

Living in Atlanta

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Fabulous feasts

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Own a piece of history

This contemporary Roswell development dates back to the 1800s

By Lori Johnston

Beginning in the entryway, John and Patsy Hyatt own pieces of history in their modern, stylish Roswell home.

Heart pine floorboards dating back to the 1840s have been reused as doors, turning the floors from mill workers' row houses into an eye-catching greeting. Theirs and other units in The Bricks capture a sense of history by incorporating tin roof shingles from the original 166-year-old building of the same name into kitchen backsplashes and using other reclaimed items.

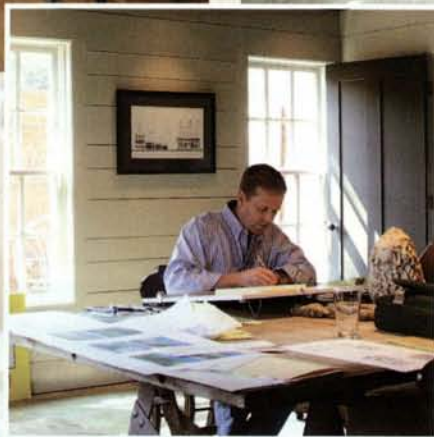
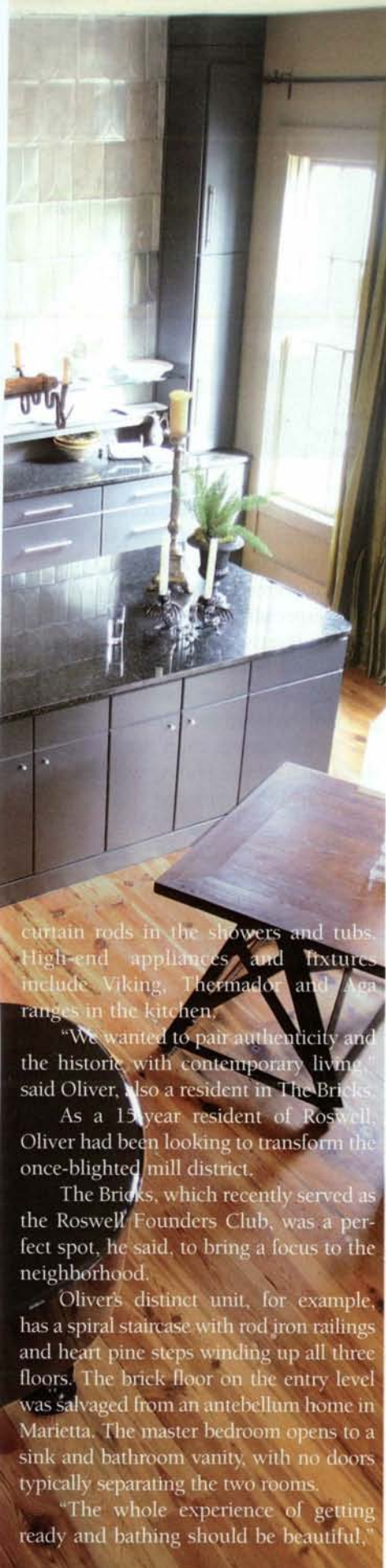
"We personally think it's great. You can't get it back to the way it was in 1838 and who would want it that way? But we think that the historical aspects of it were maintained," said John Hyatt, who moved into The Bricks from a single-family home in Dunwoody.

The Macallan Group LLC transformed the original Bricks into four row

homes, keeping the exposed brick walls — after removing years of paint — and fireplaces in nearly every room. The floors were lowered to raise the ceilings from seven and a half feet to nine feet, and throughout the construction process, they uncovered musket balls, boots and other war remnants. In the construction of five new townhouses, they incorporated as much of the past as possible through features and accessories.

"We're trying to keep everything that was original," said Wade Chappell, a Macallan partner.

Partnering with architect Lew Oliver, they also created open and upscale interiors in the Sloan Street development, which has homes beginning at \$598,000. And they have incorporated all the modern amenities into the older parts of the building, including mission-style cabinets and doors and, in the bathroom, countertops, stone floors, subway tile, and galvanized



PHOTOS/SPECIAL/ALLISON SHIRREFFS

curtain rods in the showers and tubs. High-end appliances and fixtures include Viking, Thermador and Aga ranges in the kitchen.

“We wanted to pair authenticity and the historic with contemporary living,” said Oliver, also a resident in The Bricks. As a 15-year resident of Roswell, Oliver had been looking to transform the once-blighted mill district.

The Bricks, which recently served as the Roswell Founders Club, was a perfect spot, he said, to bring a focus to the neighborhood.

Oliver’s distinct unit, for example, has a spiral staircase with rod iron railings and heart pine steps winding up all three floors. The brick floor on the entry level was salvaged from an antebellum home in Marietta. The master bedroom opens to a sink and bathroom vanity, with no doors typically separating the two rooms.

“The whole experience of getting ready and bathing should be beautiful,”

60 SECONDS WITH AN ARCHITECT OF THE BRICKS

Lew Oliver, both an architect of and resident in The Bricks, also has contributed to the design of Forsyth County’s Vickery; Serenbe in southwest Atlanta; the Florida communities of Celebration and Rosemary Beach; as well as the redevelopment of downtown Woodstock and Norcross.

about contrast — the past, the present and the future.

▶ **Why are people so drawn to residential communities that feel historic?** When you’re creating a development from scratch, it’s all about creating a sense of place and destination. Most subdivisions, they have no sense of place, and it’s all about the house itself.

▶ **How do you do it in your row home?** In my daughter’s bedroom, I’ve paired a Greek revival-style chair with a green suede headboard and a clear acrylic piece of furniture. It’s an odd mixture of things that should be discordant, but they actually complement.

▶ **How would you describe the style of The Bricks?** Mid-19th century meets the future, for lack of better words. It’s all

▶ **What tips would you give folks trying to accomplish that look?** Pair complementing, but opposing, textures. The same thing with colors — pair monochromatic colors with an occasional jolt. You put an old crusty rock and some beat-up bricks with something reflective and with something opulent and soft.

— Lori Johnston

Oliver said. "You create beauty in everyday living habits."

It's not the first time he's planned a space in that way. As the lead concept designer for the Mansion Hotel in Savannah's Forsyth Park, Oliver took the walls out of the bathroom, putting the water closet and shower in their own areas.

"It takes a normal kind of guest room experience and turns it into a spa experience just by removing the walls," he said.

At The Bricks, the details are clean, crisp and elegant, from the baseboards to the chandeliers. Some row homes have rooms with windows on all sides, showcasing the valley views and flooding the spaces with light.

"When you do minimum, it's not easier, it's harder," Oliver said. "You have to have real pine floors when you do minimum. The lock set has to be something beautiful because everything else is simple. You actually think a little more about design."

Outside, the homes have covered balconies, courtyards and two-car



PHOTO/SPECIAL/ALLISON SHIRREFFS

John and Patsy Hyatt say they are "more than comfortable" in their two-bedroom row home at The Bricks.

garages in an internal auto court. The three- and four-bedroom homes, which range from 2,500 square feet to 3,500 square feet, are within walking distance of the Roswell Mill, The Shops of Historic Roswell, Town Square and the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area.

"We loved what they were doing at The Bricks and we loved Roswell," Hyatt said. "It's the kind of place where you walk to church, walk to the

restaurants, walk to the hardware store."

Chappell admits the units are smaller than the typical \$600,000 home, but that seems to be the attraction for some, especially empty nesters.

The Hyatts did originally wonder if they would feel cramped, coming from a 6,000-square-foot Dunwoody home to a two-bedroom row home.

"We're more than comfortable," Hyatt said. "We're finding we have storage space we're not using." **LiA**