

SOUTHERN

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# SEASONS

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NASHVILLE  
CALLING

FASHION  
PREVIEW

SOCIETY

# The Estate

WEDDINGS, EVENTS &  
MOMENTS IN BETWEEN





# The EB

## *Tony Conway's Artful Great Southern Vixen*

BY EILEEN GORDON

**T**his 200-year-old home has somehow survived for longer than most homes could. Tony Conway describes, “The great Southern lady had great bones. We restored her to her vibrant youth without erasing her history.” She sits on a rare three acres of prime central Buckhead real estate enveloped by trees. How could this remarkable home not be revived to thrive in the 21st century?

TWILIGHT PHOTO OF THE ESTATE BY DENIS REGGIE



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*Restoration of a*





**“This is the superb restoration and preservation of one of the oldest homes in the South. Harmonious elements easily came together to create this venue which is anchored in time, not stuck in time,” said Bill Lowe.**

What’s surprising is that The Estate sat for nearly six decades, primarily known as Anthony’s restaurant and then the short-lived Atlanta Yacht Club. It was quietly decaying over time and ignored to a large part during the more robust economy of the late 20th century. Then, after 2008 in the worst economic climate (especially for real estate development), the right players came together under the vision and inspiration of Tony Conway, and this once grand home was lifted back through time to its late 18th century grandeur.

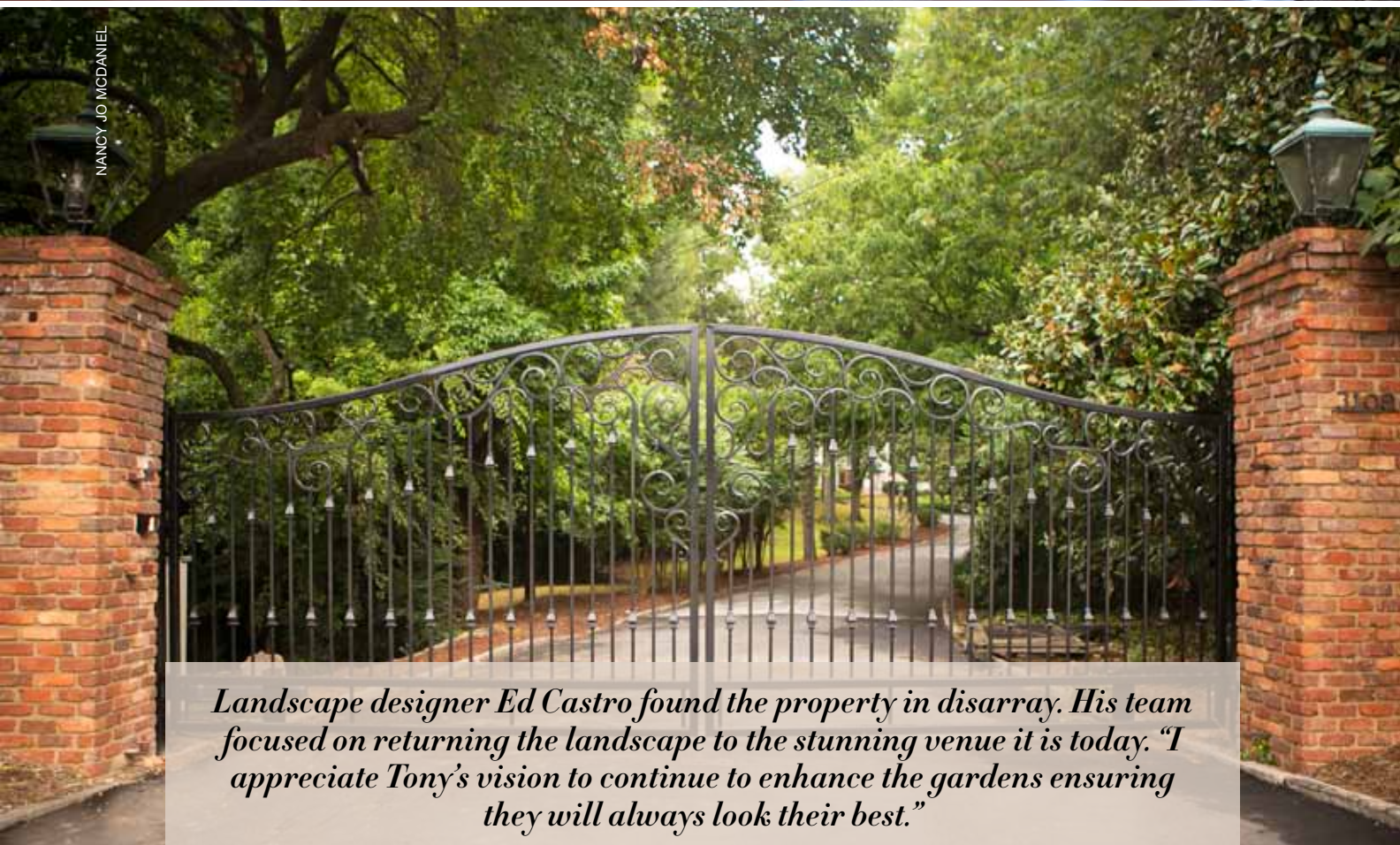
Real estate developer Jim Cumming purchased property surrounding what was Anthony’s in the early ’80s. He attempted to purchase the home itself, but was told it was not for sale. Then in the mid ’90s he was approached to buy the property and did. He loved this island of green space with beautiful trees and the historic home in the midst of

Buckhead’s concrete business district. The 3-plus acre parcel lined up nicely with surrounding properties he owned. Turning this investment into a profitable one proved to be challenging.

Jim contacted Tony Conway to bring the dream to life. “Tony is a gift to this city,” Jim says. “He has recreated this historic home into The Estate and has made it function as a service to the community. He assembled the most amazing team of facilitators to set the stage for the legendary events taking place within this unique venue.”

These key players were under the direction of Tony’s project manager Steve Welsh, creative director of A Legendary Event. They included, of course, property owner Jim Cumming, interior designers Ben Collins with Mitchell Gold/Bob Williams, art dealer Bill Lowe, Ed Castro for





*Landscape designer Ed Castro found the property in disarray. His team focused on returning the landscape to the stunning venue it is today. "I appreciate Tony's vision to continue to enhance the gardens ensuring they will always look their best."*





JILLANN HERTTEL

landscaping and a slew of artisans and craftsmen who all simultaneously pursued this brilliant project as components in an orchestra might produce an amazing piece of music. The point was to bring this property back to its historic integrity and marry it to the 21st century to function as a simply great Southern venue for Tony's Legendary Events!

### A BRILLIANT RESTORATION

The goal was to restore the home's 18th century architecture, preserving every original element that could be saved. Tony found the original balusters for the grand staircase out in a shed on the property. They were cleaned and repaired to retake their rightful place in the home. The brick and hardwood floors were cleaned and repaired. The original wavy glass hand-wrought windows were miraculously cleaned. And the landscape was refreshed, true to the period from whence the home came.

The only elements of the home that were replaced were the bathrooms, kitchen and certain floors that could not be repaired. Here, Tony and his design team used the 18th and 19th century styles and elements of marble and granite tiles in neutral hues of black to white and in patterns of



LAUREN RUBENSTEIN



ROSS OSCAR KNIGHT





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**“From the moment I first walked into The Estate, I felt like I was in a gorgeous home, lifted through time, out of the French Quarter of New Orleans.”**

*Gail O’Neill, Southern Seasons Style Editor*

that period to simply upgrade and improve the function of these spaces. The result is so seamless that even the most discerning eyes would not be able to tell the new from the old, the renovated from the restored. Bravo, Tony!

#### THE FINISHING TOUCHES

The interior design of this home brought contemporary elements to furnish and bring function to this exquisite venue. Lead designer Ben Collins of Mitchell/Gold was nothing

less than brilliant when he selected the furnishings for The Estate. He carefully stayed within a palette of whites, ivories and dove grays for the contemporary and somewhat deco-inspired furnishings that fill the beautiful rooms, creating inviting spaces in a clean design theme. No Victorian red velvet sofas from that period are to be found! Rather, he married the home’s true structure to 21st century comfort and elegance. The result is that the interior design does not compete with the 200-year-old home, but rather showcases it.









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JIM FITTS



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## **Tony's vision became a reality: A charming and utterly Southern venue to host weddings, events, and all the moments in between.**

### **IF THESE WALLS COULD TALK!**

Bill Lowe called Tony as soon as he heard about Tony's acquisition of the home. Lowe, a well-known Atlanta and California-based art dealer specializing in upscale contemporary art, thought it might be a long shot but offered his services to Tony to curate the art for The Estate. To his delight and surprise, Tony shared his vision. Dave Lishness, president of A Legendary Event, spent

weeks with Bill Lowe selecting the art. This remarkable showplace is accessorized with a magnificent collection of paintings, brilliantly contrasting and punctuating each space. "Any home that has survived for two centuries has seen all of those 200 years, from the late 18th century to the present," Bill said. "Therefore the art reflects the contemporary more recent history of the southern culture in which she exists."



3109 PIEDMONT  
*Estate*

ESTATE AND GARDENS  
*Circa 1797*

**WEDDINGS, EVENTS,  
AND MOMENTS IN-BETWEEN**



PHOTO BY CLAUDIA MCDADE

tony conway  
**a legendary event**

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