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SPOTLIGHT HOME

## New house was a date with destiny

By **Marena Galluccio**  
Fast Copy News Service

When Deana Kingsbury purchased her Druid Hills home in 2015, she spotted her birthdate stamped on the exterior bricks. "It makes me feel like the house was ... special for me, because it had that date," she said.

When the red bricks were removed to add stucco to the back exterior, those bearing "January 19" became a prominent feature in her master bedroom entryway.

But the bricks are not the only surprise when it comes to

Kingsbury's home in the historic Atlanta neighborhood.

Once inside the Mediterranean-style residence designed by famed Atlanta architect Leila Ross Wilburn, guests are greeted with bright colors, contemporary art and modern furniture.

Kingsbury said she is excited because the 50th anniversary of the Druid Hills Tour of Homes & Gardens on April 20-22, which features the home, offers design ideas and a glimpse into how the homes reflect residents' personalities.

"For me, I think that's fascinating," she said.



### SNAPSHOT

**Resident:** Deana Kingsbury, owner of Deana Kingsbury Photography

**Location:** Druid Hills

**Size:** 4,200 square feet, five bedrooms, four-and-a-half baths; plus one-bedroom studio apartment over the separate garage

**Year built and bought:** 1926/2015

**Architect:** Leila Ross Wilburn (original); Robert Koch (renovation)

**Architectural style:** Mediterranean

**Favorite architectural elements:** Carved limestone entry, porte cochere

**Renovations:** Exterior changes include reinstalling a Spanish barrel tile roof and replacing the back exterior with stucco. The salvaged exterior brick was brought inside and used for an entrance to the master bedroom. On the main level, a wall was removed while a portion of the terrace was built in to expand and rearrange the kitchen, butler's pantry, master bedroom, laundry and mudroom. Black steel custom windows were added, including a service window by the patio. The carriage house was gutted to create a studio apartment. The outdoor fireplace was renovated, and AstroTurf from IntelliTurf was installed around the pool.

**Design consultants:** Wolf Design Group (interior design), King Landscaping, Level Craft Construction

**Interior design style:** Contemporary

**Favorite interior design elements:** While the 1926 home stays true to its vintage roots with the front exterior and repurposing bricks inside the home, bright ocean hues like blue and teal and non-traditional furniture, such as a gold-leafed coffee table, create a modern and playful vibe.

**Favorite furniture:** The teal velvet sofa in the front living room. "Sitting here with my friends is the best," Kingsbury said. "The curve of the sofa creates such a cozy, intimate feel while enjoying the fireplace."

**Favorite outdoor feature:** The symmetrical pool. "It has a cool shape," she said.

**Resources:** Viking appliances from Bob Bailey's Appliance. Hardware from RH. Antiques from Kudzu Antiques + Modern. Fireplace by Francois & Co.

**Decor tip:** When using a variety of colors, Kingsbury kept dominant hues, such as teal and blue, consistent from room to room to ground the space.



The 10-foot island's quartzite was selected because homeowner Deana Kingsbury said it looks like Vincent Van Gogh's "The Starry Night" painting. The cabinetry above the range is painted deep blue and the island cabinetry is light gray. The white-and-gray quartzite on the perimeter counters has a waterfall style. PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER OQUENDO/WWW.OPHOTOGRAPHY.COM



Deana Kingsbury, who is a portrait photographer, purchased her 1926 Leila Ross Wilburn-designed home in 2015. The home is on the 50th anniversary of the Druid Hills Tour of Homes & Gardens on April 20-22.



Bricks that now make up the doorway in the hallway leading to Deana Kingsbury's master bedroom were originally part of the back exterior. The bricks are stamped with "January 19, 1926," which not only references when the bricks were made, but also the homeowner's birth month and day.



Contemporary meets vintage in this 1926 Leila Ross Wilburn-designed home in Druid Hills. Electric yellow-green drapes hang around palladium windows, and a teal sofa sourced by Wolf Design Group infuses jewel tones. "Sitting here with my friends is the best," she said. "The curve of the sofa creates such a cozy, intimate feel while enjoying the fireplace."



The outdoor fireplace was renovated as part of overall changes to the home and property in Atlanta's Druid Hills neighborhood.



The dining room is painted teal with a patterned tile floor and a glass chandelier and artwork in keeping with the home's contemporary interior design style.



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