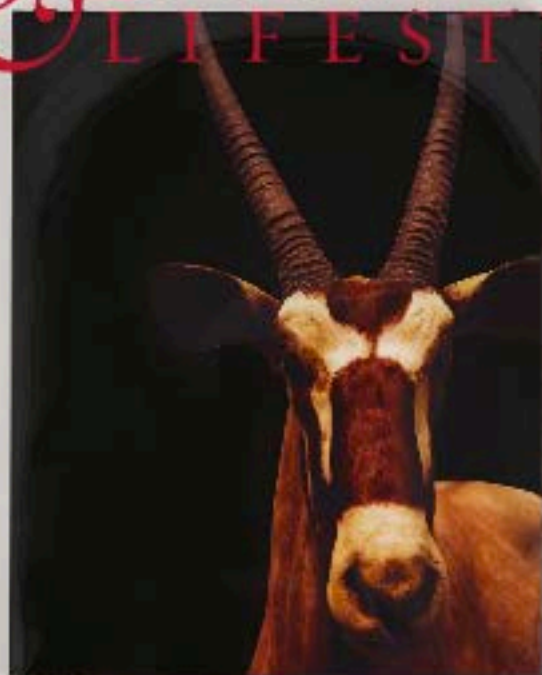


ATLANTA HOMES™ & LIFESTYLES



FRESH +
CLEAN

*Atlanta Style Now! Rising Stars,
Shutze award winners and more*

15 UNDER 40

ONES TO WATCH



ATLANTA'S RISING DESIGN TALENTS HAVEN'T JUST PAID THEIR DUES—THEY'VE CREATED PLATFORMS, INTRODUCED PRODUCTS AND ADOPTED PHILOSOPHIES THAT ARE CHANGING THE WAY WE LIVE TODAY.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY *David Christensen*

MISSY MADDEN BELLWETHER LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Brookhaven-bred Missy Madden gleaned her earliest inspirations from her aunt, Mary Jo Means, a florist who designed bouquets for the 1996 Olympics. After a strong start at HGOR and seven years at Planters—with projects from rooftop terraces for Peachtree Road penthouses to Old Edwards Inn—Madden founded Bellwether Landscape Architects with former colleague Todd Yeager in 2011. “Focusing on design and project management allows us to stay nimble,” explains Madden, who helps clients bid on budget-friendly subcontractors while collaborating with industry heavyweights like Robert Brown and Linda MacArthur. On the pro-bono circuit, she’s helped restore an Edith Henderson garden and serves on the building grounds committee for Skyland Trail, a local mental health nonprofit. Madden shies away from the overly textured garden, opting instead for perennials like Lenten roses and autumn ferns. “I think we’ve struck a chord with our contemporaries because we know how they live,” she says. “I love helping families build their dream homes.” —*Kate Hays*

SALLY KING BENEDICT ARTIST

"Making art is like having my own personal genie bottle," says artist Sally King Benedict, whose vibrant, abstract paintings have raked in critical acclaim and held a place in galleries and solo shows across the country. "I paint or create where I want to be or what I want to do. If I can't live in the Stanley Dixon house down the street, I'm going to draw a version of it for myself," she notes with a laugh. Originally from Atlanta, Benedict earned her art degree at the College of Charleston, where encouragement from mentors such as interior designer Kathleen Rivers and jewelry designer Janet Gregg helped her establish a full-time art career immediately upon graduation in 2007. In 2012, she and her husband relocated to Atlanta, where she continues to grow her business. In addition to an art show with contemporary artist Kate Long Stevenson at the Hidell Brooks Gallery in Charlotte, North Carolina, she's bringing several collaborative projects to the market this summer, including a line of letterpress note cards for Charleston-based fine paper purveyor mac & murphy. —*Chloe Rubin*



CHRIS APPLETON WONDERROOT

Chris Appleton created WonderRoot in 2004 with the belief that if Atlanta artists have support and resources, they can address civic challenges through arts-based service work. "We were interested in the intersection of art and progressive social change," says Appleton, the nonprofit's co-founder and executive director. The mission remains the same, even as WonderRoot grows in both the number of artists it assists and support from community organizations and companies. This year, a \$3.5 million renovation of a historic Reynoldstown school will create the new WonderRoot Center for Arts & Social Change, a 54,000-square-foot facility, and provide affordable private artists studios (it already has 300 applications for 45 studios). And folks are taking notice: in 2014, Appleton received a National Emerging Leader Award from Americans for the Arts. WonderRoot has paired his passion for the arts and social change with his affection for Atlanta—a dynamic combination. —*Lori Johnston*