOME**

For the Mabra home, architect Andre Tchelistcheff and builder Sta... >>



Ronnie and Dawn Mabra with their two sons, Riley and Remiii Photography by MALI AZIMA »

Ronnie Mabra, an attorney and founder of Mabra Law, has a knack for visualizing the big picture. In 2010, when he came across a narrow Virginia- Highland lot, located about 50 yards from the future path of the bustling Atlanta BeltLine, he saw more than a plot of grass. He pictured a forever home for him and his wife, Dawn, a doctor currently in her second year of residency at Morehouse School of Medicine—as well as their future family, which now includes their two sons, Remiii and Riley.

A former member of the Georgia House of Representatives, Ronnie has spent a lot of time in stately buildings and is drawn to classical style. Dawn also loves historic spaces, but having moved often as a child with

her father in the military, she wanted to create a home designed specifically for their growing family rather than try to remodel an existing structure. So, the couple had decided to build new and incorporate classical elements. “We didn’t want anything that would go out of style in a few years,” says Ronnie. “We wanted a home that would always be beautiful.”

Knowing that collaboration and communication would be key, Ronnie put together what he calls his “dream team.” He started with New York–based architect Andre Tchelistcheff, whom he had met serendipitously at a friend’s wedding. Needing an Atlanta builder, he tapped Stan Benecki of Benecki Homes, who then introduced Ronnie to his wife, award-winning interior designer Melanie Turner.

Together, the professionals created a home that checked off every ask on the Mabras’ list. Andre and Stan incorporated historical architectural elements to make the home feel as if it had always been there. Melanie decked out the interiors with durable yet luxurious furniture and finishes, made to withstand the test of time and hold up to a growing family.

“We wanted people to walk back and think this is classic and really appreciate it,” says Ronnie. “The team did a great job bringing that into reality.”



Inspired by Ronnie's former football team and alma mater, Georgia Tech, Melanie opted for a navy and gold palette in the living room. A Lee Industries sofa and custom gold pillows hold up to family wear and tear, while rounded coffee and side tables are accident-proof. Abstract artwork ties all of the elements together. Photography by MALI AZIMA »

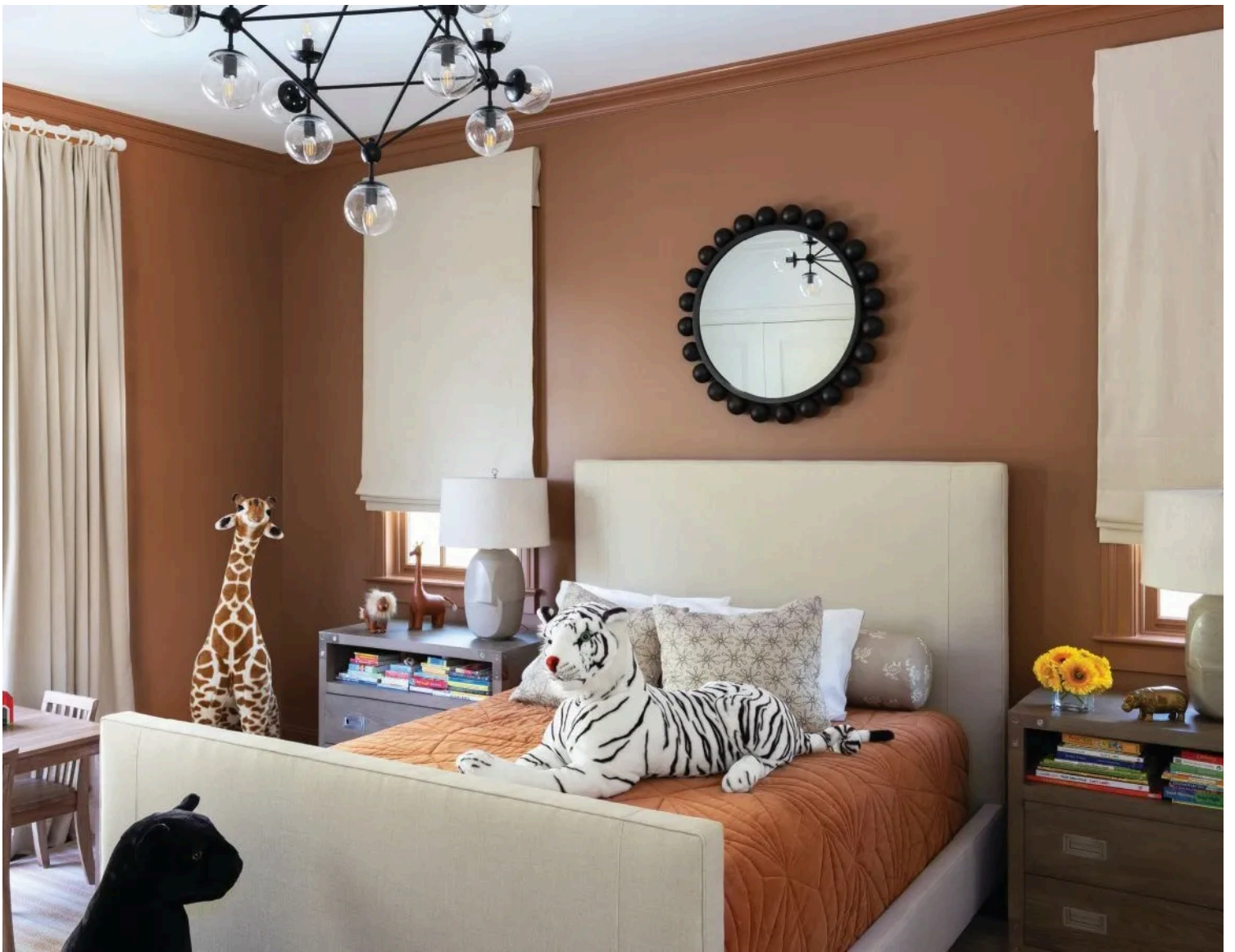


Melanie made the dining room into a formal yet family-friendly space. A Bernhardt table with Ionic-style columns for legs brings an air of elegance, while an extra-long cushy banquette and a wall of drapery create a casual feel. Photography by MALI AZIMA »

“We spend a lot of time in the kitchen and the connecting living room, just talking and watching football games”.



In the kitchen, brilliant blue cabinets make a bold statement without being overpowering. Subway tile all the way to the ceiling is a timeless element, while oversized polished-nickel Circa Lighting pendants add a touch of modern style. "I'm a country boy—I like to eat, so we do a lot of cooking," says Ronnie. "We spend a lot of time in the kitchen and the connecting living room, just talking and watching football games." Photography by MALI AZIMA »



Melanie wanted to ensure Remiii's room was a space that could grow with him. She chose a rusty orange for the walls and neutrals for the bed, drapery, and lighting, so that the accessories and bedding could be swapped out as his style changes. He started with lots of animals. Photography by MALI AZIMA »



In the children's bathroom, animal-motif wallpaper from Jim Thompson feels youthful yet sophisticated. Long-lasting materials were a must for the Mabras, so Melanie chose marble for the top of the custom vanity. A combo of subway tile in the shower and penny round tile on the floor gives the new space a lived-in feel. Photography by MALI AZIMA »



Both Dawn and Ronnie wanted dedicated guest rooms for their moms. They designated the carriage house for one and this blue room in the main house for the other. A monochrome palette creates the feeling of being surrounded by serene waters. Melanie even had the drapery hardware wrapped in fabric to blend with the saturated walls. Icy-blue table lamps and swing-arm sconces double up on style and light for late-night reading. Photography by MALI AZIMA »



For Dawn and Ronnie's bedroom, Melanie stepped away from the home's signature blue and leaned into restful neutrals. Phillip Jeffries grasscloth wallpaper, a Bernhardt shelter bed, and a Bernhardt armchair tucked in the bay window combine to create a peaceful escape. Photography by MALI AZIMA »



A mirrored soaking tub is the star of the show in the primary bath. “It’s the perfect size—not too big, not too small. It’s kind of the theme of this house, like the three bears,” says Melanie. Marble tile all over makes the space feel bigger and is reminiscent of a chic boutique hotel. Photography by MALI AZIMA »

RESOURCES | INTERIOR DESIGN Melanie Turner, Melanie Turner Interiors, melanieturnerinteriors.com

ARCHITECTURE Andre Tchelistcheff, Andre Tchelistcheff Architects, tchelistcheff.com

BUILDER Stan Benecki, Benecki Homes, beneckihomes.com | TO SHOP THIS STORY, SEE PAGE 62



The powder bath was one of Melanie's fav... [»](#)
