

# ATLANTA HOMES *& LIFESTYLES*

CLASSIC  
ELEGANCE  
*fearless style for spring*

*plus*  
CHIC RETREATS  
& PERFECT  
POOL HOUSES

MARCH 2016  
ATLANTAHOMESMAG.COM

\$5.95US



0 71486 03342 4



Landscape architect Bill Smith's gardens are always punctuated by interesting elements, such as a brick-bordered quatrefoil lawn, right, a 19th-century French garden fountain, below, and one-of-a-kind architectural elements, left.



SHOP TALK:

# WILLIAM T. SMITH

*With an eye for detail and historical accuracy, the Atlanta landscape architect designs extraordinary gardens and outdoor landscapes throughout the South.*

WRITTEN BY *Suzanna Cullen Hamilton* PORTRAIT BY *Sarah Dorio*

THE LUSH GARDENS OF THE SOUTHEAST are more vibrant and bountiful due to the indelible mark by Atlanta landscape architect William T. Smith of William T. Smith & Associates, Inc. From the Georgia Governor's Mansion to private gardens throughout the South, Smith has enriched Atlanta's landscape with an abundance of perennial gardens, parterres, and one-of-a-kind outdoor environments. He is also a trustee for the Cherokee Garden Library at the Atlanta History

such as Callaway Gardens and the State Botanical Garden of Georgia.

**HOW LARGE IS YOUR PRACTICE?** *W/S:* I graduated from the University of Georgia with a degree in landscape architecture and established my practice in Atlanta in 1988. It has expanded to include all of Georgia and North Carolina—particularly Atlanta, Augusta and Highlands—but I design and oversee every garden.

**WHAT IS THE PROCESS OF LANDSCAPE DESIGN?**

science before art. There are many variables to consider when creating landscapes, such as soil, construction, drainage and maintenance, that must be determined before the creative process begins.

**HOW DO YOU BEGIN THAT PROCESS WITH NEW CLIENTS?** The process always begins with a master plan so that the issues of construction and maintenance are addressed.

**DO YOU HAVE A PREFERENCE FOR A TYPE OF GARDEN AND COLOR?** I love color, and I'm crazy about perennial gardens. However, in locations such as Highlands, I gravitate towards white so that the real garden—the view of the Blue Ridge Mountains—is not obstructed.

**WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE FLOWERS OR PLANTS?** My favorites are foxgloves, delphiniums, peonies, terrestrial orchids and anything blue. I also love Japanese maples, billowing English boxwoods, clipped parterres and all ferns.

**WHICH TYPES OF GARDENS DO YOU MOST FREQUENTLY DESIGN?** Because of the seasons and natural landscape of the Southeast, I'm fortunate to create many types of gardens, including perennial gardens, parterres, herb gardens, shade gardens and water features.

**WHAT OTHER SERVICES DOES YOUR PRACTICE OFFER?** I create entire landscape environments, so I source antique architectural objects including fountains, garden ornaments and millstones. I also design garden houses and landscapes for weddings and special