

Triangle

DECEMBER 2021

# HOME

DESIGN & DECOR

## GREAT GATHERINGS

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GIFT GUIDE

A LITTLE BIT OF MAGIC:  
WHEN DINING &  
DESIGN MEET





# THE *Gathering* TABLE

DESIGNER AND CRAFTSWOMAN  
DANI DUVALL OF DUVALL & CO.  
BRINGS GATHERING SPACES TO  
THE FOREFRONT OF HER WAKE  
FOREST HOME.

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A perfect place to gather in the mild Carolina weather, the patio boasts a live-edge custom table from Duvall & Co. Chairs from Safavieh offer plenty of seating around the outdoor fireplace, and string lights from Target offer ambient lighting. Lounge chairs from Latitude Run create a relaxing vibe.



THE OUTDATED CRAFTSMAN THAT THE DUVALLS purchased in the Heritage neighborhood twelve years ago *did* need quite a bit of work, but they were up to the task and eager to make it their own. “There are some sections of our neighborhood where the streets and homes are lined with mature trees, which is extremely hard to find in this area and so very important to us,” explains Dani Duvall, designer and co-owner of Duvall & Co., a fine furniture maker and shop. “I think people underestimate the power of what you see outside your window. We absolutely

fell in love with the lot, mature trees, and very private backyard.” The family set about updating the home room by room, with the kitchen being project number one.

When Duvall began looking for a grand table to take center stage in her newly purchased craftsman home, she quickly discovered that the selection was mass-produced, cheaply made, and rarely unique. Frustrated with the process, she set out to craft her own dining table that would be a perfect fit for her home. “This is what started Duvall & Co., honestly,” says Duvall. “I wanted something



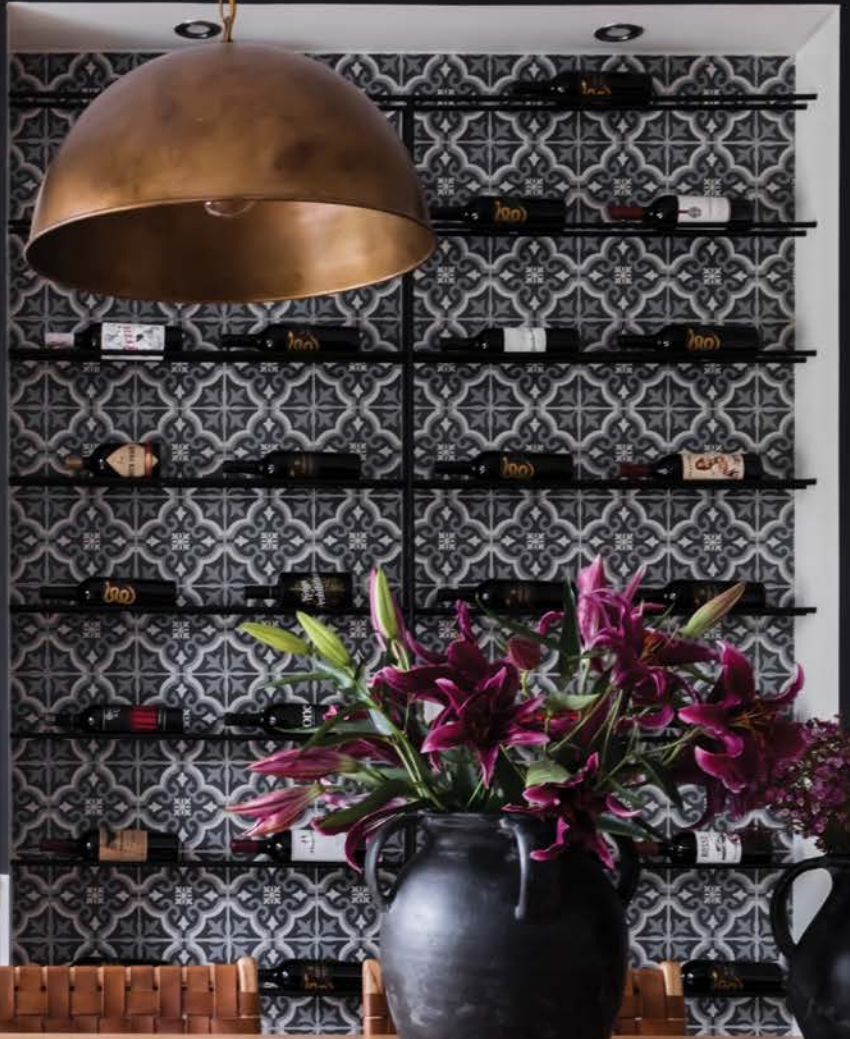
that was real, handcrafted, and the right scale for our space. Our custom handcrafted kitchen table was definitely a splurge in our kitchen—it is the most-used room in our home, so I wanted it to be special—but the open layout makes it the focal point of our living area, so it had to stand out.”

The couple removed the traditional island and built a custom ten-foot modern wooden dining table with a white quartz top. “I love layouts and details that are different but functional,” she explains. “One of my favorite rooms in our home is our kitchen,

**LEFT:** In the sunroom, Duvall chose to splurge on the handmade terracotta tiles imported from Mexico. A rug from Lulu and Georgia centers the room, and hanging chairs from Serena & Lily are fun, yet sophisticated. A Palecek chandelier hangs above, while a Duvall & Co. side table sits between chairs from Dovetail.

**RIGHT:** Anchoring the kitchen, Duvall designed and crafted the long breakfast table featuring a wooden base and a white quartz top, and chose large basket pendants from Serena & Lily to add warmth and drama. Laurel Foundry chairs surround the table.

I CAN HEAR HER  
HEART BEAT FOR A  
THOUSAND MILES AND  
THAT HEAVENLY  
EXTREMELY SWEET  
AND MENTHOLOATED



**RIGHT:** In the moody blue office, a desk sits alongside a Union Jack bench, both handmade by Duvall & Co., but the showstopper is the wave ceiling in warm wood, also designed by Duvall. Vintage tennis racquets hang on the wall alongside art finds from Etsy.

**OPPOSITE:** Duvall & Co. crafted both the wooden dining table and the original artwork in the dining room. Chairs by Wisteria maintain the casual but elegant feel, while host chairs by Safavieh add interest to the room. Pendants from Emrick hang above vessels from Pottery Barn.

and I would say it's an example of a different but functional layout. Having a beautiful table to prep food, eat dinner, have a glass of wine, do homework, and entertain is something that brings us so much joy. My kitchen feels so warm and inviting."

Duvall says the process of renovating her home has been a long but rewarding one. Owning Duvall & Co. allows her to take on three to four projects a year, but that also means that time for her own home is limited. "It takes time to curate, and I love incorporating one-of-a-kind items into my home," she says. "But I think you could find a lot of different styles in my home. Every room feels a little different, evokes a different mood, but all are designed to comfortably entertain our big family and beloved friends."

Entertaining is certainly one of the Duvalls' favorite things, and with at least three different spaces that easily lend themselves to entertaining, their home is a dream for gathering with friends and family. From the kitchen to the dining room to the perfectly ambient backyard patio, each space is welcoming and functional. "I like spaces to feel authentic and unique, so I incorporated a mix of old and new," she explains. "You'll see modern, midcentury, transitional, and eclectic styles in different corners of my home." When her mother, an avid collector, passed a few years ago, Duvall inherited a collection of antiques and art pieces, which she's lovingly incorporated throughout her home. "It has brought me so much joy to display many of her works of art throughout my home."





In her daughter's room, Duvall used a black-and-white dotted wallpaper from Etsy as a go-with-everything base. A Momeni rug creates a feminine feel, and a custom desk by Duvall & Co. adds modernity. Side tables from Target and a hanging chair from Amazon are perfect for a young girl's room, and plug-in sconces keep it fresh.



**TOP AND BOTTOM:** In the primary bathroom, a Duvall & Co. custom wood vanity with a black soapstone top is the ultimate complement to the clean Bianco Carrara marble. Natural woven pendants from World Market are a nice alternative to typical bathroom vanity lights, and a vintage Turkish rug from Etsy adds warmth. Across the way, a black free-standing tub makes a statement.



The sunroom is another favorite spot for gathering, but, more intimately, for Duvall and her husband to have their morning coffee together. Imported authentic terracotta tiles line the floors in the light-infused room, giving it an unequivocal Mediterranean vibe. “The tiles were definitely a splurge, but we could never have achieved that feel without them,” says Duvall. “I always start with a budget, then I divide it into non-negotiable (or splurge) items, and items where I’m comfortable saving money. But ultimately, for a home to have an elevated look and feel, higher-end items really have to be in the mix.”

She adds that having a ten-foot table that seats ten people in the middle of the kitchen definitely creates that wow moment. “I chose three large rattan pendants to go above the table. This natural material brings the outdoors inside and gives the whole room such a fun and warm vibe for entertaining.”

Growing up in Old San Juan and traveling overseas has definitely influenced Duvall’s aesthetic. The inspiration from the historic architecture can be seen dotting her home in little corners, culminating in a diverse mix of different cultural and artistic influences. Natural elements combined with interesting textures presented in a neutral and calming palette are the hallmark of Duvall’s home. From warm wood tones, rattan, and black-and-white accents, to cozy terracotta floors and eclectic, welcoming Turkish rugs strewn throughout, her home is nothing if it’s not personal.

“Think about the process of developing your own style as a long-term process,” she advises. “Instagram and Pinterest are honestly great resources for you to really start understanding what your likes and dislikes are, so start pinning and saving interiors you gravitate toward. Over time, as you look back at your collection, you will see unifying themes that will build a better understanding of your aesthetic, and that will be the foundation of your vision.” ♦