

SIMPLY STYLISH



HOME Tailored and tech-savvy P40

Above the garage is a bunk bedroom hidden behind a secret bookcase door. The Loudermilks' teen daughter, Mina, loves to pile in here for sleepovers with pals from her school's basketball team.

Photo: Sara Hanna Photography

A custom home builder's own custom home.



Above: The Loudermilks live in their sunroom. Surrounded on three sides by sharp-lined steel windows, it lets in ample light for work meetings, reading, cocktail hour or morning coffee. And when the sun becomes harsh midday, it's automatically filtered by self-lowering shades.



Above: Married 17 years, Sherwin and Roane Loudermilk own and operate Buckhead-based Loudermilk Homes, a highly acclaimed custom home building company whose clients include A-listers and athletes with discriminating tastes.

TAILORED AND TECH-SAVVY

A custom home builder's state-of-the-art Buckhead residence

STORY: Kate Abney
PHOTOS: Sara Hanna

Considering his 12 years as a luxury custom home builder, it's easy to understand why Sherwin Loudermilk's personal Buckhead residence is so gobsmackingly impressive.

And since it's situated on such a narrow Buckhead corner lot (.76 acres in total), its footprint necessitated numerous city-sanctioned setbacks, making the process of building a large, five-bedroom home a bit of a puzzle.

"We had all these pieces of paper that we cut out and started moving around, almost like Legos, to see where things would fit," says Sherwin's wife, Roane, a real estate agent who also scouts the land they build upon, liaises with interior designers and handles marketing. For her family's own residence, she acted as general contractor—and then some.

As with all Loudermilk Homes projects, the couple was able to dictate exactly what they desired via sophisticated drafting documents, then hand it over to a local architectural firm for engineering and minor tweaks. The result? An L-shaped layout composed of striking

modular volumes (rectilinear architectural building blocks) behind a smooth stucco facade. Inside boasts 3-foot-wide doorways, 12-and-a-half-foot ceilings, contemporary finishes and—the piece de resistance—a spacious kitchen featuring loads of workable counter space and a minimum of 4 feet fronting the island. The cooking space is the room from which all the others flow. A family room blends imperceptibly into the kitchen, and this is expanded via a spacious porch, accessed by floor-to-ceiling glass "moving walls" and outfitted with a mod fire pit featuring cut-glass gems.

It's one of Roane's favorite places to take her morning coffee, or a nap, and it overlooks teen daughter Mina's home basketball court under the beautiful canopy of a purple flowering tree. But the three Loudermilks' favorite space? The neighboring sunroom, surrounded on three sides by clean-lined, iron-framed windows.

"In our old house, we had a sunroom that we lived in. So we knew we had to have one here," Roane explains. "We eat here, hang out here,

Right: The formal dining room features a handsome Shine by S.H.O. table from the Loudermilks' former town, Laguna Beach. It accommodates a crowd for their frequent dinner parties. The chandelier is from Restoration Hardware, one of Roane's favorite Buckhead resources.

Below: The family's enormous and inviting kitchen has both a work and dining island, shades of soothing gray, top-of-the-line appliances from Miele to Electrolux and a trio of contemporary ceiling pendants in Roane's favorite metal tone, brass.



Above: The Loudermilk's formal living room features a glossy grand piano and delicate Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams settee. The diptych is one of two pairs flanking the home's foyer and features original photography that local artist Pezhman Deljou captured in Norway, then enhanced by pouring channels of wax down its surface.

"We're outdoors people, and it's like having that inside." – Roane Loudermilk

read, talk, discuss business, whatever. We're outdoors people, and it's like having that inside."

At the front of the home, a flanking pair of formal spaces delivers traditional comforts in a modern, new construction setting. This includes the Loudermilks' elegant living room, with its 100-year-old grand piano and room-hugging Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams settee, and the parallel dining space, with its oversize Restoration Hardware chandelier and spacious dining table from the family's favorite Laguna Beach resource, Shine by S.H.O.

"We lived in Laguna Beach for a few years before returning to Atlanta," Roane reveals, which explains their cool California interior design and décor. This front-of-house setup is well suited to entertaining, since they host

intimate gatherings nearly every weekend and large parties every six weeks or so.

The entire first-floor perimeter is stocked with entertaining essentials, from a handsome bar with genteel details shaped like X's and enervous cabinets that stock cookware and serving pieces to a fully equipped butler's kitchen that gives service staff a place to prep every course of the evening while tucked neatly out of sight.

Not far beyond is the door to the 25-by-10-foot mudroom. Featuring heated tile floors, it serves as a dog run for the family's two rescue Dachshunds and houses a wall-to-wall shoe closet that stores their everyday and active footwear.

While a stunning stairwell sits at the heart

of this home, the route up the back stairs is much more fun—up and over the garage, a secret door (a rotating bookcase, actually) leads to a built-in bunkroom where Mina loves to pile in with friends from her basketball team at the Atlanta International School.

Beyond the bunkroom's linear sleeping quarters are the home's most personal domains: a casual hangout room, stylish guest suite and Mina's own bed and bath. Featuring tile selections she picked herself and on-trend furnishings from Restoration Hardware Teen, it represents a 14-year-old girl's decorating dream (touches of paisley, Moroccan poufs and girly Z Gallerie artwork).

The main stair hall also leads to the slightly more private master suite, where Roane ▶

HOME

Right: The sleek porch includes water-resistant, woven seating and a modular fireplace surround with shining glass fragments at its center. As with almost everything in the residence, it's connected to the on-site computer, so the warming flames can be controlled on demand.

and Sherwin have their treasured sleeping spot, sitting area and a spacious master bath outfitted with a salon-style vanity chair and a cutting-edge, built-in, acoustic soaking tub. "In lieu of jets, it actually vibrates to the music of your favorite songs," Roane notes.

Despite this home's many design virtues, technology is perhaps its most exciting element. Tech-savvy Sherwin, who previously worked for eight years in web development (early dot com) and telecommunications for IBM, explains that the home has a 24-hour-accessible, on-site camera and sophisticated system of checks and balances. And it has a built-in "brain" that controls every aspect of the residence according to homeowner's preferences. Whether that means blinds that automatically lower to block harsh afternoon sun, a coffee maker that switches on when morning alarms go off or a backyard irrigation system that suspends sprinkling when the basement door opens, all of the latest conveniences are accounted for.

The Loudermilk's home also comes equipped with Amazon Alexa voice-recognition technology. Like Siri, she can complete an array of tasks upon command, everything from changing



Right: Homeowners Sherwin and Roane Loudermilk live by the mantra, "Go big or go home." Their residence has super-scaled but perfectly proportioned rooms and an open living space with access to a spacious porch.

the TV station to summoning an Uber for an evening out. "We have the most advanced Amazon Alexa integration on the East Coast," Sherwin explains of the technology that is now incorporated into all Loudermilk Homes.

Even automated fireplace controls make it easier for them to feel at home. "We want to be able to take our shoes off, curl up with a book, relax, watch TV," Sherwin says. "We want that comfort feeling... all year round." ■



Left: The master bedroom is as elegant as a boutique hotel with its towering headboard wall and inviting seating area that happens to be one of Sherwin's favorite spots for catching a nap.

Below: There are no morning traffic jams in Sherwin and Roane's expansive master bath featuring a salon-style vanity chair that makes it easy for Roane to make her hair and makeup picture perfect.

