

173 WINNERS!

Atlanta

NEW RESTAURANTS

DOGGIE DAYCARE
ARTIST TO WATCH
DENIM DESTINATION
THAI FOOD
NEW PUBLIC GARDEN
NEW WOMEN'S
BOUTIQUE
ALTERATIONS
LINGERIE BOUTIQUE
NEW WINE BAR
LUNCHTIME
INDULGENCE

BEST OF Atlanta

AFFORDABLE STYLE
DINING DEAL
NEW SOMMELIER
LOCAL JEWELRY
DESIGNER
COCKTAIL TREND
NEW HAIR SALON
PLACE TO FIX
YOUR TV
NEW MUSIC VENUE
SOUL FOOD
SANDWICHES
MUSIC FESTIVAL
IRREVERENT
KARAOKE



10

NEIGHBORHOOD GEMS

INCLUDING WESTSIDE'S

SUBLINE DOUGHNUTS





INSIDE LOOK

It's All About You

Milk & Honey designers add personality to every room

by LISA MOWRY

INTERIOR HOMEOWNER AMY MINNICK WON A \$50,000 ROOM MAKEOVER FROM HGTV WITH a home video highlighting her "Southern dysfunction" style (her daughter quipped that the kitchen was "bipolar"). For the payoff renovation, aired last month on the network's *Design Wars*, Minnick chose Roswell decorator Anisa Darnell.

Darnell and her design partner, Julie Holloway, first gained notice via Holloway's blog, Milk & Honey Home. A few years ago, finding herself at home with two young sons and a languishing master's degree in English, Holloway began chronicling her own decorating projects. "I remember being thrilled when I had twelve followers," says Holloway, who now gets 1,000 hits or more a day. When readers started requesting design services, Holloway teamed up with Darnell.

Any decorator can make a house look cute, but Darnell and Holloway are known for giving rooms a personal slant. "We want every room to have purpose and meaning," explains Darnell. Think of their look as "sentimental chic." For the Minnicks, for example, the decorators commissioned silhouettes of each family member, then matted them with damask paper surrounded by glossy white frames for a more contemporary presentation.

As their blog name suggests, Darnell and Holloway's style has a vintage, old-fashioned charm. But while they might use Grandmother's side table, a modern lamp and funky accessories are likely nearby for contrast.

The Minnick family room includes plenty of Milk & Honey trademark looks:

Start with white. "When you're in a white room, you feel more calm," says Darnell. In the Minnick's home, they transformed nondescript walls by installing white horizontal wood planks.

A collage wall. Rather than hang cheap art or blow the budget on one large painting, the Milk & Honey designers often hang an array of meaningful items gallery-style. Family photos in a variety of frames were unified by printing them all in sepia tones.

Function and form. The Minnicks enjoy playing Wii games, which often require floor space, so Darnell chose a coffee table on wheels that is easy to roll out of the way for video-game bowling.

Pillows as art. An offbeat collection of throw pillows includes a range of sizes and patterns.

Inspiration. Darnell creates word art for clients by stenciling words on faux-aged canvasses. For the Minnicks, she chose a proverb that begins, "By wisdom a house is built." ■