

## SMITH LAKE GETAWAY ANDREW BROWN SHEPARD & DAVIS ARCHITECTURE

Katharine and Bryson Edmonds chose their place at Point William on Smith Lake for its natural beauty—a place characterized by a steep topography dotted with large boulders and stone outcroppings. Architects Ben Shepard and Darla Davis, along with developer Walton Brown, sought to preserve the natural elements and even incorporate them into the house design. “The main aesthetic goal, not just for the houses but the land and landscape, was to interfere with the environment as little as possible,” Walton says.

This is readily apparent in the Edmonds’ house, which was partly built upon an outcropping and looks as if it simply grew out of the stone. This symbiotic relationship with nature gives the house an integrated look, blending it with the environment and obscuring the time in which it was built.

Expanding vertically instead of horizontally, the home leaves more room for the natural elements. Keeping things vertical, the lower level houses the master suite and covered porch that steps out onto the pier. The main level features public living spaces. The third and fourth floors offer additional bedrooms and a bunk room.

To capture some of this rustic personality on the inside, the couple turned to decorator Andrew Brown. The interior maximizes the sense of space, with white walls sporting little ornament. “I tend toward a style that is not quite minimal and has a monochromatic feel,” Andrew says. He favors objects with a sleek, contemporary aesthetic that are water- and pet-friendly to ensure that the house is livable and beautiful.



*Maximizing the width of the house, the kitchen, dining area, and living room occupy one large space on the main floor. An inglenook separated from the rest of the room by drapes offers a private niche for lounging or watching TV. This seamless look is cemented by the flowing unity of the stained white-oak floors and pine walls.*



*Above: The dark-blue headboard adds a distinct personality to this bedroom that breaks from the neutral tones of the house. "I'm really big on symmetry and cohesiveness, but I always like to throw it off a bit because things can sometimes be too perfect," Andrew says.*

*Opposite: Many of Andrew's pieces are custom-designed by him and handcrafted by his brothers. The dining table was made from a fallen black walnut tree on Andrew's family farm. The chandelier and fabric on the Roman shades introduce a flair for the exotic.*

*Right: Respecting floor space, the four-story staircase tucks towards an inside wall.*





*Left: Custom sofas stretch the length of this inglenook, emphasizing the room's classical purpose as a place for people to gather around the fireplace. They also double as makeshift beds at 110 inches long. Orange hair-on-hide pillows add a splash of color to the monochromatic décor.*



*Right: Primitive oars capture the timeless quality of the house, while a saddle-shaped Klismos side chair complements the equestrian accessories on the bookcase.*



## BREATHING ROOM

ANDREW BROWN  
SHEPARD & DAVIS ARCHITECTURE

When homeowner Jane Kelly decided to make a lifestyle change, she also changed her point of view. Moving from a Forest Park cottage, she traded manicured lawns for city lights in a brand-new high-rise condominium.

“It was just a concrete shell,” says interior designer Andrew Brown. “Jane enlisted the help of Shepard & Davis Architecture, who customized it to fit her lifestyle.” That lifestyle called for open spaces, abundant natural light, and an emphasis on livability. Andrew then lent his expertise to ensure the furnishings reflected her adventurous personality.

“She was ready for a change,” Andrew says. “She wanted more space and more of a city feel.” Achieving that city environment was a balancing act, avoiding the extremes of cottage-style clutter and chilly modernity. Jane had collected a house full of furnishings that had to be carefully edited for her new way of living.

Andrew incorporated the keepers from Jane’s assortment of antiques to create an eclectic ambiance in the condo, although he eschews the word eclectic. Instead, he calls the style collected, the natural result of a lifetime of acquisitions. It includes a little of everything—art, furniture, mementos—that strikes the fancy. “When you get them over a lifetime, you have a great mix of styles—modern and antique, shiny and dull, expensive and inexpensive,” he says.

Andrew doubled down on the clean lines of the condo with an overall neutral palette. Then he judiciously applied pops of color inspired by Jane’s treasures. “Jane had cherished pottery pieces in a deep olive-black,” he says. “I chose that color to contrast with the walls. Drawing on her artwork, I injected gold and burnt orange accents.” The colors provide a visual thread connecting the different spaces created by furniture groupings in the condo’s large, open living area.

Since crisp, contemporary lines and neutral colors can feel a little cool, Andrew warmed the space with dollops of different textures, from leather to velvet to linen. Antiques provide their own warmth, while snappy new pieces and updated old ones, such as an antique French armchair re-covered in white leather, bring energy to the mix. The result is a home that suits its city location and portrays a new stage of life with a fresh vibe.



*The open plan living room is bisected with a large dining table, creating two gathering areas tied together by the gleaming backdrop of the white waxed floor and glossy lacquered ceiling.*



*Above: The inner foyer, set off by portiere drapery, offers a showcase for a pair of antique leopard-skin chairs. Keeping appointments simple, Andrew added an antique chest with a large mirror propped behind. The olive-black lacquered ceiling brings definition to the space. Right: The sitting area pairs the softness of a custom love seat covered in white linen velvet with the smoothness of a modern coffee table in a tortoise-shell faux finish (artist Jan Roberts). The chrome sconce is a mid-20th-century design.*





*A white headboard and crisp linens make a dramatic impact against a wall upholstered in olive-black silk. Flanked by a pair of convex mirrors, an antique tortoise shell creates a focal point above the bed. The leather-topped 1920s stools herald from a buying trip to Buenos Aires.*

*In the entry foyer, a dark lacquered wall in the thematic olive color contrasts with a white waxed floor to set the tone for the interiors. Artist Jan Roberts repeated the hue with a hand-painted star medallion on the floor, reflecting the shape of the light fixture above.*

