



The home's family room is also laden with plants and 'naturals'



Ruffles edge the breakfast room garden view



Hundreds of plants warm the front entryway

Nature sets the tone

A penchant for plants and cooking set the tone for the interior design project Gay Yankee faced with one of her young Birmingham clients.

Hundreds of plants greet visitors as they enter the front hall where a giant wrought iron conservatory houses only a portion of the major plant collection of the hostess.

Quarry tile flooring protects against ruining the floors in daily watering sessions, and elegant Persian rugs beyond the watering areas help further define the space and add warmth to the large entry hall.

"Can a kitchen also be a garden?" we asked.

In the case of this client the answer was a definite 'yes.'

The garden kitchen flourishes as an extension of the garden beyond the wall-to-wall, floor-to-ceiling windows in the adjacent breakfast room. No curtaining was used on them by Mrs. Yankee as she deferred to the owner's wish to see the garden during all seasons.

The windows were framed with

fabric-covered cornices, ruffled on the edges to soften the expansive window area. Elaborate wrought iron chairs welcome eaters or conversationalists while the cook works.

The kitchen's cooking center is set on the diagonal from the rest of the room, and is open on all sides to allow more than one person to cook at a time. This was specifically done to service the client's cooking class participants and the other members of her family otherwise.

More plants, including many herbs, grow on the kitchen shelves and the tools of the cuisine are evident.

The living room on the lower floor was given a fresh contemporary design in unusual lavender and pink combinations. A dramatic fireplace enhances the room, its hearth lined with antique boxes of ferns.

Fur throws were used on the sofas to add more earthy touches to the room and hanging plants complete the scene in this natural setting.