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The gallery hall features the homeowners' most treasured paintings from their collection. A runner from Charlotte Rug Gallery leads the way, with a George Nakashima console gracing the walls. Phillip Jeffries Rivets wallpaper lines the hallway, offering a backdrop to art by Kahn, Müller, Brodie, and Milder.



JEWEL BOX IN THE SKY

TWO DESIGNERS TEAM TOGETHER TO CREATE AN
ARTFULLY COLORFUL CONDOMINIUM FOR A PAIR OF
EMPTY NESTERS IN MYERS PARK.

The dining room was designed to complement the kitchen, living room, and entry, which all open to it. An oversized Oly chandelier makes a statement over the Julian Chichester dining table and Scout Design Studio chairs covered in Pierre Frey fabric. Drapery made with Brunschwig & Fils fabric pop on the windows.





AS MOST EMPTY NESTERS CAN ATTEST, THE silence of an empty home can be deafening in every square foot absent of warm bodies. When children are grown and gone, the lure of a cozy space perfect for a pair to enjoy intimate breakfasts or relaxing cocktail hours grows stronger. So when the Richters discovered a condominium at Opus Myers Park, making the move was an easy decision, especially since it was the first place they'd seen that reminded them of the apartment they'd owned in New York. Downsizing their square footage but living in a New York-style condo? The best of both worlds was an exciting option.

The pair considered several interior designers but couldn't find a perfect match. Their daughter, interior designer Meredith Powell, suggested they connect with her good friend and designer Hannah Ozburn. "I knew Hannah had recently moved to Charlotte, and with an innovative, artistic *modus operandi*, I thought she might be an ideal option," Powell explains.

Ozburn suggested she and Powell work together to design the Richters' condo, with each of them bringing something unique to the table. "Hannah has a masterful eye for bold color and pattern, which my mom very much appreciates. I could provide some insight into the clients and the art by which they wanted to base their design."

"Meredith's mother and I share a love for color, so our styles blended effortlessly together, and she was involved in all of the decisions," Ozburn says.

The design team chose Aux Abris Garden of Eden wallcovering for the entry vestibule and paired it with a rug from Charlotte Rug Gallery. The Niermann Weeks Cielo Arm Chair is covered in Fortuny Piumette fabric and sits beneath the Ironies chandelier.

OPPOSITE: In the sitting room are a pair of Arne Jacobsen egg chairs from Knoll. The colorful rug from Charlotte Rug Gallery is underfoot, while the Dumaine Pierced Leaf Chandelier from Circa Lighting hangs overhead. Art from Robert De Niro Sr. and Jan Müller is on display.





“Luckily, my style meshed well with Meredith’s, too, and we worked well together. I tend to focus more on the big picture, and she is incredibly detail oriented, so nothing was left behind.”

Getting in during construction of Opus Myers Park meant the Richters had considerable flexibility with their unit floor plan, and enlarging the kitchen and adding a bar area was an easy adjustment. The pair envisioned a home where they could curate a selection of works from their art collection that had previously been housed in

their New York apartment. The long central hallway, which acts as the spine of the unit, was the obvious choice for a gallery displaying their most treasured artwork. “Having intimate knowledge of the art, I envisioned the elevator opening to an unexpected, dazzling burst of tones and hues extracted from the works,” Powell explains. “The central work is an oversized Wolf Kahn piece brimming with shades of peach, pale blue, grassy green, and marigold, with touches of coral and lilac. These also happen to be my favorite colors to

The design team painted the kitchen cabinetry in the homeowner's favorite color blue by Fine Paints of Europe. The porcelain stoneware countertops are from Instyle Charlotte, while the range hood is a custom piece made by Francois & Co. The AERIN for Visual Comfort pendants are from Circa Lighting, and the island stools are by Made Goods.



Puppy Paws by Benjamin Moore swaths the living room walls in a peachy tone. The Interlude Home coffee table rests in the center along with a pair of Marioni side tables. The antique French chairs add interest, and a rug sourced from Darnell & Company sits underfoot. The natural linen sofa is by Bunny Williams Home.



A Modern History four-poster bed anchors the guest bedroom while draperies with Schumacher fabric and Zak + Fox Roman shades dress the space. Wallpaper in two-tone raffia by Gregorius Pineo brings in texture. **OPPOSITE:** A delicate Phillip Jeffries grasscloth mural bathes the wall of the guest bathroom, while a brass mirror with ribbon detail from Carvers' Guild adds a striking touch.





work with, so I understood the assignment, as they say.”

The team decided on a palette that embraced both neutrals *and* colors by using brighter, more saturated hues and patterns in peripheral rooms, while softer pastel hues dominated spaces where the art commanded prime attention. Spread across the entire top floor of the building with windows in every room, the condo had a plethora of light, a must for an art-filled home.

The process started with textile selections and creating a vibrant and cohesive color palette, then rug and furniture selections were made from there. From 1stDibs and Chairish to Charlotte Rug Gallery and Stark, the pieces came together cohesively for the design. Powell says that her penchant for sourcing original furnishings was a good match for her parents’ desire to create a unique space that mirrored the originality of their art collection.

The living room and dining room are adjacent to the kitchen, which meant the spaces had to flow seamlessly together, almost as one large room. “I love the Benjamin Moore Puppy Paws peachy color on the walls in the living room and dining room,”

Phillip Jeffries silk wallcovering in Watercolor evokes a coastal vibe in the owner's suite with a Bunny Williams Home bed as its anchor. The Womb Chair from Knoll sits in the corner with art by Robert De Niro Sr. hanging just behind. OPPOSITE: Armchairs by Global Views are covered in Brunschwig & Fils Bromo velvet fabric and paired with a Bunny Williams pedestal table.





Ozburn says. “The blues and oranges of the kitchen next door work well together to create a fun color palette.” On the other hand, the guest bedroom leans more feminine, with beiges and lilacs combining in a soothing mix of pastels that create a sanctuary of a space, one Ozburn credits as among her favorites.

The Richters were generous in granting both designers the freedom to make creative choices within their vision. “Hannah and I have very similar taste on the larger design spectrum but are also distinctive in our own rights. I can become extremely engrossed in detail, which I understand isn’t always efficient,” Powell admits. “Hannah was able to rein me in, and together, we were more readily decisive in our selections.”

Though this project did not present many challenges—part of the joy of working with family and friends—one particular issue arose while relocating a George Nakashima console from the old apartment in New York to Opus Myers Park. “Windows were removed, a crane was required, permits had to be pulled, a New

York street had to be shut down . . . only to arrive in Charlotte and be too long for both the elevator *and* the stairwell,” Powell recalls. “But it worked out, so it makes for fun cocktail conversation.”

Powell likens picking her favorite room to picking your favorite child—it’s nearly impossible. “The entry packs the most punch,” she begins. “When the elevator opens, it feels like you’re walking into a jewel box in the sky,” Powell says of the small vestibule enveloped in an Aux Abris mural. “The Ironies flower chandelier is my favorite light fixture. I adore the Niemann Weeks chair and the Fortuny Piumette fabric on the chair and balloon shade. I also love that you walk into the home from the entry with a direct visual of the Wolf Kahn painting. That, I think, is the most beautiful vignette in the home—the painting at the mouth of the gallery contrasted against Phillip Jeffries pale-blue rivets grasscloth.”

But when it’s described like this, with such affection, it’s clear which is her favorite. When you’re working with friends and family, however, your favorite doesn’t matter because it’s all passion. ♦