



At the foot of the master bed designed is a French canapé, originally owned by Walton's mother—now covered in sandy-colored nubby mohair. A pair of gold 17th-century candelabra hang on each side of the bed. master bed design: ANDREW BROWN (ANDREW BROWN ADORNO [andrewbrownadorno.com](http://andrewbrownadorno.com) • 205.879.7949 construction: JIM GOWAN • GOWAN IRON [gowaniron.com](http://gowaniron.com) • 334.263.3840

TUCKED AWAY IN HISTORIC FOREST PARK, casual passersby might not notice that behind the imposing 12-foot hedges sits an architectural jewel formerly owned by Walton Brown and Clint Thorne. In a city with a rich array of architectural styles, the Mediterranean Revival is a rarity. Similar in style to the Spanish Colonial Revival, this Mediterranean Revival is an example of the more ornate influences of the Italian Renaissance. Built in the mid-1920s by Ira A. Watson, this very successful entrepreneur wanted a house of the same caliber as the grand estates being built on Red Mountain.

According to Walton, the Watsons had visited Ca` d'Zan, the estate of John and Mable Ringling in Sarasota, Florida. After seeing the Ringling estate, Watson commissioned Ringling's architect, Dwight James Baum, to design his Forest Park home. The Watson's spared no expense, importing materials from Italy as well as exquisite hand-glazed Moravian tiles from Pennsylvania.

Walton, a Real Estate Developer, says, "I had an itch for a new project, but I wasn't sure I was ready for one of this magnitude." He successfully avoided the home until, as luck would have it, a client asked to view the property. After the client decided it was not the one for him, Walton made an offer and the project began.

Walton's desire to bring the house back to its original grandeur was guided by his respect for the original craftsmanship of the architecture. Wal-

