

ROOMS

FRESH AIR

→ This family room in LaVista Park easily opens to the outdoors with a retracting glass garage door, inspired by the home's modern-industrial look. "We wanted to incorporate something that wasn't typical Atlanta architecture," says Jim LaValle, principal at Epic Development, which offers renovation and new construction. "We liked the idea of one space flowing seamlessly into the next." —LIZ MAYER

Strong yet light

Insulated glass makes the garage door energy-efficient. The aluminum frame means it's also lightweight, and an easy tug on a cord sends the door upward.

Clear contrasts

An adjacent wall is covered in brick to complement the clear glass and adds to the home's loft, industrial & simple fireplace doesn't compete with the backyard view.

Easy chair

An L-shaped sofa fits the modern vibe. "Sectionals are very popular right now because they're casual and can seat more people," LaValle says. "And visually, a sectional makes the room feel larger."

Bugs be gone

A retractable screen can be added to keep insects out but let fresh air in.

Floor play

Wide-plank wood floors inside and custom railings on the deck echo the room's rustic materials.

Party perfect

The garage door opens to a deck, which can be outfitted with a bar for entertaining, or just more seating to extend the living space.

GET THE LOOK This trick isn't only for new construction. A glass garage door can be added to an existing space, notes LaValle, who selected the manufacturer Clopay (clpaydoor.com) for this project. However, he recommends it only for rooms with ceilings that are at least nine feet tall.

TIP