

DECATUR

LIVING

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AJC Decatur
Book Festival

*Plus, on the
Home Front*

Designer Nickie Barfield

Builder Eric Sullivan

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29th - 31st
presented by  DeKalb Medical

A Flair for Design

Decatur resident Nikie Barfield, an attorney by trade and an accomplished, self-taught designer, is proof that you can't go wrong doing what comes naturally.

Inspired by antiques from France, Sweden, England, and of course, the U.S., Barfield's style is eclectic and classic at the same time. "I buy pieces that I absolutely love, and it all seems to come together." Fitted, slip-covered furniture and a neutral palette are

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key ingredients in creating Barfield's calm and timeless décor. Another design tactic that she swears by is "bringing the outdoors in." Much of her inspiration comes from her garden—"it's where I would like to spend most of my time, so I try to incorporate evergreens and





blooming plants inside as much as possible. My staples are ferns, hydrangeas and lavender, and when they're done blooming, I plant them in my garden."

Barfield's favorite one-stop shopping spot is the renowned Scott's Antiques Market. "We Atlantans are so fortunate to have this marvelous resource in our very own backyard—amazing finds at very reasonable prices. I have my favorite vendors that I go to, and it always amazes me that this bounty of beautiful things is replenished month after month," she



says. "I have bought everything from seashells to armoires from Scott's. It's a feast for the eyes. My husband and I usually take the kids and make it a family affair."

In 2004, she and her husband, Scott, won the Design Award from the Decatur Historic Preservation Commission for the design and remodel of their home, and in 2007, their home was featured in the July issue of *Better Homes & Gardens*, which gave them the confidence to purchase and renovate the house next door. "It gave me the opportunity to take all the lessons I learned from renovating my house and improve on them," says Barfield. The house next door is loaded with charm and boasts unexpectedly wonderful details, such as a pot filler in the gourmet kitchen, a mudroom with built-in closets and storage, his-and-hers, built-in dressers in the master bedroom, and three true masonry fireplaces—and one of them is outdoors!

When decorating and renovating, "It's easy to be successful at something, when you love what you're doing."