

Triangle

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HOME

DESIGN & DECOR[®]

IN LIVING
Color



PLUS:
MAD FOR
MEMPHIS

AQUA
ALLURE



The kitchen showcases modern features including marble countertops and backsplash in a herringbone pattern while the tongue-and-groove ceiling is made of old, distressed wood that was salvaged from an old house and then painted a light aqua blue. Brass hardware and fixtures, including pendant lights from Visual Comfort, are on-trend and classic at once.

COLOR CONTINUUM

INTERIOR DESIGNER
SUSAN TOLLEFSEN
INFUSES HER
VIBRANT FLAIR INTO
A BUILDER'S OWN
MODERN FARMHOUSE.



The custom high-back banquette upholstered in a fun, graphic fabric acts as the centerpiece in the breakfast area. Cased mid-century chairs provide additional seating around the Saarinen-style tulip table, while a nautical-inspired pendant by Thomas O'Brien for Visual Comfort hangs above. *Opposite:* The bar located adjacent to the breakfast nook features Schumacher's iconic Queen of Spain wallcovering.



They say two is better than one. For builder Allen Wells, who tore down one downtown Raleigh home and built two in its place, two has proven to be a good number indeed. Infill projects such as these can be tricky, but Wells, who partnered with Tony Frazier of Frazier

Home Design, was able to complete the project with limited impact, and the result is two homes that honor the heart of the original structure and embrace today's modern amenities. It's the best of both worlds, and Wells liked it so much, he and his wife, Jen, moved into one of the new homes.



For the interiors, the couple called on interior designer Susan Tollefsen to take their classic farmhouse with its neutral palette layered with natural wood tones and give it a contemporary flair. With a penchant for color, Tollefsen infused eye-catching hues and intriguing textures and patterns to add visual interest.

“Both Allen and Jen are big color people, and I’m a big fan of color and anything that can make a house look interesting and soulful,” Tollefsen says. “That’s why you see the bright blues, navy blues, and chartreuse greens.”

Case in point: The entryway has a shiplap wall painted a dark, distinctive hue, which juxtaposes nicely against the warmer tone of the mahogany door, wood floors, and wallpaper hanger’s

table. Two modern lamps illuminate the antique table, as well as the hoofed leather stool sitting beneath it. “I love the idea of old mixed with new,” Tollefsen says.

The living room continues several of the themes: wood tones, navy shiplap, and a historical ambiance with modern touches. The latter is Wells’ signature look for many of the downtown homes his company, Hayes Barton Homes, works on. The blue shiplap – Hale Navy from Benjamin Moore, chosen by Frazier and repeated on the exterior shutters – is more dramatic than the traditional white-on-white shiplap, and the wood tones lend a rustic element to the room.

“Allen likes to see wood tones and natural elements, and I try to twist it around and say, ‘I know you want a barn door, but how



about a barn door with a modern color to it?” Tollefsen laughs. “It’s good to make it a little different, so it’s not like all the other farmhouses with just white and wood.”

Moving into the kitchen, the tongue-and-groove ceiling is old, distressed wood that Wells painted in such a way that it still shows some cracks; he salvaged the wood from an old house. For the modern touch, marble countertops and backsplash in a herringbone pattern provide a serene backdrop, while dark window trim adds punch.

The kitchen opens up to the adjacent banquette and bar, which Wells considers among his favorite spaces in the home. The black-and-white Schumacher Queen of Spain wallpaper creates visual

Left: The living room has the blues with its dark navy shiplap built-ins and mantel, which are complemented by the aqua swivel chairs with Manuel Canovas upholstered pillows and the original artwork that’s on display.

Right: The powder room features geometric Cole & Son Luxor wallcovering along with a floating vanity with Lucite towel bar and sconces.



The white shiplap in the mudroom is the perfect backdrop to the bright window seat cushion and vintage silk velvet pillows.



Top Left: The dining room boasts a spectrum of blues and greens, including a Galbraith & Paul wallpaper that's displayed across the ceiling. A Worlds Away drum pendant provides additional lighting while the black lacquered Bungalow 5 chairs offer a simplified version of Thomas Chippendale's chinoiserie design.

Top Right: Designed by Tony Frazier of Frazier Home Design and built by Allen Wells of Hayes Barton Home, this modern farmhouse is the ideal blend of modern and traditional elements.

Bottom: Homeowner and builder Allen Wells heads to work in his prized 1966 Chevrolet pickup truck along with his trusty four-legged sidekick, Waylon.

Natural light pours through the mahogany front door and windows, while a pair of Kelly Wearstler table lamps add a soft glow. A claw-legged saddle stool provides extra oomph.



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interest in the bar, as the upholstery does in the banquette. “The fabric pulls in all the colors used throughout the house: pink, black, navy, and greens,” Tollefsen says. “And the chartreuse leather seat bottoms of the chairs are easy to clean and care for.”

Bright colors continue in the dining room, which Wells says was inspired by a photo of racecar driver Jimmie Johnson’s dining room. Bright aqua walls and trim contrast nicely with the chartreuse curtains and Worlds Away light fixture. Tollefsen covered the ceiling in handprinted Galbraith & Paul wallpaper. “They always do great, intense colors,” she says. The chinoiserie Bungalow 5 dining room chairs lend an Asian flair to the room while the painting by local artist Adam Fester pulls all of the colors together.

The master bedroom is a bit more subdued than the rest of the house, the better to get restful sleep in, though there are matching Mr. Brown lamps with bases composed of etched-out glass. “It’s like mercury glass but reverse painted,” Tollefsen explains. “They’re interesting, sort of a deep purple and silver.”

The dark shiplap continues behind the tub in the master bath, and Wells opted to install wood floors. The wood planks work because they’re warm versus cold, as tile would be.

Finally, the home’s exterior continues the theme of an older home mixed with modern touches, featuring timber porch columns, a gas light, and exposed rafters under an overhang. The painted brick, although light, continues the theme of using color.

Tollefsen acknowledges that neutral colors such as gray, which she refers to as the “uncolor,” are on trend today, but says, “We are also working in a lot of that marigold yellow. And we love peacock blues and hot pink. Basically, anything that makes you smile when you look at it is fun!”◆

Left: The master bedroom boasts a softer color palette than the rest of the home. A Greek key nightstand flanks the wooden panel headboard.

Right: Homeowner and builder Allen Wells opted to have the same navy shiplap upstairs in the master bath, where it provides a nice contrast from the white and gray bath fixtures, including the freestanding soaker tub.