

Fabulous & Feature Worthy

Our Area's Top Talent Showcased Room-by-Room.

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ot all renovations center on whole-home design. Frequently, more homeowners are turning to interior designers to focus on pieces of their home instead. It's a terrific scenario for those looking only for a living room facelift or a kitchen update, but these amazing spaces have proven a challenge to *Home Design & Decor's* commitment to fea-

turing incredible comprehensive home design. Until now.

In the magazine's first Editors' Pick feature, we bring you our favorite rooms from submissions throughout the year. From bedrooms and living rooms to bathrooms and kitchens, peruse the best of what the Triangle has to offer, room by room, and find your own inspiration in these awe-worthy styles.

Heart & HOME

f the house has a pulse, you'll find it in the kitchen - the true heart of the home. As the backdrop for intimate moments where home-cooked meals are prepared, homework is checked, and where family members congregate just to spend time with one another, the kitchen must fulfill a tall order, ensuring the utmost in function and style. State-of-the-art appliances, natural stone countertops, sleek cabinetry, and elegant light fixtures can pull it all together.



Photography by Dustin Peck



Photography by John Bessler

Top: Nature sets the vibe for this modern mountain kitchen where the rustic warmth of barnwood and wide-plank hardwood floors marries the cool, clean lines of Marmara honed marble countertops.

Designer: Holly Hollingsworth Phillips with The English Room

Left: From closed off to open concept, the wall between the kitchen and family room was opened and tiled in pearlescent mosaic, helping to merge the two rooms. New tile floors and finishings in coordination with pale blue translucent marble countertops give the space a light, airy feeling while oversized pendants add a bit of

Designer: Heather Garrett Design



Right: Double islands with storage, an integrated, paneled refrigerator and custom cabinetry hood create a streamlined aesthetic while also offering a substantial amount of storage. Engineered quartz countertops mimic Calacatta marble and are extremely durable as well as beautiful.

Designer: Lisa Jones with Kitchen & Bath Galleries

Photography by Petite Simone



Right: Warm and cozy with an old world feel, this kitchen doesn't shy away from stained woods and a rich color palette. The lower cabinets are painted in Benjamin Moore's Chestertown Buff and the oxidized copper and glass hardware is by Te-Ma. The result: an inviting kitchen perfect for entertaining.

Designer: Leigh Jones with The Very Thing, Ltd.

Photography by Smith Hardy

Photography by Anna Routh Photography

Above: The best way to add drama is by playing up the contrast. While the kitchen in this home was mainly white with black elements, the bar was designed in the opposite vein. Black subway tile and black cabinetry add drama while the white quartz countertop adds a sleek, streamlined focal point, mimicked in the repeated graphic lines from the polished nickel hardware, grout lines, and wine drawers.

Designer: Debra Zinn Interiors

Right: Modern and graphic with a feminine edge, this bar area's Cole & Sons wallpaper is bold and crisp, reminiscent of the '60s. The custom designed shelf appears to be suspended to look like a swing, adding a bit fun and whimsy to the space. Glassware and vintage art complete the design.

Designer: Susan Tollefsen Interiors

Cocktail

he space may be small, but the impact is huge! The best bar areas will be fully functional, featuring custom cabinetry, wine drawers, adequate shelving for glassware, and available counter space for preparation. Design elements such as custom tile work, wallpapers with bold patterns, and bright paint colors can give the area a chic, personalized edge perfect for mixing the tastiest cocktails.



Photography by Susan Tollefsen

Modern MORNINGS

hether tucked into a nook in front of expansive windows or spanning the length of a modern kitchen, the break-

fast area is a family gathering spot for anytime of the day. It's a place to eat a quick bite, have a cup of coffee, complete homework, or simply have an intimate conversation while dinner's on. Sleek, comfortable furniture and durable fabrics provide a basis for vibrant pops of color—in rugs, window treatments, or accessories-that personalize the family space, making mornings-and every moment in between—everyone's favorite.



Photography by Anna Routh Photography

Above: A custom-built banquette following the angles of the window creates accessible seating for the high-traffic breakfast nook. Soft blue-grey vinyl cushions are both comfortable and durable while ghost chairs allow for extra seating without diminishing the beauty of the banquette's details. Accent pillows in Kerry Joyce fabrics warm up the space's modern elements.

Designer: Debra Zinn Interiors



Photography by Dustin Peck

Left: With ample natural light and a scenic view of the backyard, this breakfast area's design embodies elegant serenity. The Hickory Chair dining table and chairs and Visual Comfort lighting create a sleek, contemporary aesthetic while the floor-to-ceiling window treatment panels in misty blue soften the space.

Designer: Vicky Serany with Southern Studio Interior Design

An Appetite for GLAM

old. Classic. Eclectic. Cozy. Modern. Dining rooms come in all shapes and sizes and evoke a plethora of atmospheres. But one thread ties them all together. Every dining room is designed to dazzle guests by operating as the perfect backdrop to each dinner party, family meal, or extravagant event. And here, more than anywhere else in the home, a little extra glam is always appropriate.



Photography by Ashley Walker DeLapp

Above: Bold patterns and bright bursts of color transform a neutral dining room canvas into a stunning star. The geometric Harlequin wallpaper, vintage console lacquered in Benjamin Moore Citrus Burst, Arteriors mirror, Modway dining table and chairs, and gold-toned chandelier from Lucent Lightshop make this dining room anything but boring.

Designer: Ashley DeLapp Interior Design



Photography by Jenny Cimino

Above: The custom ceiling design, crafted with a flex molding, anchors and inspires the aesthetic of this dining room. Rich pops of blue create that instant "wow" factor, and a circular dining table and stunning Visual Comfort light fixture echoes the ceiling details. Embellished artwork and etched velvet dining chairs truly make this space a masterpiece in and of itself.

Designer: Jenny Cimino, Owner/Designer of Lavish Raleigh



Photography by Dustin Peck

Left: This dining room reflects the wanderlust of its well-traveled family – eclectic, exotic, and fresh. The wallpaper's Asian-inspired flower print in lilac and pungent coral is diffused for softness with crisp white trim in Benjamin Moore House White and Iced Lavender ceiling. The purple crystal chandelier gives a wink to Murano, Italy's artistic spirit, and a gallery wall from Charleston Artist Collective fully embraces the room's vibe. The exotic Folsom rug from Stark adds a touch of wild.

Designer: Holly Hollingsworth Phillips with The English Room

Right: Traditional with a twist, the antique furniture finds the perfect home with the window treatments fashioned from Brunschwig & Fils fabric and Samuel & Sons Greek key tape trim, which provides a fresh color scheme and plays on pattern for a more updated look and feel.

Designer: MA Allen Interiors



Photography by Anna Routh Photography



Right: The homeowner's Northern California style comes to Cary in this comfortable, chic living room. Layers of fabrics and textures on the Lee Industries furniture—Holland & Sherry linen fabric on chairs, Holly Hunt cut velvet pillows, and mohair velvet on the sofa—easily mesh with the Phillip Jeffries neutral grasscloth wallpaper and sisal area rug from Fibreworks to create a soothing, relaxed aesthetic. Bookshelf lighting from Restoration Hardware highlights personal

Designer: Betsy Anderson Interiors

Photography by Smith Hardy



Photography by Catherine Nguyen

Live & Let LIVE

f the foyer says "hello," the living room says "sit down and stay a while." Whether it boasts an elegant sitting group, a gallery wall of eclectic art, or a unique architectural element, the living room's focal point draws guests in and establishes the mood of the space. At the intersection of the home's comprehensive design, the living room blends colors, textures, and styles to create a space where visual impact and personal comfort are paramount.

Left: An influx of natural light and greenery was the inspiration behind this living room's earthen-toned palette. The subtle tones of the F. Schumacher fabric on the custom swivel chairs and the Kravet upholstery on the barrel chairs brings the outdoors in to create a practical, family-friendly space for everyday living.

Designer: Martha Schneider, Owner/Designer of La Maison Home Boutique



Photography by Dory Barnes



Above: Modern-urban with a pop of color was the goal. The sectional sofa by Norwalk, ottoman by Lexington Home Brands, Jaunty rug, and bold accent pillows gives this old tobacco loft the allure of home sweet home.

Designer: Dory Barnes with Furnish

Left: This 1920s house moves from yesterday to today with bursts of colorful, contemporary details that impart a happy, fresh aesthetic. The woven chairs are Palecek, the crackle glass top on the coffee table by Andrew Pearson Industries, and custom chaises by Thayer Coggin. All lighting is Visual Comfort, and the painting over the fireplace by Sherry McAdams.

Designer: Leigh Jones with The Very Thing, Ltd.

Photography by Smith Hardy

Posh PLAYTIME

ecreational rooms are the meeting point between family time and entertainment, where family members can relax together, watch TV, and play a game or two. Whether dark and rustic or light and contemporary, recreational room design must embrace comfort and coziness in order to become the family's favorite getaway spot.



Photography by Anna Routh Photography



Photography by Anna Routh Photography

Above and Left: Pops of red punctuate the room in unexpected places as seen in the hardware and pillow boxing. Clarke & Clarke and Kravet window treatments and brightly patterned accent pillows by Brunschwig & Fils, Kravet, Clarke & Clarke, F. Schumacher, Robert Allen, and Studio B create a bold and bright space reflective of family fun.

Designer: MA Allen Interiors



Photography by John Bessler

Work/Life BALANCE

shouldn't feel like a job, and it won't with a smart, efficient workspace that maximizes square footage, boasts organizational tools, and dresses it all up with a glamorous style that flows seamlessly within the home's aesthetic. Built-in cabinetry, uncluttered desks and filing systems, and adequate and beautiful lighting options elevate a standard study to a posh professional space.

from home

Left: Glazed dark wood built-ins and a burnished brass Brutalist chandelier gives the room a heavy, edgy quality while leather and linen treatments and an antique wool rug reveal the design's softer side. The partner's desk and shaped English armchairs make this a comfortable, accessible, and stylish work environment.

Designer: Designer: Heather Garrett Design

Slumber in STYLE

ntimate and deeply personal, the bedroom marries comfort and personality to create a haven within the confines of the home. From new contemporary furnishings to refurbished antique finds, every element goes hand-in-hand to infuse a clean, modern aesthetic perfect for sleeping or simply relaxing in a place all your own. Punchy fabrics, artwork, and accessories smartly infuse the space with personality.



Photography by Dustin Peck



Photography by Nick Pironio

Above: This master bedroom retreat is anchored by a custom-designed bed by Old Biscayne Designs that combines metal, wood, and upholstery. The accent wall, covered in textured sisal, and the lush linens and pillows add layers of texture and subtle color for a bit of drama in this cozy suite.

Designer: Designer: Vicky Serany with Southern Studio Interior Design

Left: Designed with a romantic and soothing combination of blush and grey tones, this ethereal bedroom layers tone-on-tone colors with floral and geometric prints for a contemporary edge. The headboard, custom-designed in cream herringbone linen with Samuel & Sons tape on the edge, and neutral wall color in Benjamin Moore Revere Pewter are a beautiful backdrop to the more dramatic Amy Karyn fabric Euro shams and bedskirt and the Mary McDonald for F. Schumacher fabric curtains. A Ro Sham Beaux chandelier finishes the look.

Designer: Laura Covington Interiors



Photography by Anna Routh Photography

Above: Traditional patterns are updated by bright colors that create a contemporary look perfect for the homeowner's grandchildren. Splashes of color and pattern abound in the headboard fabric by Thibaut and Kravet and bedding by Peacock Alley. The Union Camp Collective desk is both functional and handsome

Designer: MA Allen Interiors



Photography by Anna Routh Photography



Photography by Anna Routh Photography

Left and Above: Bold patterns, multiple textures, and fun furniture take this classic blue and orange palette to the next level. The navy linen bed's brass studs pick up the orange tones in the room, including a cheerful orange Robert Abbey table lamp situated bedside on the glazed grasscloth table from Bungalow 5. Custom pillows made in F. Schumacher's Bleecker fabric perfectly coordinate with the Deconstructed Stripe in blue and custom roman shades. A super soft blue and white rug from Crate and Barrel and Ikea ghost chair create the fun and functional look.

Designer: Debra Zinn Interiors

Soak it

he ultimate standard in personal luxury, the perfect bathroom offers a spa-like feel with the elegance of a five-star resort. Posh linens, sleek cabinetry, neutral palettes, and contemporary light fixtures and sconces create a clean, uncluttered aesthetic that invites relaxation with a soak in the tub, a moment to wash away the day and the stresses of the world while savoring the ambiance.



Photography by Jenny Cimino



Photography by Patrick Cline

Top: In its first update since the 1960s, this High Point bathroom's footprint was extended considerably when a closet was converted into a shower and water closet. Black and white wallpaper in Taj Trellis by F. Schumacher and custom round art by Ron Royals adds drama. La Pietra marble surrounds the soaking tub with Newport Brass fixtures in unlacquered brass.

Designer: Lisa Sherry Interieurs

Left: The Walker Zanger tile accent wall sets the artistic standard for this luxury master spa making it the centerpiece. The freestanding tub from Victoria Albert paired with a DXV tub filler allows the homeowner to sink into relaxation with ultimate style.

Designer: Jenny Cimino, Owner/Designer of Lavish Raleigh



Photography by Dustin Peck



Photography by Dustin Peck



Top: A subtle color palette, clean lines, and bronze hardware give this mountain bathroom a spa-like feel that tiptoes between modern and rustic.

Designer: Holly Hollingsworth Phillips with The English Room

Left: Home sweet resort? This Zen-like bathroom—expansive, open and accessible — offers its retired female executive homeowner the luxury of her extensive travels within the comforts of home. A custom vanity offers built-in internal power for hair utensils, a mirror with ample storage, a charging station, and night light. A zero-clearance shower entry ensures safety and accessibility for years to come.

Designer: Christi Barbour with Barbour Spangle Design

Storage SAVVY

erhaps closets are the most underestimated rooms in a home. After all, they're only there to house clothes and other essentials, right? But the savviest closets go above and beyond the call of duty, offering customized storage options-shelving, cubbies, cabinetry, and hanging spaces—with the highest standards of style. Throw in a dressing area, a vanity, or even a private lounge, and it becomes a favorite room where homeowners enjoy spending time.

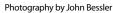
This master suite closet features a graduated mix of finishes, from dark drawer fronts on lower cabinetry and light on upper cabinets and shelves, to frosted glass inserts on top. The variation keeps the abundance of storage from feeling too heavy. Closet construction and installation is by California Closets.

Designer: Sally Williams with Colorful Concepts Interior Design



Photography by Catherine Nguyen







Left: Who says a closet is all storage and no excitement? Original marble flooring with an inlaid mosaic design, wallpaper, and chic lighting fixtures take this closet from utilitarian to intimate retreat, complete with a separate space for a private lounge for the homeowner to relax and secretly escape for a quiet moment.

Designer: Heather Garrett Design

Right: Oversized cubbies provide adequate storage for the entire family, and deep drawers are the perfect place to hide gloves, soccer balls, and everything else. Frosted glass inserts in the cabinetry keeps visual clutter to a minimum, and the dark tile floor masks the occasional dog hair from the homeowner's beloved pets.

Designer: Heather Garrett Design

Bottom: Deep navy custom cabinets supply a pop of color coming in the side entry as well as a comfortable place to sit, remove shoes, or simply relax. Zoffany wallpaper and custom linen roman shades with embroidered tape complement the navy with a neutral palette, and the fresh color scheme continues throughout the rest of the home.

Designer: Liles Dunnigan and Zandy Gammons with The Warehouse



Photography by Dustin Peck



Photography by John Bessler

Form & FUNCTION

functional back entrance shouldn't skimp on style. Incorporating hidden closets and custom cabinetry to accommodate storage needs keep the aesthetic clean and streamlined, while architectural detailing, custom tile floors, and shiplap walls can add drama to a traditionally more utilitarian space.

Sensational CELLAR

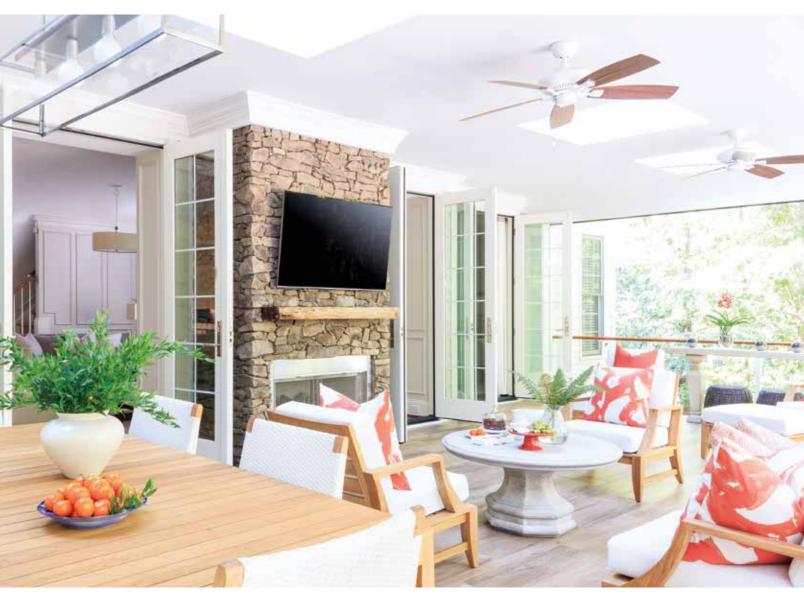
fficient wine cellars demand controlled elementssteady temperatures and humidity levels with enough space to house a substantial wine collection and a protected location with no direct sunlight. But these climate-controlled spaces can also be beautiful and welcoming, an extension of the comprehensive home design made custom with specialty lighting, shelving, and flooring to allow homeowners the best options in which to store and showcase their collection.

Below: Dubbed the "Domaine Serene," the heart pine floors and beams, oak ceilings, barn doors, and tasting table in this Cary wine cellar are locally rescued, reclaimed, and vintage items from the 1900s-1920s that infuse the space with a rustic, hearty quality making it as rich as the ingredients that make up the wine.

Designer: Jenn Frost with JSF Designs



Photography by Kyle Ketchel with Visual Properties



Photography by Smith Hardy

Above: Teak furniture by Janus et Cie, coffee table and console by Elegant Earth, and flooring from Byrd Tile, all marry to infuse this outdoor space with a sense of relaxed elegance that flows seamlessly from the interior, extending the living space for maximum entertainment potential in this home in Prestonwood.

Designer: Betsy Anderson Interiors

Extraordinary EXTERIOR

eyond the back door, exists some valuable real estate that can easily extend the home's square footage. Custom furniture, lighting, and fabrics can create the oasis of your dreams, from relaxed and casual to chic and sophisticated. And with North Carolina's moderate seasons, this outdoor living space can offer a year-round option for entertaining guests or simply relaxing at home with friends and family.