

Charlotte

BEST OF GUIDE 2016

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DESIGN & DECOR





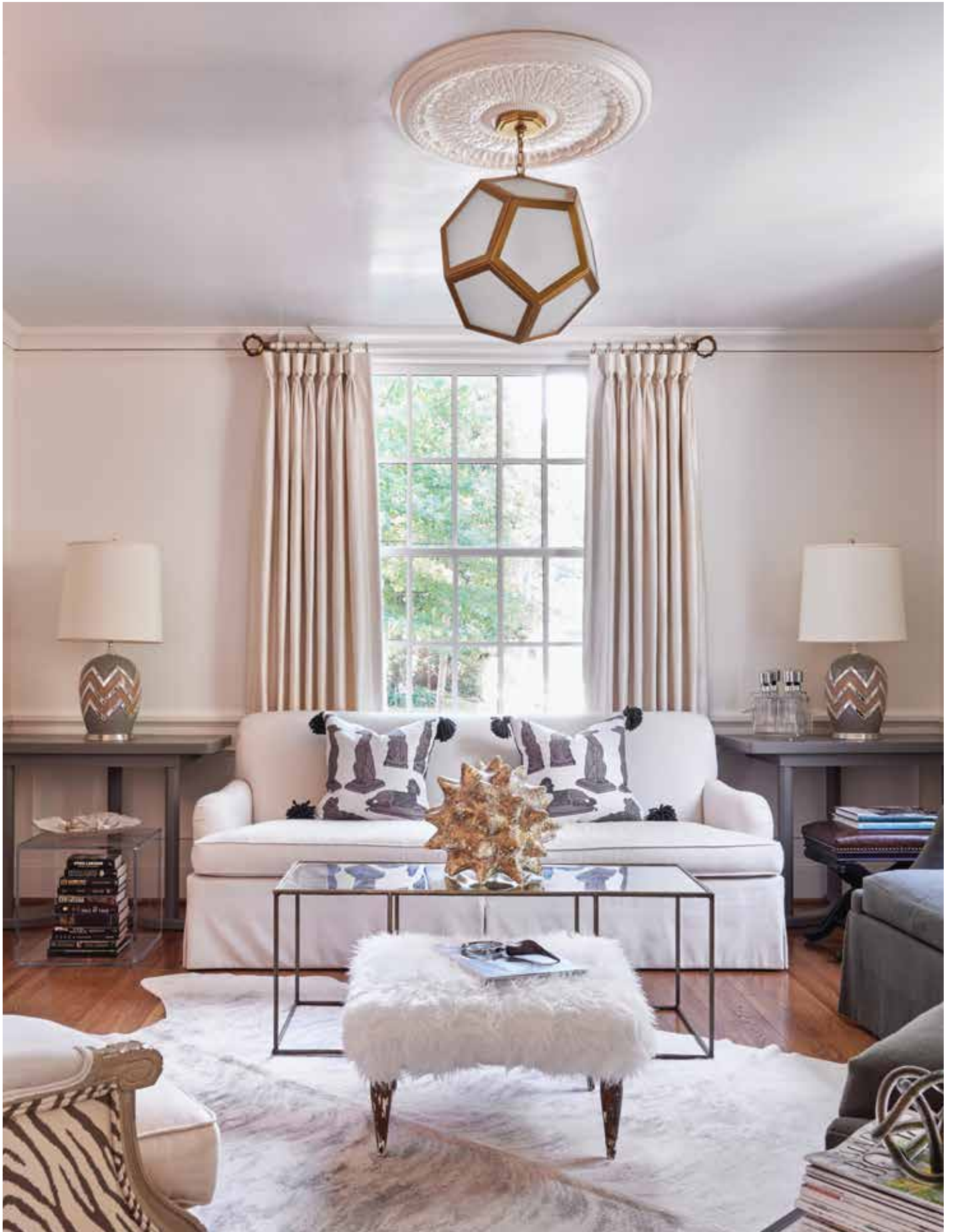


THE cobblers' child

By Anne Marie Ashley
Photography by Dustin Peck

There's an old adage the "cobbler's children have no shoes," referring to the phenomena that talented professionals rarely have the time or ability to provide themselves the services they so lovingly provide for others.

THROUGH THE MANY HOMES WE'VE featured in *Home Design & Decor*, we've discovered this is never the case for interior designers. In fact, it's the constant evolution of style in their own homes that keeps their eyes keen and their style sharp. And when we get the rare opportunity to showcase a designer's home, we're just giddy to share such a personal space.







Angie Persson, interior designer and co-owner of Swell Décor in Charlotte alongside Merrin Lowe, opened up her home and proved unequivocally that the cobbler's children have beautiful shoes.

After working and studying design abroad in London for five years, Angie and her husband moved back to Charlotte. The search took three months, and though the home they purchased was not their “dream home,” they were eager to maximize its potential.

“Before moving in, we renovated the kitchen and repainted the entire house,” Angie remembers. Since then, there have been lots of small projects along the way.

The busy family of four rarely slows down, so the Perssons

knew they needed a home that would call them to relax. The large trees and older homes of the neighborhood spoke to the calm they were looking for, but the in-town location was perfect for their need for activity. With her husband's Swedish background, Angie discovered a love of Swedish antiques and incorporates them all over her home, mixed oddly, though perfectly, with Mid-Century modern and contemporary pieces.

“I usually start with a design plan that's in scale with the room and has a neutral canvas. Then I add the fun stuff over time with layering,” Angie explains. “One of the benefits of being a designer is having access to the newest things on the market. So it never fails; when I am out shopping for clients, I usually find something I need, too!” The other benefit, of course, is working



with talented locals like Andrew Roby for her most recent renovation last spring, and William Perez, who painted the branch piece that hangs in their back courtyard, as well as a few pieces in her home.

“William works for Merrin and me on many client projects, so it’s a win-win for me.”

Angie’s passion for antiques and treasures from her travels can be seen in every nook of her home along with pieces made of Lucite and tons of texture in the form of cowhides, reclaimed wood, horns and fluffy pillows.

“My favorites pieces are the elk antlers in the dining room, the petrified wood coffee table in the sun room and the original oil painting of a doll that was gifted to my daughter, which now hangs in the living room,” she says. Angie adds that she tries to avoid a home that looks overly decorated, but that instead is cozy, relaxing and unpredictable.

“Design is about breaking the rules and creating a home with a story.” Of course, her expertly mixed accessories are only amplified by her booth at Cotswold Marketplace called “Simply Swedish,” where she sells her signature mix of Swedish antiques, which are sourced directly from Sweden courtesy of their summer family vacations, and Mid-Century and contemporary pieces.

“I only buy what I love and in the event it doesn’t sell, it comes home with me,” she laughs. ♦