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EXCELLENCE IN DESIGN | ATLANTA

# THE BEST INTENTIONS

High-end residential design firm Intent Design creates statement-making homes that connect homeowners to a personal oasis



ntention matters.

A house can be beautiful, stylish, and even timeless, but if it doesn't address the homeowner's needs, the design is flawed. This principle rests at the core of Willie Tarver III's design philosophy and serves as the inspiration behind the name of his high-end residential design firm, Intent Design (ID).

"We see that everything is done with intent," says Tarver. "When we meet with clients for the first time, we discuss their intention for the design—how they plan to use the home and how they want it to feel."

What begins as a conversation about the home often evolves into a discussion about clients' past, their visions of the future, and their day-to-day agenda. ID then identifies individual nuances to craft singular spaces.

## STATEMENT HOMES

Connecting with an individual client is one thing, but for two recent homes, Tarver's job expanded to working with the clients' future families in mind.

Professional athletes, both clients



**TOP:** This home's sleek façade is warmed with textures, including modern horizontal wood accents and soft gray stone. **ABOVE, FROM LEFT:** A contemporary estate is a lesson in linearity. Willie Tarver III, principal and owner.

expressed their desire to start a family in the near future. Because of this, the layouts needed a sense of bachelorhood while also functioning as a place for young children.

"When you're single, you typically seek solitude and individuality. With family, you want connectivity," he explains. "We sectioned off the houses to provide

privacy but created interior and exterior components for shared experiences."

Collaborating with contemporary builder Alan Cablik and interior designer Kai Williamson, Tarver created homes that speak to the shared dream yet reflect the identity of their inhabitants. "One is a coming-of-age story for a player at the



back half of his career," says Tarver. "He has done what he set out to do professionally and is ready for the next chapter. The home reflects this."

The other is centered on family. Both of the client's parents live with him, and siblings often visit, so it was crucial for the home to operate as a safe haven for everybody. A game room with a bowling alley, foosball, and snooker table is tastefully connected to the main home without interfering with the privacy of his own space.

## COLLABORATING WITH NATURE

As with most ID projects, both homes are strongly connected to their natural environment to work with nature rather than against it.

"Humans subconsciously desire to interact with nature," says Tarver. "Walking out to a pool backdrop by stunning landscape brings a sense of serenity."

"Home shouldn't feel like an isolated glass box," he continues. "We select doors, windows, and large openings that blur the line between interior and exterior and allow for interior air circulation. When you incorporate the wind moving throughout the house, the sound of running pool water, and the view of trees and hills, you create a refuge where you can lay your burdens down and relax."



**FROM THE TOP:** Surrounded by nature, the home is an oasis with thoughtful indoor-outdoor living areas that invite relaxation and calm. Symmetry defines the placement of windows, which provide an abundance of light inside and enhance the exterior's aesthetic. Herringbone pavers add movement and subtly contrast the home's straight edges.