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Historic Roswell Homes Undergo Revitalization

Visit The Bricks, a row of restored Roswell homes dating back to the 1800s, and you'll find doors made from century-old pine floorboards and fireplaces composed of hand-formed antebellum bricks. But these nine homes – originally apartments for Roswell's cotton mill workers – are anything but dated.

Developer The Macallan Group recently teamed up with designer and town planner Lew Oliver to restore and modernize these residences while preserving their historic value. The result is a uniquely simplistic look that combines modern conveniences with antiquated architecture.

"We wanted to incorporate historic materials and create an elegant, casual look without pretense," said Oliver, project designer and partner. "We used minimalist architecture and authentic materials to take everyday living and make it comfortable."

The goal of the project, Oliver said, is to bring about positive change in Roswell by preserving old buildings and redeveloping the historic district, thus attracting younger people to a community once heavy with old-timers.

Located on Sloan Street one block east of Roswell Road, these three-story homes range from 2,500 to 3,500 square feet,



each containing three-and-a-half bathrooms and three or four bedrooms. The floors have been lowered to create the higher ceilings required by today's standards, and modern appliances like elevators and Thermador ovens have been installed. The Bricks boasts open spaces, sometimes without walls to separate the kitchen from living and dining areas. Windows abound, creating a natural, balanced feeling.

The original structure of the buildings has been preserved. Oliver also found creative ways to use historic materials in the homes; he decorated the backsplash of one kitchen with the tin roofing tiles from an antebellum Marietta house.

In addition, each of the nine homes has a private, walled-in, outdoor living area like a garden or courtyard plus covered balconies. They are within walking distance of Historic Roswell's town square and park, providing the perfect setting for a social neighborhood community.

"People are beginning to talk [outside] after work like in Savannah or Charleston or even in Europe," Oliver said. "I can envision people walking their dogs [together] and throwing block parties. This place is coming back to life, and that's the most important thing."

Four of the homes are available for sale; prices start at \$598,000. For more information on The Bricks, call 404-367-1010 or visit www.thebricksroswell.com.

— By Carly Felton



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