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INSIDE THE HOME OF ARTIST
ELEANOR SCOTT DAVIS



LIVING *in* ART

ARTIST ELEANOR SCOTT DAVIS'S EYE FOR COLOR AND COMPOSITION TRANSLATES INTO A MODERN AND COLORFUL HOME FOR HER FAMILY.

WRITTEN BY BLAKE MILLER

When Eleanor Scott Davis and her husband, Hill, moved from Winston-Salem to Raleigh in 2016, the couple looked at nearly forty homes. “Raleigh is such a hot market, so oftentimes the best homes would sell before ever going public,” explains Davis, who is well known for her mixed media and abstract acrylic paintings and stills. But despite the number of homes they viewed, when envisioning a home for their growing family, they kept going back to the second one they toured.

Regardless of its cosmetic flaws and slightly rundown appearance, the Davises could see potential in the classic white brick home located in Raleigh’s Coley Forest neighborhood. With four bedrooms in the main home and a room above the garage perfect for Davis’s art studio, the home was ideal. The couple purchased the 3,500-square-foot home and went to work updating and, ultimately, infusing their personalities into the interiors.

Davis first called on friend and designer Anna Applegate to assist with paint selections. “I’m a painter but I can’t pick out wall colors at all,” laughs Davis. “I leave that up to the professionals.” A coat of paint immediately brightened the



With ample space and natural light, Davis’s studio above the garage is ideal. Here, her daughters Avery, Julia, and Derby create their own art with mom nearby.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ERIN COVERFORD MILLER



TOP LEFT: Originally the living room was wrapped in grasscloth painted mustard yellow, but Davis stripped it and installed a neutral Phillip Jeffries grasscloth in its place. Then she added punches of color with artwork and pieces like the chartreuse velvet chair.



TOP RIGHT: Hill's grandparents passed down the table in the dining room. The wallpaper is by Wallquest, the China is Rothschild Bird by Herend, and the tortoiseshell chargers are from K. Sweigart Collection.

BOTTOM: Davis loves chartreuse and designed Hill's study with that as the base wall color. The Cowtan & Tout Madame Butterfly fabric on the wing chair and throw pillows by Clarence House and Brunschwig & Fils satisfy the artist's love of bold color and pattern. The blue glass sculpture is from Blue Print Gallery in Dallas, Texas.

previously mustard-colored walls and dark wood finishes, giving Davis the blank canvas to which she's accustomed. "My mother has the most exquisite taste," explains Davis of where she got her intuitive sense of design and style. "She has a stunning home and has always decorated it beautifully. Even now, it's still timeless and lovely." Davis's home is similar to her mother's in its aesthetic—traditional lines and furniture coupled with modern art, much of it her own. "I really like antiques and classic furniture but try to make it fresh and modern with pattern, texture, and textiles," she explains. "I like bold prints and lots of modern art."



CLOCKWISE FROM THE LEFT: ERIN COMERFORD MILLER; ELEANOR SCOTT DAVIS; ANNA ROUTH.



TOP: Davis wants to cultivate an appreciation of art in her three daughters, so she incorporated artwork in each of their bedrooms, including this piece by Davis. The baskets are from Serena & Lily and the bedding is by Biscuit Home.

BOTTOM: The sunken sunroom addition includes ten-foot ceilings. Flush with sunlight, the space is one of the most used in the home, especially as a playroom for the couple's three young girls. The blue sofa is by Dexter in Raleigh while the painting is Davis's own.

RIGHT: The four-poster bed in the owner's suite was built using a black walnut tree Davis's father felled decades before. In fact, the same tree was used to create four beds—one for her father and mother, and one for each of his children.

The home is the ideal balance of old and new, with family heirlooms and passed-down pieces like Hill's grandparent's dining table and the antique desk from Davis's aunt, coupled at every turn with the artist's abstract artwork. Bold, colorful prints like the Schumacher Exotic Butterfly on throw pillows in the sunroom meld seamlessly with the painting hung nearby—intentional juxtapositions that can be found throughout the home.

The family has swelled to five since they moved into the home, and the Davises are ecstatic that it fits the couple and their three young daughters so perfectly. "We could see the potential from the very beginning and are so happy we chose it," she says. ♦

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