



A HOUSE WITH A VIEW

Design elements in this home refresh came together to enhance its best natural feature – breathtaking views of Lake Blue Ridge

BY CAROLINE VAN BAVEL
PHOTOS BY DANIELLE ATKINSON DIMENSIONAL PRODUCTIONS

This waterfront home on Lake Blue Ridge got a major refresh, with a goal of being beautiful while not detracting from the singular most beautiful thing—the view! The magnificent view of the lake and the North Georgia mountains is visible from every room, including the rooms upstairs and the terrace.

“You see it everywhere. It is such a central piece of that house,” said Jenny Warner, owner of Atlanta-based J Thomas designs, who worked with her long-term clients to execute their vision. “We thought about that when designing and also when we picked out everything. We didn’t want anything to stop the eye from looking out.” Doing so meant selecting subtle colors and using soft but visually interesting fabrics. Warner selected fabrics with lots of texture that “felt cozy and looked welcoming.”

“We also wanted accents, but something that wouldn’t draw your eye right to it,” she said. “That meant very subtle color: “no navy, but small hints of soft blue.”

SUBTLE SERENITY

Warners’ clients purchased this home as a refuge from their busy lives in Atlanta. Having also worked with them on their primary residence, she came to be very familiar with their desired styles and taste. As a designer who usually loves working with bold colors, she says that using a muted palate for this project was not difficult at all.

“When you see that view, you automatically want the house to be a gorgeous something, but nothing to detract. It was easy to embrace that in this house!”

The main living space, of course, showcases the view, utilizing a furniture orientation that allows the window to be visible from

In the main living space of this lakefront home, furniture orientation, subtle colors and the absence of obscuring window treatments ensure the focal point remains the room’s breathtaking view.

An overhaul to the primary bathroom included slabs of quartz by Cambria, a curbless shower floor and backlit mirror to create a bright, clean space.



also allowed the space to continue to be visually uncomplicated. “It is just so clean and fresh—like you are in a little fresh box,” Warner said. A backlit mirror makes the entire room glow and a commercial wallpaper in a soothing shade gives the room texture and provides an almost indestructible surface.

END GAME

Warners’ background practically demanded her current profession. With parents that renovated and sold lakehouses as a hobby when she was a child and a personal background in pottery creation and sales, she opened an interior design store in Atlanta. One store turned to two and the offering of interior design services. When the interior design section of her business took off, Warner knew she was doing exactly what she was meant to do.

Warners’ guidance for someone currently embarking on a remodel is a reminder that “it can be very difficult to keep the end result in mind when selecting every material, lamp, end tables or wall color,” she said. “That is the challenge with getting the end result. You can love lots of things that you see, but that doesn’t mean it works with your current furnishings

or your desired result. Keep in mind all of the small decisions and make sure that they equal what you want the whole space to look like.”

When designing, Warner frequently uses the tagline “how will home feel to you?” as a good reference point to help clients (and others designing a space) stay true to their vision. She also recommends including sentimental pieces or special artwork to make the home your own.

“If you like something it can usually be incorporated and it gives depth to project. It makes it more storied and makes it your own.” *NGL*

most seats. The subtle colors that Warner mentioned along with the absence of obscuring window treatments achieves the goal of taking in the beauty and an immediate feeling of serenity. The TV placement, off center and nestled into the built-in bookcase, also sends the message that looking at anything other than the scenic landscape is not the primary function of the space. Soft accent pieces in muted watercolors only enhance the natural beauty.

The primary bathroom also received quite the overhaul, resulting in a spa-like oasis. The customers’ desire for no grout lines (a woman after my own heart) led to using slabs of quartz by Cambria for each shower wall, the window surround, and the tub encasement. A curbless shower floor added to the ease of use and

