M. DEANE JOHNSON

Johnson, Williams & Harris, LLC

For nearly 100 years, the family of Deane Johnson has been building beautiful residences throughout Atlanta. One could say that architecture and real estate has been their lifelong passion.

In 1908, Deane's great-grandfather, John Lampkin Harper entered the real estate firm of Sturgeon Realty Company and in 1911, he founded Harper Realty Company. John's wife Adelle founded Harper's Flowers on the corner of West Peachtree Street and 14th, employing two of her sons, Doyal Alexander and architect, William Bartlett. Before going to work at the flower shop, William designed many homes in Buckhead for the famed architectural firm, Cooper and Cooper. The next generation continued the businesses with Adelle's daughter, Auverne Harper Brady, operating Harper's Flowers for 50 years. She celebrated her 98th birthday in December 2006. John Lampkin Harper, Jr. began working for the established realty firm and the Harper family eventually sold their private residence on West Paces Ferry to the Atlanta Historical Society where the Atlanta History Center now graces the original home site. They since have sold their florist business property on West Peachtree and the IBM building now stands in its place. Amazingly, both sides of Deane's family were in the real estate

LEFT:
Inspired by the Owens-Thomas House in Savannah, Georgia, this English Regency style residence has graced the cover of Southern Accents magazine twice; first in December 1998 and again in January 2007.
Photograph by Pam Smart

world and his paternal grandmother, Rebecca Morris Johnson was a successful broker with Pete Klein Realty, Brannan & Schmitz Realty and Harry Norman Realtors.

Prior to joining the family business himself, Deane completed coursework in building science at Auburn University, earned a bachelor's degree in business and behavior from Oglethorpe University and a master's degree in divinity from New Orleans Seminary. Deane learned the essentials of the custom homebuilding business for 12 years from his father at the Bob Johnson Development Company. Deane's father, Robert (Bob) Morris Johnson, founded R.M. Johnson Builders, Inc. in 1956 influencing the look of Atlanta architecture in the '50s and '60s from the trend of Ranch style houses to the more traditional architecture we associate with present-day Atlanta. His visionary father also pioneered the development of North Harbor and Breakwater communities along the banks of the Chattahoochee River.

Growing up in an aesthetically rich environment, Deane learned the importance of colors, texture and creativity in design. Deane's thorough study of old Atlanta has provided the contextual foundation for his firm to recreate traditional, historic residences using modern building technologies and products. Since incorporating in 1984, Deane Johnson and company has taken the building business to a new level in Atlanta. They lovingly restored one of the most famous Georgian homes in the area which suffered severe fire damage

ABOVE:
The terrace overlooks 18 acres of pristine pasture and is supported by 4,000-pound computer-lathed, solid limestone Doric columns with carved matching limestone balustrade.
Photograph by Pam Smart

FACING PAGE:
The foyer stays true to its fascination with the Regency details of geometric shapes and classical proportions.
Photograph by Pam Smart

ABOVE:
The Isaiah Thomas House was inspired by the renowned classical Georgian architecture of the 1930s characteristic of the historic Buckhead community in Atlanta.
Photograph by Johnson & Harris, LLC

FACING PAGE TOP:
An oil-rubbed mahogany library adds authenticity to this Georgian Home. The cleverly hidden door to the master suite is located behind the custom bookcases and easily pulls out on precision-engineered ball bearing hinges.
Photograph by Vawter Vision at Jenny Pruitt & Associates

FACING PAGE BOTTOM:
Georgian elements in proper proportion create both function and light in a pyramid-vaulted breakfast room and state-of-the-art kitchen.
Photograph by Vawter Vision at Jenny Pruitt & Associates

in 2000. Their work was acknowledged and the firm received The Georgia Trust 2003 Preservation Award for Excellence in Rehabilitation. This estate is the most photographed home in Atlanta, and as legend has it, actors Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh held a lavish party for the premiere of the film classic "Gone With the Wind" at this very residence. The gracious historical home was featured in the March-April 2007 issue of Veranda magazine.

Recently, Deane's firm built out the North Penthouse tower at 2500 Peachtree Road to become one client's urban "city" home for elegant entertaining. The interior look was created by a well-known Parisian designer. This home boasts the most expensive square footage of any residence in the city of Atlanta. Even the smallest details are masterfully executed, from the salon's floors with diamond-patterned unglazed Negev limestone and waxed antique wood to the master bathroom, complete with book matched honey-onyx and colored glass tile, oversized onyx-clad soaking Bain massage bathtub and 14-carat gold fixtures. The spectacular and unique penthouse has become a "cover story" appearing in the Winter 2007 issue of the Atlanta Registry magazine.

Another impressive Deane Johnson Atlanta development is West Paces Park, a private gated community near the landmark Governor's mansion. West Paces Park is a 12-plus acre community built to feel as though you were driving into a neighborhood built in the 1920s and 1930s. Deane commissioned Bill Harrison & Associates, William T. Baker, Spitzmiller & Norris and John Oetgen & Associates to recreate the look and feel of old Buckhead.

The most expensive renovation in the city is also attributed to Johnson & Williams, LLC. A two-year renovation on West Conway took the residence from 14,000 to 25,000 square feet. The home was originally built by Johnson & Williams, LLC for Neiman Marcus and Southern Accents magazine as the original Holiday House to benefit AID Atlanta. Southern Accents magazine featured this custom residence as the front cover photograph for the December 1998 issue, and again in January 2007 after its renovation. This home boasts the most elaborate spaces found in the Southeastern United States from barreled tongue-in-groove Pecky Cypress ceilings in the living area, to custom designed formal mouldings, hand-carved Corinthian columns, imported French and Mediterranean limestone floors and twin 18th century Italian lead crystal chandeliers.

Deane's relationship with these clients extends far beyond a standard business relationship. In 2002, Deane was invited to host his wedding ceremony and reception in the front yard of the West Conway residence, and today their families are still close. Deane also has friendships with many of his contractors, especially Don Cloud, who was Deane's father's electrician in 1968 before he left to serve our

TOP LEFT:
With panoramic city views, this hand-milled, antique heart pine kitchen is wrapped with 100-year-old heart pine beams, ceilings and ship-lapped walls.
Photograph by Pam Smart

BOTTOM LEFT:
Cypress is the beautiful wood of choice for this custom gourmet kitchen featuring built-in custom cabinetry and a massive butcher block island.
Photograph by Pam Smart

FACING PAGE LEFT:
Pecky cypress barrel-vaulted ceiling warms this authentic Regency family space. Custom metal doors crafted in England flank the high-tech entertainment center—an automated wood panel raises and lowers at the push of a button to reveal the flat-screen television.
Photograph by Pam Smart

FACING PAGE RIGHT:
The Parisian interior designer's sophisticated touch is evident in the grand salon of this elegant penthouse—an urban residential project boasting the most expensive cost-per-square-foot in the Southeast.
Photograph by Pam Smart

ABOVE:
This romantic French Normandy country manor with its pleasing combination of tumbled limestone, painted clinkered brick and authentic Spanish slate roof is the personal home of the featured builder.
Photograph by Johnson & Williams, LLC

FACING PAGE:
In keeping with the Classical homes of old Atlanta, this glorious master bath is enveloped by a series of intersecting groin vaults, a signature of the refined details one can expect in a Deane Johnson home.
Photograph by Vawter Vision at Jenny Pruitt & Associates

country in Vietnam. Don is still on the job everyday and is one of Deane's dearest friends.

Deane has recently partnered with Ed Grenvicz, Jim Elliot, Joel Griffin, Richard Williams and Richard Harris. Following his father's dream, Deane has expanded his career into residential land development partnering with his younger brother, Cyrus Johnson, and Jody Pierce. This relationship has led to a building partnership with Sonny and Bray Devours. According to Deane, their company, Brayson Homes, "builds a superior product that I feel represents the quality on which I would base my own reputation."

Deane sees the building business as an opportunity to make a difference in the community. In addition to the Holiday House for AID Atlanta, the Regent Park House at West Paces Park, the Georgian House and the Art Atlanta 2005 Art House were sold to raise funds benefiting the American Diabetes Association, Georgia Transplant Foundation, Heartline Ministries and Child Kind, to name a few.

As the love of building and architecture has been handed down to him, Deane is creating a living legacy for his children and generations to come. Deane believes that his role as builder can be likened to the director of an orchestra conducting a highly talented group of accomplished artists, all working in concert together to create lasting historical architecture.

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