

FROM House TO HOME[®]

SPRING
2009

Pretty
& FUNCTIONAL
At Home In Mobile

Q&A WITH
CHRISTOPHER LOWELL

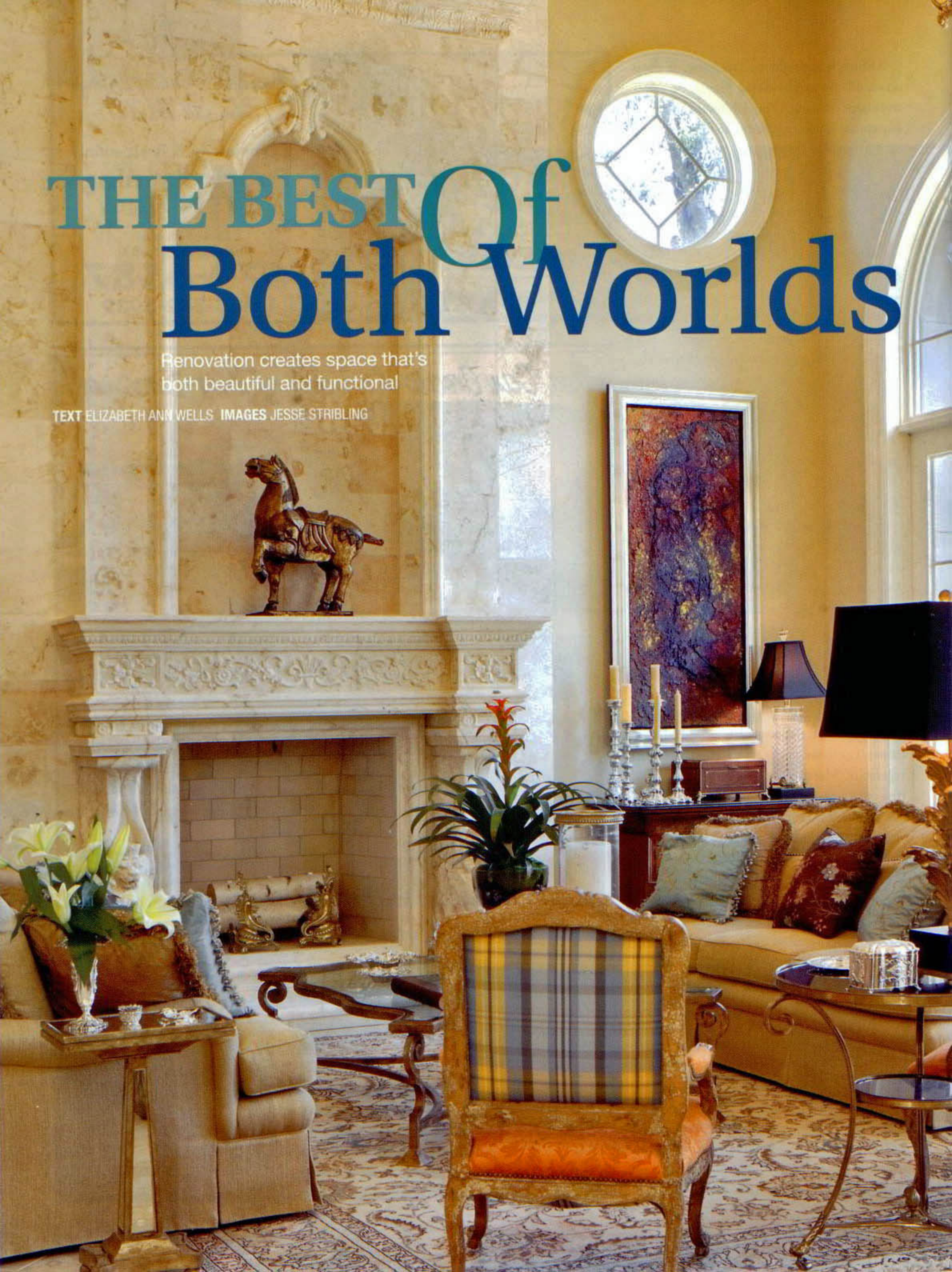
Area Expert's
SPRING PLANTING TIPS

FOUNDATIONS
of Flavor
RECIPE REMIX

THE BEST Of Both Worlds

Renovation creates space that's
both beautiful and functional

TEXT ELIZABETH ANN WELLS IMAGES JESSE STRIBLING





Things are not always as they appear. Cynthia Zipperly, owner of Designer Imports, builds function into every aspect of design. She and her husband, Jim Pitcock, wove this into their recent home renovation in Mobile.

Four years ago, they had to replace their oven. "We decided we might as well do the whole thing," says Zipperly, adding that the result was a large renovation with an addition to their home.

Upon approach, the home's red brick, black shutters, and white trim don't reveal its transitional interior.

The dining room's antique-reproduction, burled-walnut table is set on a dramatic red-and-black

antique Oriental rug over a repurposed heart-pine floor. The chairs' animal-print upholstery is one of Zipperly's design-choice staples.

"I work with color all day long. In my own home, I like punches of color, but neutrals are more soothing to me and allow me to change the accessories as my tastes mature or as colors come and go," says Zipperly. They also enjoy art by Jamali, an internationally known artist. His works—in a variety of media—are hung above mantels and on walls throughout the home.

The renovation and addition, led by architect Lea Verneville, gave the homeowners new areas. The wine tasting room was the former den. Weath-

ered Stone, an extremely durable paper wall covering, was used to cover the existing walls. Zipperly chose to grout between the paper sheets to achieve what resembles castle stones.

This leads into the new great room. A majestic stone fireplace at one end and a faux-finished entertainment cabinet at the other anchor soaring ceilings.



◀◀ The fireplace reaches toward the great room's 20-foot ceiling.

◀ The media center holds a theater screen, a large-screen TV, and sound equipment.

✓ Tucked behind the stately red-brick front, the resort-like backyard is a grand surprise.

◀ The home's traditional exterior doesn't reveal its transitional interior.





◀◀ The former breezeway is now the breakfast room. The painted ceiling, columns, and fiber optics were added to give it an outdoor feel.

◀ The castle-stone walls are actually Weathered Stone that was cut into sheets and grouted.

✓ The dining room rug is an example of how Zipperly likes to use punches of color throughout a neutral palette.



▲ Zipperly uses every possible space, including inside these lion corbels, to give everything a place.

◀ The kitchen is a blend of elegance and function. Two chandeliers unify the long space. Built-in storage and amenities make it a true workspace.





Zipperly worked with Barbara Tattersfield Stone Design to create griffins and niches in the fireplace.

The 20-foot ceiling in this room made scale an important factor. Cabinetmaker Doug Johnson of Southwood Cabinets used Zipperly's design to create the 17-foot-tall media center. It houses a theater screen, a large-screen TV for everyday viewing, and sound equipment. Both columns feature doors and drawers for storage.

"In my life, everything has a place and a function," says Zipperly.

Jura stone, a fossilized stone from Germany, is used as flooring throughout the great room, wine room, and kitchen. It minimizes the wear caused by the couple's two dogs.



The kitchen is a blend of elegance and function. The cabinetry is faux-finished alder that looks like burlled walnut. Bahama Gold granite spans the length of the center island. Atlantic Black granite tops cabinets around the cooktop. Both are of triple thicknesses for a luxurious look. Two large single-bowl, hammered-copper sinks add character and fit their needs.

"We went looking for the sink with our biggest frying pan in hand," Zipperly says. "Jim wanted to make sure it fit into the sink."

The kitchen needed to be a work of art and a workspace. Double ovens are set behind cabinet doors. Cutting boards and knife storage are tucked into the design. A hole in the granite allows for easy disposal while cooking.

"Jim is a cook. I want it to be pretty, and he wants it to be functional," she says.

Besides storage for serving dishes, Zipperly says the island "was really designed as a workstation for the kids while in the kitchen." The lion corbels pull out to hold file folders, notebooks, and markers. The whole home has wireless Internet, but island ports speed homework research.

"I use every inch of space," says Zipperly. "I want everything to have a place. If everything has a spot and we all know where that spot is, it keeps the stress level down. Removing clutter also helps me from a design standpoint by keeping my mind clear." ■



▲▲ The living room features some of the homeowners' art collection by Jamali.

▲ The master bedroom's blue-and-cream silk bedding and curtains give the room a soft, romantic feel.

◀ Mahogany wood, antique Oriental rugs, a French chandelier, Swarovski crystal knobs, and a stained-glass waterfall create a true retreat in the master bath.