



A LOVE  
OF MAJOLICA

FLORA



**Perennial garden and topiary cluster  
around wooden *tuteur* at entrance to  
Cay and C. D. Gann's Atlanta home.**

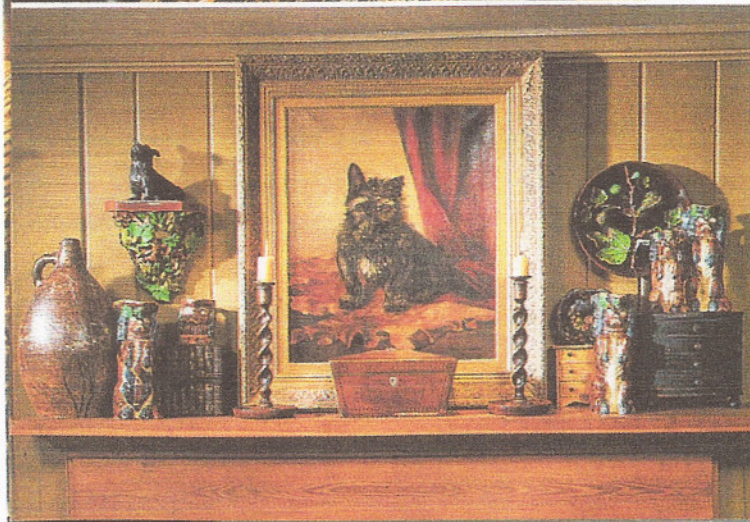
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LANDSCAPE DESIGN BY TIM STODDARD  
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Old heart-pine table holds collection of 19th-century majolica tureens, cheese domes and compotes. Child's chair in leather is rare French piece.

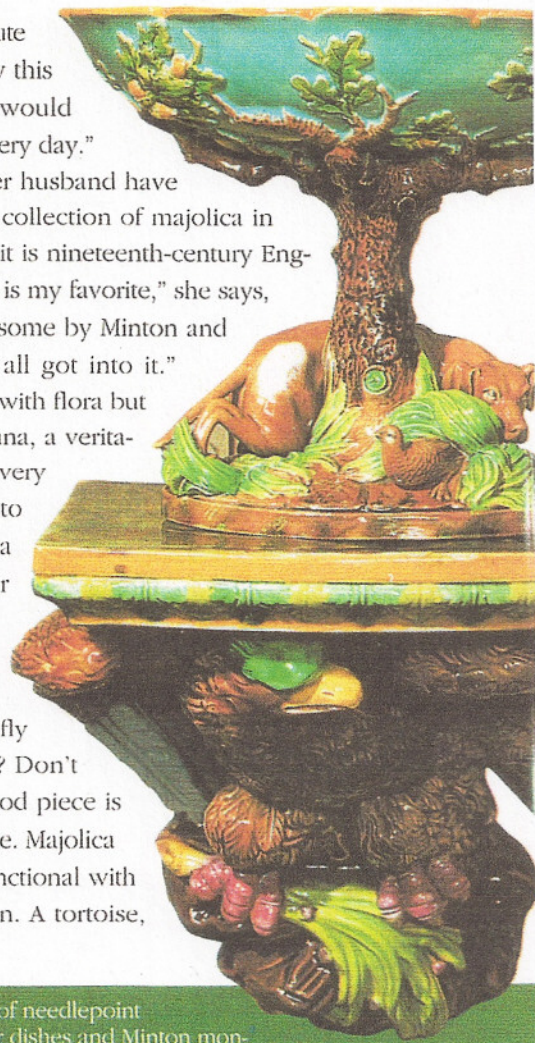




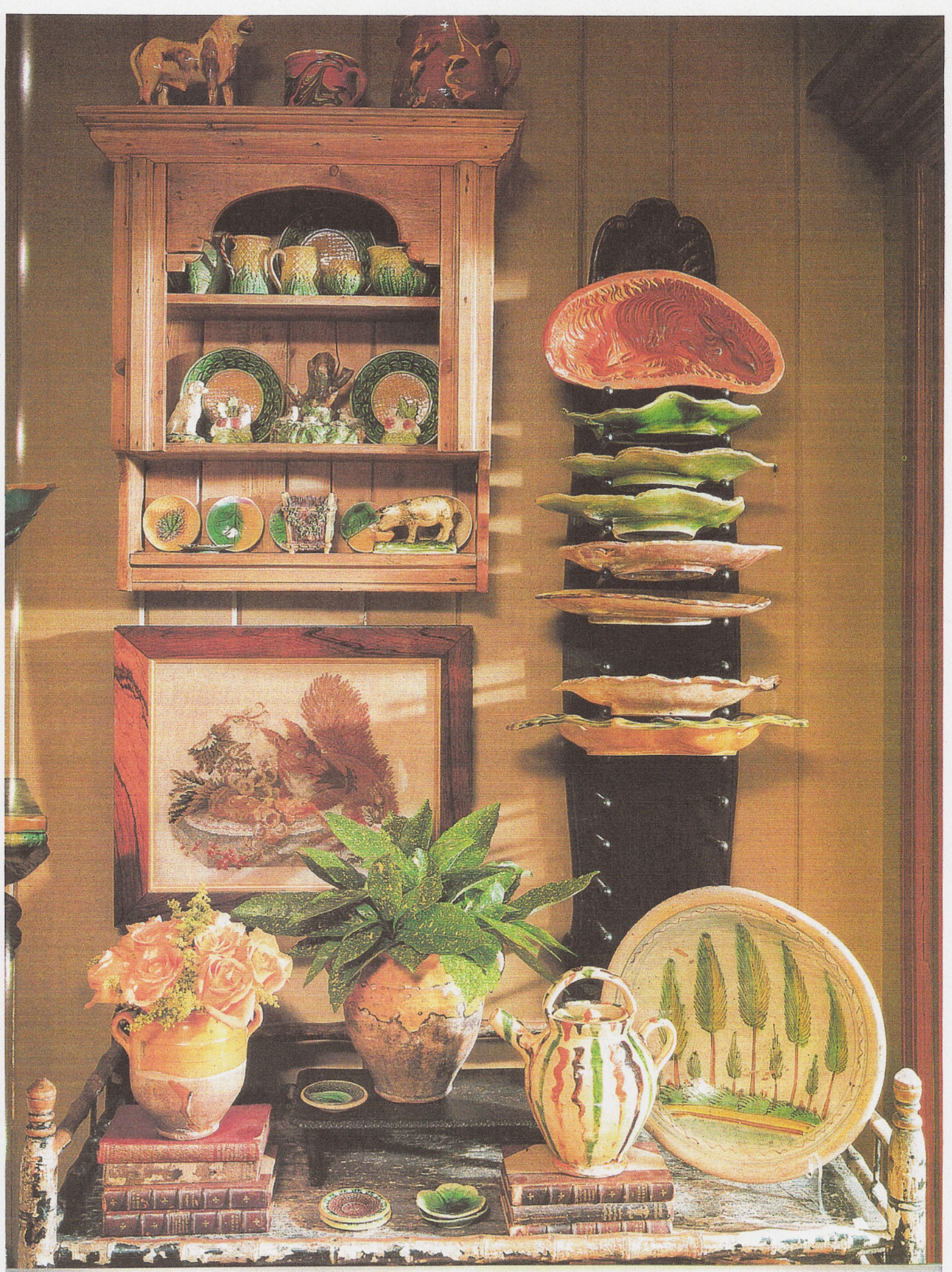
Colorful, whimsical, filled with charming surprises inside and out, the Atlanta home of Cay and C. D. Gann reflects the welcoming spirit of its owners.

Step inside and it's immediately evident that Cay Gann is a collector. She collects with passion and an expert eye. "I just like anything old," she says, explaining the choices she has made, from paintings to antique bellpulls to her "favorite thing on earth": majolica. Years ago, when her friends were filling their homes with Rose Medallion, Canton and other porcelains, she admired the collections. But she didn't hear their siren call. Then one day she walked into a shop and saw some majolica begonia leaves. "I loved the glazes and the coloration. The minute I saw them, I knew this was something I would look at and love every day."

Now she and her husband have possibly the finest collection of majolica in the South. Most of it is nineteenth-century English. "George Jones is my favorite," she says, "but we also have some by Minton and Wedgwood. They all got into it." The couple started with flora but wound up with fauna, a veritable menagerie. In every room one is apt to encounter a majolica lion or rabbit or deer or fish or parrot—any creature that caught the fancy of the potter. A fly in the living room? Don't swat! The Wedgwood piece is C. D. Gann's favorite. Majolica was made to be functional with an emphasis on fun. A tortoise,



ABOVE LEFT: Collections of needlepoint bellpulls, c. 1800, oyster dishes and Minton monkey teapot. LEFT: English oil by L. Shaw presides over canine majolica. ABOVE AND OPPOSITE: Rich turquoise glaze on scone and compote is a George Jones hallmark. Antique cabinet holds majolica miniatures. German bread mold tops begonia leaf platters. On table, 1700s Delft charger and French earthenware water carrier, 1880.





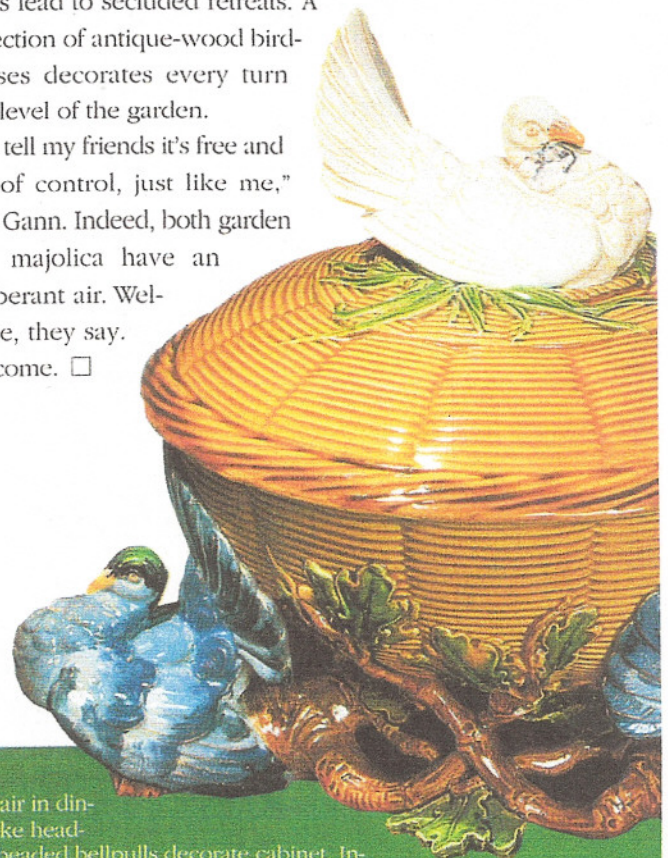
one of a kind, stands ready in case a gentleman has to expectorate. Lift its shell to reveal a basin. Then replace the shell when the deed is done.

Although the Ganns scour flea markets and shows throughout the country, they credit Gail Dearing of Dearing Antiques in Atlanta with finding the rarest pieces. It was she who tracked down the George Jones tortoise cuspidor (c. 1880) as well as a monkey teapot by Minton. The Ganns have given some of the majolica to their children, but they continue to collect for their own home. "If I love it, I buy it," she admits. "It always comes to me in the middle of the night where I'm going to put a new piece."

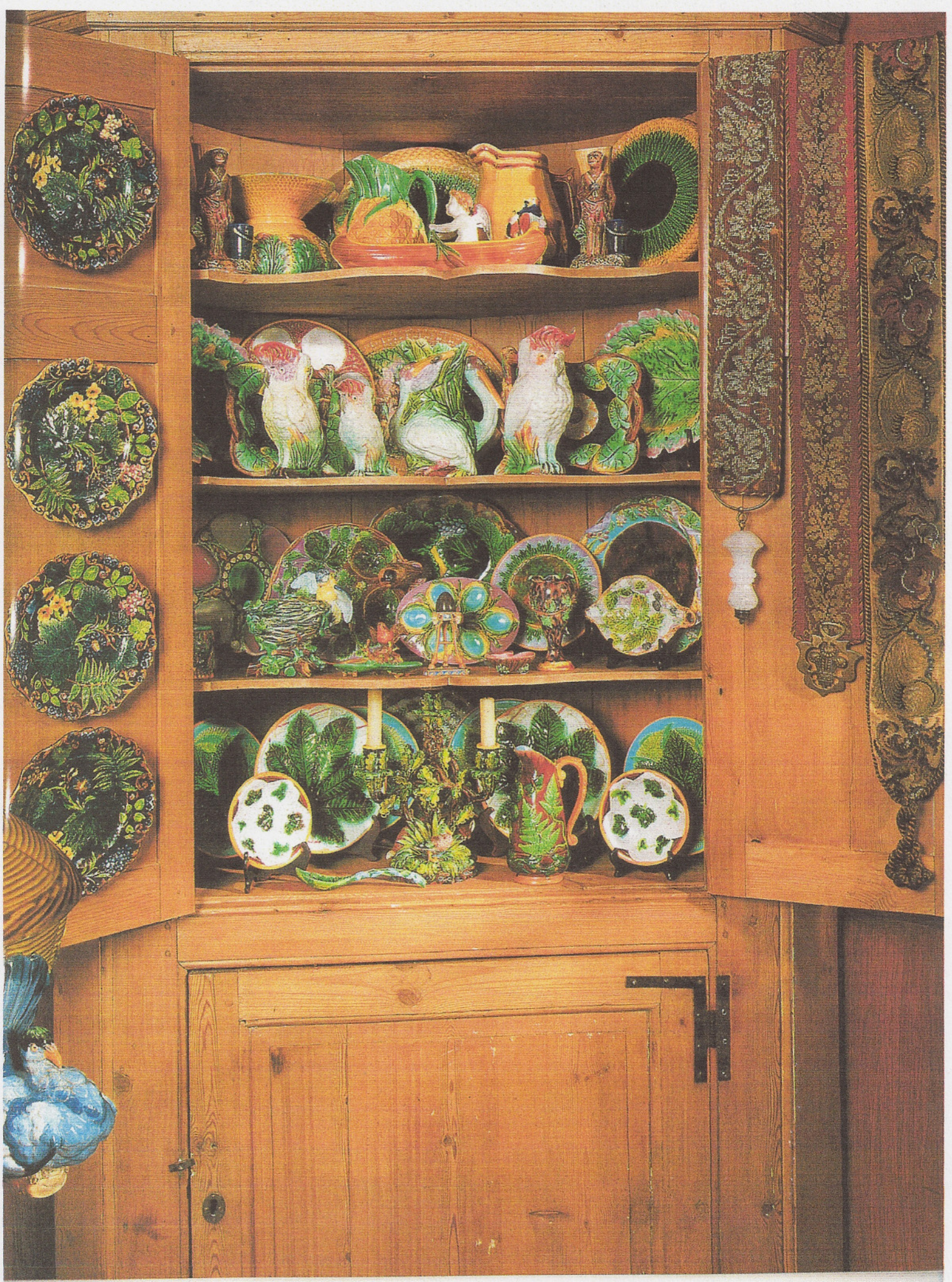
Her impetuous spirit spills into the yard, a cottage garden that was part of the 1996 Gardens for Connoisseurs tour sponsored by the Atlanta Botanical Garden. "I wanted my garden to be groomed but not contained," she explains, "but my first attempts were too 'set'." Enter Tim Stoddard of Stoddard/Lynn Fine Gardens. "Within five minutes I could tell he knew exactly what I wanted. He saw what I saw."

Their joint vision included a mountain setting on the steep lot. Stoddard planted rhododendrons, mountain laurels, dogwoods, ferns. Meandering paths lead to secluded retreats. A collection of antique-wood birdhouses decorates every turn and level of the garden.

"I tell my friends it's free and out of control, just like me," says Gann. Indeed, both garden and majolica have an exuberant air. Welcome, they say. Welcome. □



TOP: Iron gate and faux trellis, by Jancis Zevatz and others, create garden air in dining room. Katherine Houston porcelains on table. ABOVE: French gates make headboard. RIGHT: Minton tureen, c. 1864. OPPOSITE: Samuel Alcock plates and beaded bellpulls decorate cabinet. Inside, George Jones dessert plates, Minton oyster plates, rare Lonitz candelabra and other fanciful majolica.









Get pleasantly lost, or pretend to, in the garden's multiple levels and hideaways. Lower deck looks out over woods and koi pond. Base of stacked-stone chimney by French Canadian Burt Disjardinn defines potting shed area. Birdhouses by Greg Duke of Alabama and other craftsmen. Salmon trout-platter, c. 1879, by Wedgwood & Sons. ABOVE: Antique French bistro table set with shell and seaweed American majolica, c. 1879-1889. Linen blend covers chairs. Antique shell basket.