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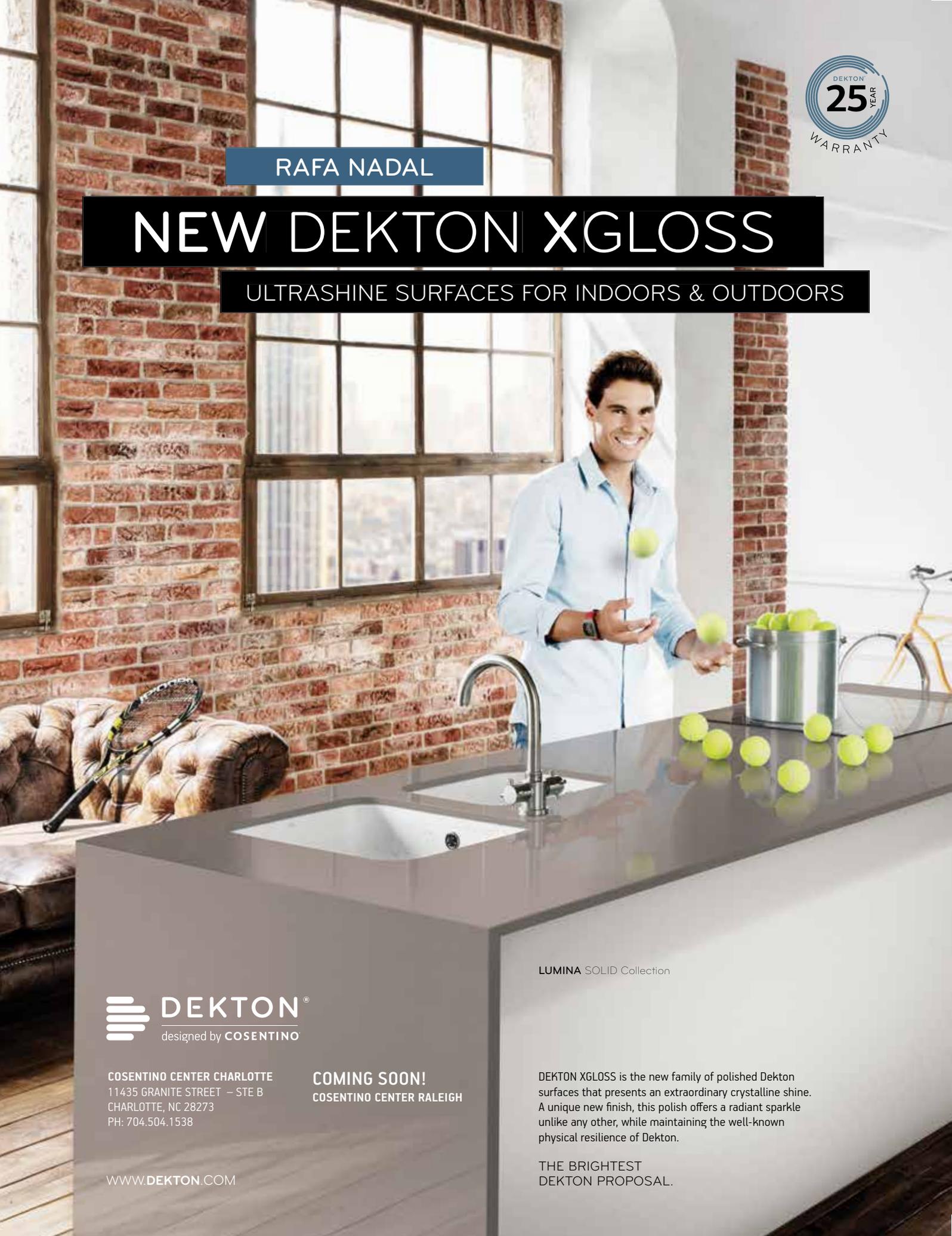
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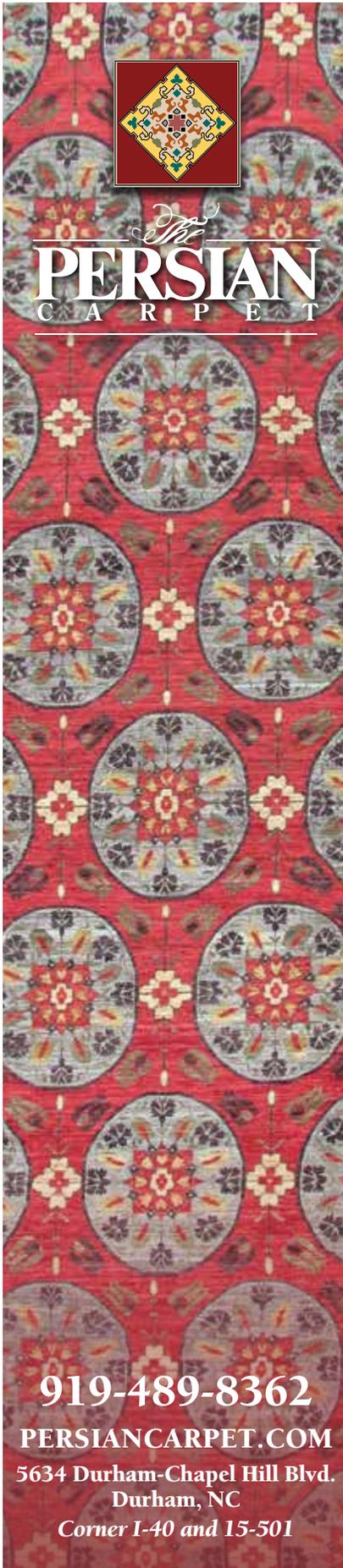
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FEBRUARY/MARCH 2016

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february/march 2016



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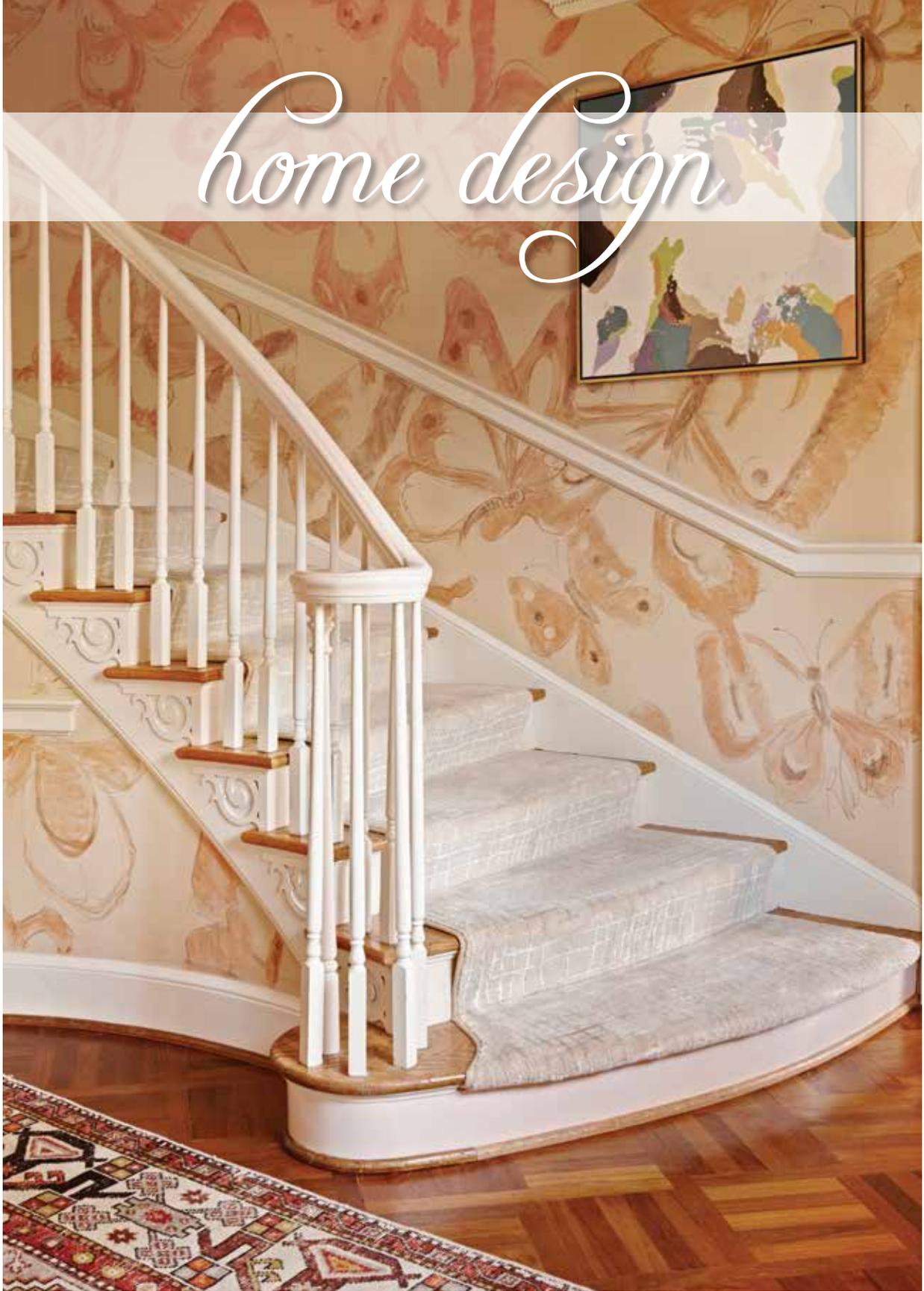
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# home design



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I TRY  
TO  
BEHAVE

*sensibly* Stylish

By Dana W. Todd  
Photography by Erik Johnson

*Overgrown weeds and untrimmed trees were just beginning when it came to the “fixer-upper” aesthetic of this old home in the Historic Glenwood-Brooklyn Neighborhood.*





**T**HE RUNDOWN HOUSE, WHILE AUTHENTIC in its 1908 charm, needed homeowners that could see beyond the disarray to its potential. Those homeowners were Chad and Catherine Harrell, who purchased the home when they moved back to North Carolina from London.

“The house was barely inhabitable and had a bad odor,” says Chad. “I guess you can say we weren’t afraid to kiss the frog.”

Besides the practical matter of turning the quadruplex back into a single family home while abiding by North Carolina historic code, the Harrells had two goals. First, they wished to honor the traditional architectural elements while infusing the home with their love of travel. And second, Chad, who builds energy efficient housing on military bases, wished to demonstrate that historic preservation and sustainability could walk hand in hand. He repurposed materials such as brick from an inoperable chimney, which became a wood-burning fireplace

*When you look at the interior, however, you quickly forget that sustainability was not the only driving force in this renovation.*





on a screened porch, and he gave new life to 200-year-old wooden floor joists as part of a second staircase.

Going beyond repurposing materials, Chad closely followed LEED Platinum sustainability requirements. Now the family's Energy Star rated *historic* home is 78 percent more energy efficient than existing homes in the neighborhood and 48 percent more energy efficient than today's average new construction. It includes a geothermal heat pump, spray foam insulation, sealed attic and crawl space, and energy efficient windows.

When you look at the interior, however, you quickly forget that sustainability was not the only driving force in this renovation. Interior designer and family friend, Lindsay Hair of Lindsay Hair Interiors, incorporated clean, modern lines using enthusiastic, vibrant colors that suit a young family living in a historically preserved home. Since Hair is also a travel aficionado, she enjoyed working in the European elements from the Harrells' previous London flat and even included the Union Jack rug to accessorize their son's bedroom.







*“My love of travel keeps my eye scoping a variety of styles, materials and products, but a good home is a home that reflects the people who live there,” says Hair.*







“My love of travel keeps my eye scoping a variety of styles, materials and products, but a good home is a home that reflects the people who live there,” says Hair. “My job is to tap into their preferences and combine them with their functional needs to design a home that has interest, fluidity, and most of all the homeowners’ personality.”

She let nothing stand in the way of achieving the Herrells aesthetic wishes, purchasing products from a range of sources. Catherine’s grandmother’s traditional dining table combines easily with the modern resin chairs to make it kid-friendly. Mid-Century mod-inspired side tables and owl lamps, both from Target, make a statement in the playroom. Textiles and fabrics from Maharam, Kravet, Cowtan and Tout, Romo Fabrics, and Samuel and Sons add vibrancy. Even an old gun barrel from Chad’s fighter jet makes a personalized statement as the kitchen island’s footrest.

Hair recommends bringing in a team early in the process for a major renovation project like this one. In addition to using Chad’s real estate expertise, she worked with Greg Paul Builders and architect Meg McLaurin to balance design and sustainability. Together, they earned an Anthemion Award from Capital Area Preservation for historic preservation. ♦



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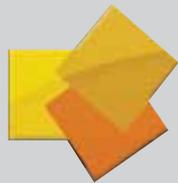


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# Family-Centric Design

*When Tyler and Amanda Covington bought their sprawling ranch home in High Point, they planned to make it their own with artwork, paint, new flooring and a few minor renovations. They hired interior designer Christi Barbour of Barbour Spangle Design to help.*

By Nancy Atkinson  
David Clark Photography

**C**HIRSTI FIRST MET THE COUPLE IN THEIR current home. “In order to do my job well I needed to know a lot about the family – how they live together and what they love,” says Christi. “Homeowners are not always comfortable being completely open and honest, but the more they are, the better the results.”

“At our first meeting, I told Christi I love to cook,” said Amanda. “I am always feeding someone. She also asked if she could look inside my closet.”

But when Christi toured the couple’s new home she quickly discovered that it was not laid out to meet their needs. She knew the narrow galley kitchen and separate den would not work for the family-centric way they wanted to live.

“I told them we could take the home they’d bought as it was now and put their stamp on it with their look and their things,” she said. “Or we could completely renovate the home and create what they’d asked for.”

Having decided this would be their forever home, the couple agreed to renovate. “We only wanted to do this once,” says Amanda. “And we wanted to get it right.”

## **Design is a Labor of Love**

Christi’s vision included moving the kitchen to the much larger den area, and re-envisioning the entire first floor. She collaborated with John Vaughan of B.E. Vaughan and Sons on all the details.

“The driving force was configuring a family-centric home that was easy to entertain in, a wonderful circular living space that is









*The driving force was configuring a family-centric home that was easy to entertain in, a wonderful circular living space that is comfortable and reflects their colorful personalities.*

#### **Happily Ever After**

The home is the result of a successful collaboration between a couple who knows what they like and a designer who invests time in getting to know her clients.

“It takes more time to design a home around its owners, personality and lifestyle – it is more of an investment,” says Christi. “But in the end it is much more rewarding for everyone. When people come into the home they say, ‘This is so Amanda,’ and that is the highest compliment I could receive.”❖







# THE WOW FACTOR

Amanda loves details, so Christi incorporated extra attention to detail throughout.

**1. Brown on brown.** On brown. The sophisticated rich brown study was once the dining room. "Tyler trusted us with his study. And he loves it," says Amanda. Luxe details like the brass coffee table created a masculine meets glam look and offset the dark walls. The built-in cabinets were designed around the antique gun - willed to Tyler by an elderly man he once helped on an elk hunt and framed as a gift by Amanda.

**2. The banquette.** This family-centric cozy space was inspired by a dinner Christi had with her children, sitting close in a restaurant booth. "I wanted to give Tyler and Amanda opportunity to snuggle with their boys at dinner."

**3. The console.** "Home is being surrounded by the things you love," says Christi. "Amanda saw this console by Mr. Brown London and fell in love with it, so we placed it in the foyer. Now it brings her joy every day when she walks into her home."

**5. The island lamps.** "These happened because the eight and a half foot ceilings had me so bummed," says Amanda. "I couldn't put a chandelier in the kitchen and wasn't happy with anything flush mounted. Christi came in with this solution and it was genius. It makes the area cozy but also gives it grandeur."

**6. The arches.** "All of the design pictures Amanda showed me included arched hallways and doors," says Christi. "We couldn't get all the arches she was asking for, so we framed the dining room with architectural arches and rounded the ceilings in the master bedroom hallway to give her room for the chandeliers she loves."

The photos from this home are from a filming of an episode of the critically acclaimed PBS show, *A Chef's Life*. To see all the photos of this home, the dinner party, plus behind the scenes photos of the filming, please visit [www.urbanhomemagazine.com](http://www.urbanhomemagazine.com).

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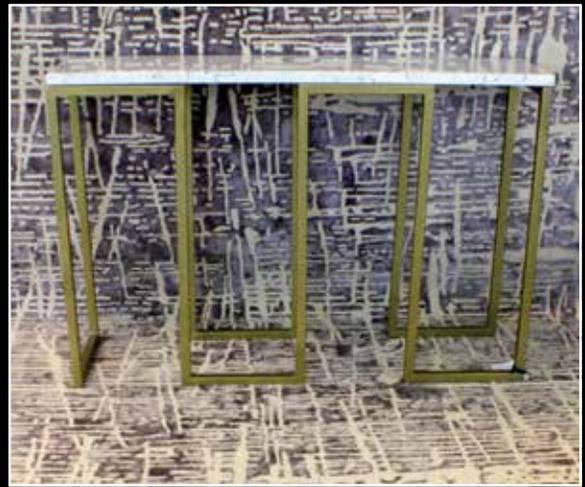


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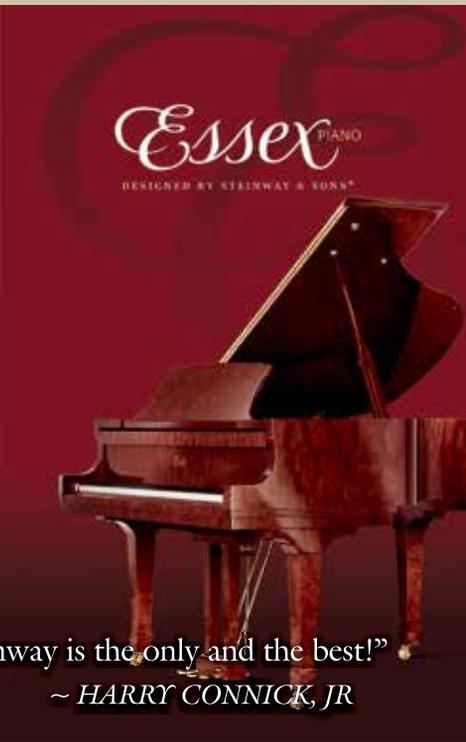
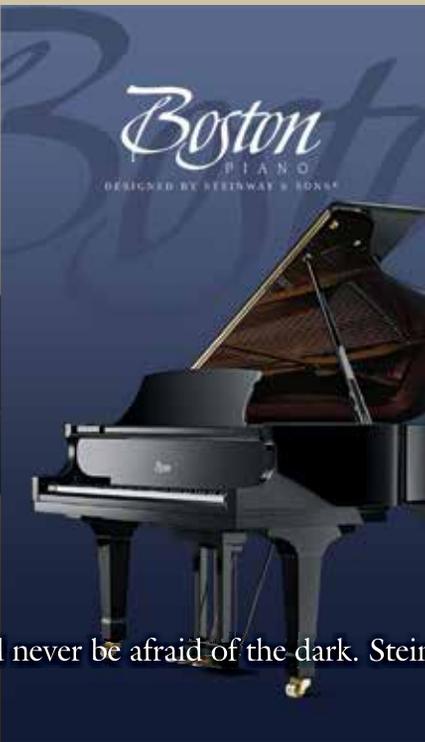
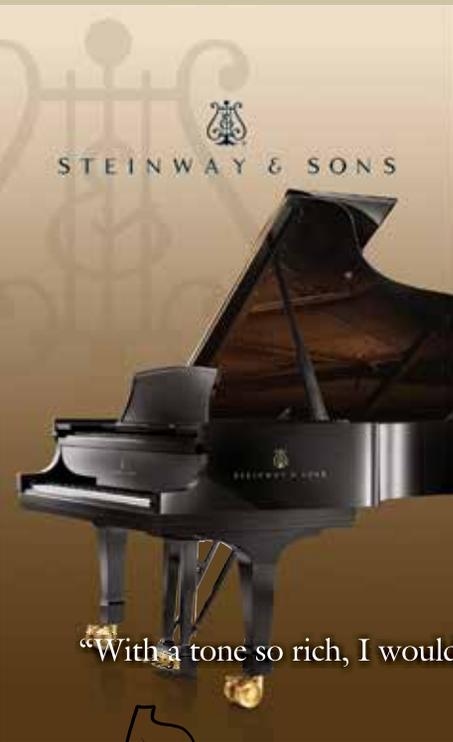
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# southern GRACE

By Nancy Atkinson  
Photography by Dustin Peck

---

*“I believe that to be  
really modern, you have  
to know your history.  
It’s authentic. It’s personal.  
It’s original.”*

---

**I**NSPIRED BY HER SOUTHERN ROOTS, INTERIOR designer Gray Walker leans toward tradition but has an eye for many styles. She mixes old and new with confidence, incorporating inherited antiques with bold art and classic glamour for a look that is sophisticated, fresh and far from stuffy.

Gray’s Georgian-style home in Charlotte’s Myers Park neighborhood is a perfect example of her masterful mix. When she found the home – built state-of-the-art in 1967 and in still great condition – she knew her art and antiques were a perfect fit for its rooms.

Her first bold move was commissioning local artist Robin Wellner to create a whimsical oversized butterfly garden in the foyer; Gray’s modern take on a classic motif. “It makes me

happy every day,” she says.

In the master bedroom she covered the walls in an old school floral but softened the room with neutrals and shades of lavender, throwing in mirrored accents and a Lucite and leopard bench.

A touch of leopard in every room is one of Gray’s signature touches to lighten the stuffiness, and in her words, “gives an edge.”

“My bedroom is my favorite room,” she says. “It’s feminine and glamorous. I feel all dressed up even when I’m not.”

Gray describes her design process as “falling in love with one object and decorating around it.” In the master bedroom, it was the Osborne & Little wallpaper she fell for, creating her uplifting lavender room around it.



“I love lavender,” she says, “Which is something I didn’t realize until I moved into this house!”

Though the house was pristine, the kitchen, with its heavy wood paneling, needed an update. Working with kitchen designer Susan Dudley and builder David Brown and his team at Craftsmen Construction, renovated the kitchen with a cleaner, more contemporary look. Mark Bennett of Morgan Landscaping designed a new porch for the back of the house as well as a beautiful new landscape.

Gray’s new kitchen features white cabinets, soapstone and Calcutta marble surfaces and a white leather breakfast banquette. The star of the kitchen is the leather-upholstered waitstaff-style door, an architectural element Gray loves to use in her clients’ homes as well.

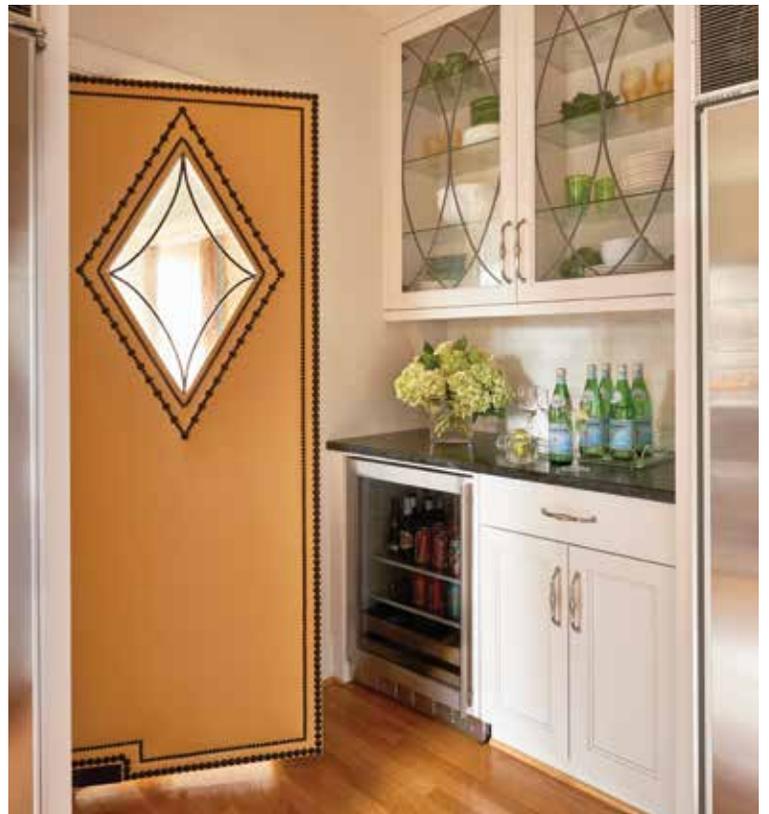
“Upholstered doors give a room lots of character,” she says. “The kitchen has a lot of hard surfaces and the door softens things a bit and adds a pop of color. It’s a nice complement to all that stone.”

*A touch of leopard in every room is one of Gray’s signature touches to lighten the stuffiness.*









*“There is lots of promoting, demoting, painting and decorating going on in my house most of the time,” she laughs.*

Whether in her own home or her clients’ homes, Gray sees design as an ongoing process. She likes to shake things up so they never seem stale and says maintaining the perfect mix is a balancing act.

“There is lots of promoting, demoting, painting and decorating going on in my house most of the time,” she laughs. “It may only be happening in my brain right now, but it will get done when the mood hits me!”◆

### Gray’s Anatomy of Design

- Fall in love with one thing and decorate the room around it.
- Keep your rooms fresh by moving things around. Bring new items in, demote some things and promote others.
- Gray’s definition of good design is not over-decorating a house. Edit and stay on subject.
- Don’t over-accessorize and go for some serious juxtaposition.
- Keep a style notebook. Fill it with images you love and jot down your thoughts on why you like them.
- Add mirrors to the backs of bookshelves in an older house. It’s an unexpected touch that makes the room feel lighter.



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# Design Board

## KATHERINE CONNELL



This design board is inspired by several installations I've worked on recently or am currently working and I must say, I love beautiful textiles. I love to use the smaller boutique lines that have some really unique patterns and colorways. Mixing different styles gives a fresh feel to the furniture and fabrics

I select for my clients; the green fig leaf fabric on the very traditional chairs brightens the style and brings them up to date. The large pendant light is a perfect addition to a historic bungalow breakfast room, and this clean-lined four-poster bed works beautifully with the soft color palette of the velvet flame stitch fabric. It's such a soothing space!

*“ Mixing different styles gives a fresh feel to the furniture and fabrics I select for my clients ”*





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# *trending*

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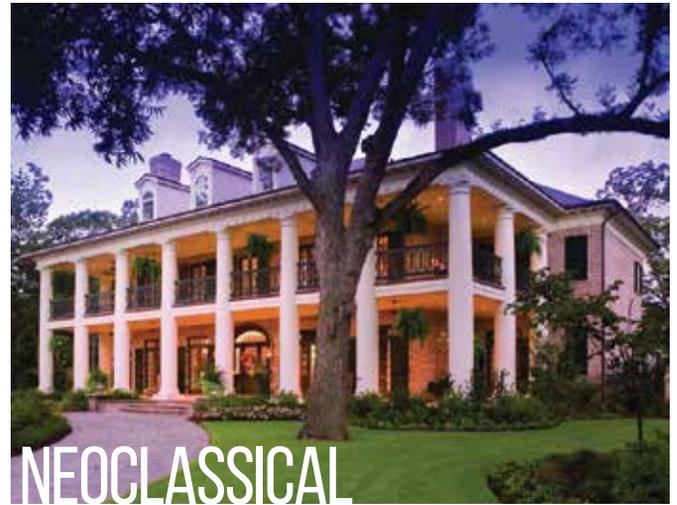
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# American Architectural Style

by Nancy Atkinson

The elements of classic architecture give our homes curb appeal and good bones. But the details that distinguish a Cape Cod vary greatly from those that create a Craftsman. Which style feels like home to you? From the colonial era to modern contemporary, we've defined the key characteristics of 14 popular house designs to help you find a home you love.



## NEOCLASSICAL

**ORIGIN:** The style flourished in the early part of the 20th century, used widely in institutional settings like universities and government, but in residential buildings as well, relating back to the classic architecture of ancient Greece and Rome.

**AESTHETICS:** Look for symmetry, tall Doric columns, elaborate doorways and evenly spaced windows, along with a colonnaded façade, pedimented front porch and formal proportions.

**WHY IT'S COOL:** It's immediately recognizable, the most famous being Thomas Jefferson's Virginia home Monticello, which means a timeless architectural style.



## VICTORIAN

**ORIGIN:** We often associate the elaborate trim and bright colors of a home resembling a dollhouse with this style. But Victorian architecture encompasses many well-known styles that emerged during the reign of Queen Victoria. Gothic revival, Italianate, Second Empire and Queen Anne styles all evolve from the Victorian idea that architecture should be beautiful rather than practical.

**AESTHETICS:** Look for homes that are two to three stories featuring decorative trim, textured wall surfaces, a steep multi-faceted roof, towers, vibrant colors and a large wraparound porch.

**WHY IT'S COOL:** The combination of architectural styles allows designers to mix the styles as they see fit, which means there are few Victorian homes that look the same.



## MID CENTURY MODERN

**ORIGIN:** Forward-thinking for its time, this style first began in 1945, when World War II brought new materials, including steel and plywood, to the forefront of architecture. Mid-Century Modern homes flourished into the 1980s.

**AESTHETICS:** This style is known for its flat planes, large glass windows and open space with a focus on simplistic design and seamless integration with nature. Many Mid-century houses also utilized changes in elevation with small steps going up and down between rooms creating split-level spaces and partial walls or cabinets of varying heights to create different depths in the space.

**WHY IT'S COOL:** This style has a great integration with nature. Rooms have multiple outdoor views, or multiple access points, encouraging an appreciation of healthy living.



## CAPE COD

**ORIGIN:** Inspired by Britain's thatched cottages, this style was born in the 1600s and early 1700s.

**AESTHETICS:** Look for the symmetry of windows flanking the front door, dormer windows on the second level and cedar shingles to find a true Cape Cod.

**WHY IT'S COOL:** It is most popular in New England, where the home's steeply pitched roof and larger chimneys make them perfect for withstanding cold Northeastern winters.



## COLONIAL

**ORIGIN:** Originating in the 1600s, Colonial architecture came to America around 1876 and has many variations, due to the diversity of early American settlers. Colonial styles include Dutch, Georgian and Federal.

**AESTHETICS:** The Dutch Colonial is easily recognized by its broad gambrel look, which gives it a barn house look. Georgian is the most common type of Colonial home and features strict symmetry, five windows across and flattened columns. The Federal Colonial is modeled after Roman classicism with decorative embellishments, tall columns, grand curved steps, fan shaped window topping the door with long windows placed symmetrically on either side of the door.

**WHY IT'S COOL:** All three styles are known for their symmetry, characterized by evenly spaced shuttered windows, proportioned dormers, columns and chimneys to complement the formal style.



## COTTAGE

**ORIGIN:** This style takes its name from the Cotters of the Middle Ages, the European peasant farmers whose English countryside homes inspired its charm. Popular in America during the 1920s and 30s, cottage-style refers to homes that exude a warm, storybook character.

**AESTHETICS:** These homes are made from brick, stone or stucco siding and feature curved entryways, steep roof pitches and cross gables, arched doors and casement windows.

**WHY IT'S COOL:** Cottages have high curb appeal with brighter exterior colors and flowers adorning the entryway.

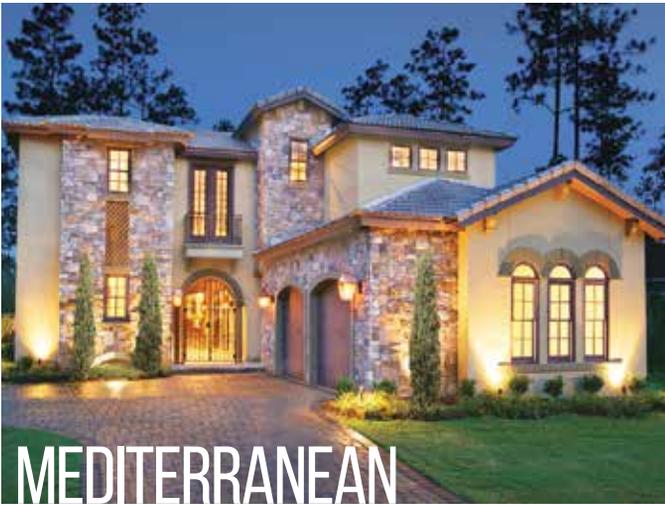


## TUDOR

**ORIGIN:** When referring to the architectural style in the U.S., the term refers not to typical buildings of Tudor England, but instead to a style popularized in the United States during the end of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century. The style is based loosely on a variety of elements from medieval English architecture, including humble cottages and stately manors.

**AESTHETICS:** This style includes steeply pitched, multi-gabled rooflines, embellished entries, mixed siding materials, casement windows, elaborate chimneys and decorative half-timber framing.

**WHY IT'S COOL:** With its Hansel and Gretel-esque details and countryside charm, there's no more romantic style.



**ORIGIN:** Extremely popular in the United States from 1918 to 1940, Mediterranean style was modeled after the hacienda design, combining influences from Spain, Italy, Portugal and other countries in the Mediterranean region.

**AESTHETICS:** Red-tiled roofs and stucco finishes define this style, with today's versions combining courtyards, porticos, balconies, interior arches and ornamental details such as heavy wooden doors and multicolored tiles.

**WHY IT'S COOL:** The roof tiles, heavier than regular shingles, can last for a century or more, and are usually low-maintenance and the flooring is often made of terra-cotta tiles, keeping feet cool on a hot day.



**ORIGIN:** True farmhouse homes were built on agricultural land by early colonial families of the 1700s. Architects were only for the wealthy, so these owners built their homes themselves out of mud, stone or logs modeled after popular styles of the day. The result was unpretentious, functional and straightforward.

**AESTHETICS:** Common elements are functional porches, formal spaces in the front of the home informal spaces in the back, a simple but inviting exterior and a rural or country setting.

**WHY IT'S COOL:** For families hoping to buy that special vacation retreat in the country, finally have enough space to grow that garden, or just move away from the city or suburbs, the informality of a farmhouse may be the perfect fit.



**ORIGIN:** Inspired by the Arts and Crafts Movement, which began in England in the late 19th century, this style was most popular in America in the early 1900s to 1930s.

**AESTHETICS:** Typical exterior features include low-pitched roofs with wide eave overhangs and wide front porches framed by tapered square columns.

**WHY IT'S COOL:** Craftsman-style homes emphasize the use of natural materials like wood, stone and brick and interior woodwork that includes built-in furniture and shelving, large fireplaces and exposed beams.



**ORIGIN:** Another style influenced by the Arts and Crafts Movement, the low-slung Prairie home was developed in the Midwest by architectural trailblazer Frank Lloyd Wright. Seeking an alternative to the excesses of the Victorian era and the machine-based lifestyle of the Industrial Age, Wright based his design on the idea that a home should serve all practical needs without being overly showy.

**AESTHETICS:** Open floor plans, built-in furniture and use of simple materials define Prairie style, which also features long flat roofs, rows of windows, horizontal lines and window mullions with geometric patterns based on plants like wheat.

**WHY IT'S COOL:** Having a true Frank Lloyd Wright home means that it's a one-of-a-kind, with just a few coming onto the market each year and only a few hundred designed around the country.



## FRENCH PROVINCIAL

**ORIGIN:** The provincial style was inspired by rural manors in the French countryside. American soldiers serving in Europe during World War I admired the homes and made them popular in postwar America.

**AESTHETICS:** Steeply pitched hip roofs without front facing gables, tall second-story windows, brick, stucco and stone exteriors and porches with substantial balustrades define this style.

**WHY IT'S COOL:** With its decorative appeal and romantic touches, English estate style, American farmhouse and even transitional decorating styles can all work very well in a French provincial home.

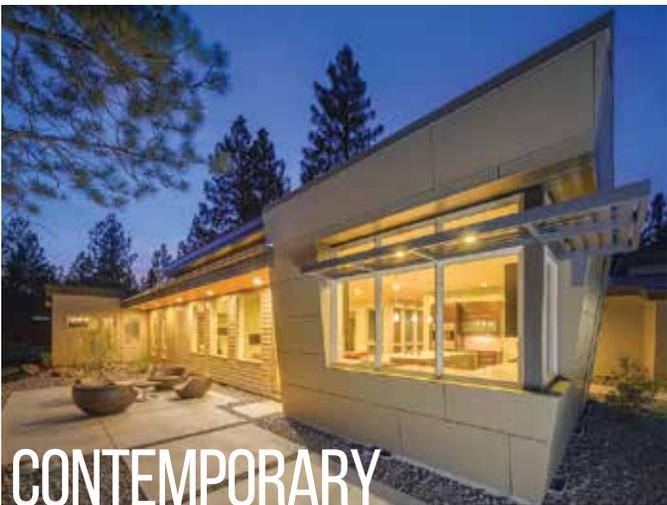


## GREEK REVIVAL

**ORIGIN:** This international design first appeared in America during the 1820s and flourished during the 1830s and 40s. At the time, America was looking to ancient Greece for inspiration. Not just in its architecture, but in its philosophy, the arts and science as well.

**AESTHETICS:** Symmetrical in shape and featuring tall columns and pediments, painted plaster exteriors, horizontal transoms, bold moldings and embellishments, Greek Revival homes are commonly found on large estates and historic plantations.

**WHY IT'S COOL:** Dramatic and grand in scale, these homes are built for entertaining.



## CONTEMPORARY

**ORIGIN:** The term contemporary refers to the architecture of the 1950s to 1970s, but is widely used to describe homes that focus on simple forms and geometric lines.

**AESTHETICS:** This style features open floor plans, lack of ornamentation, a dynamic mix of contrasting materials and textures, exposed roof beams and flat or low-pitched roofs define this style.

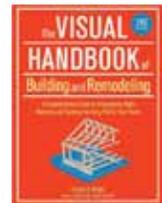
**WHY IT'S COOL:** A true contemporary will also emphasize energy efficiency, sustainable materials, lots of natural light and the use of recycled non-toxic materials.

## Light Reading

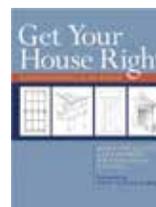
*A few of our favorite books on architecture and design.*



**A Field Guide to American Houses**  
by Virginia Savage McAlester



**The Visual Handbook of Building and Remodeling**  
by Charlie Wing



**Get Your House Right**  
by Marianne Cusato  
& Ben Pentreath with Richard Sammons & Leon Krier



**What Your Contractor Can't Tell You**  
by Amy Johnston



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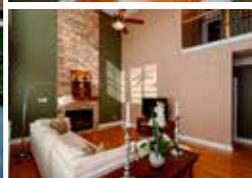
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# STAR STRUCK



*In a far-out decade  
not long ago, a once  
rebellious Republic  
was moving at warp  
speed on a rambunctious  
yet progressively  
enlightened orbit.*

Light years ahead of her time, a princess from the House of Furstenberg was wrapping women with interlock jersey. Saturday nights were hustling and full of feverish lightsaber shows, Bavarian landspeeders could be had for a mere seven thousand credits. Love-inspired tunes from a star-born soundtrack could be heard floating up from vinyl grooves and the population was star struck by clean, unadorned and streamlined designs of home furnishings.

With this in mind, I've noticed a disturbance in the terminology force, so my first order of business is to distinguish between the terms modern





and contemporary. While using the two interchangeably is not an intergalactic crime, it is imperative to know that they are *not* one in the same.

Modern is static, and represents a period of time and defines a specific style that is easily identifiable such as Art Deco, Mid-Century or Bauhaus. Ironically, contrary to typical thought, contemporary may include things sleek, shiny and unusual, yet it also encompasses things that are en vogue – a catchall term for design which is ever-changing. It borrows from many different periods, and includes elements and materials that are cutting edge and, to me, seem a bit trendy.

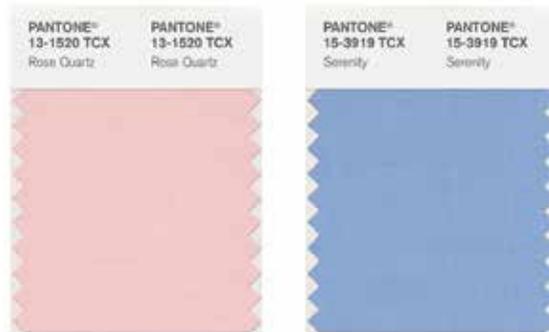
While the dark side will not toss you into a cell block on a Death Star, or blow up your home planet for mis-matching the terms, I hope this brief bit of insight helps put into perspective the difference between a Frank Lloyd Wright house, the inside of the Millennium Falcon or a condo filled with items from the aisles of IKEA. In any case... may the force be with you! ♦



Patrick Casey is the manager of Green Front Interiors and Rugs in Raleigh, a store offering luxury furnishings, rugs and designs. Visit the Green Front store at 2004 Yonkers Road in Raleigh, or call them at 919-754-9754. For more information, visit [www.greenfront.com](http://www.greenfront.com).

# 2016 COLOR(S) OF THE YEAR

Check out some chic ways to bring the year's most on-trend colors to your palette.



Pantone has announced that PANTONE 15-3919 Serenity and PANTONE 13-1520 Rose Quartz will be the Colors of the Year selection for 2016, making it the first time two colors have been chosen as the “it” shades for designing and decorating.

“In our world today, we are continually bombarded with information and find it difficult to keep up,” explains Laurie Pressman, vice president of the Pantone Color Institute. “The global economy is uncertain, and politically there is most definitely a lot of clashing of thoughts and ideas.” She adds that there is a need for reassurance and the desire to quiet the mind, which drives consumers to balance their fast-paced, fractured and hurried lives with some downtime, calm and the opportunity to just switch off. “The harmonious pairing of these two inviting shades embody the mindset of tranquility and inner peace consumers seem to be looking for.”



Charlotte Lucas Interior Design



Mrs. Howard



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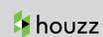
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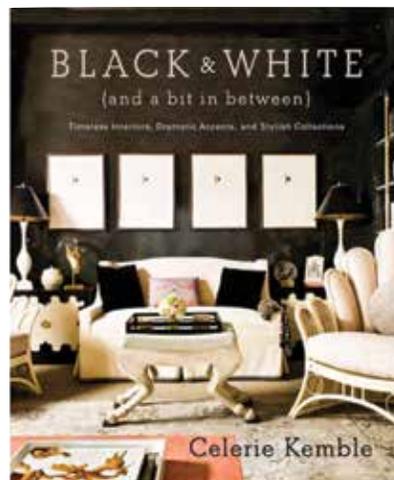
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**Black and White  
(and a bit in between):  
Timeless Interiors Dramatic  
Accents and Stylish Collections**

**By Celerie Kemble**

Sometimes, getting back to the basics – even with colors – is the key to impeccable design. Black and White is one of the most classic combinations and designer Celerie Kemble invites you into more than 100 spaces, offering witty advice and suggestions for the best accessories from tile to paint along the way.

**The Language of Interior Design**

**By Alexa Hampton**

As the daughter of interior design legend Mark Hampton, Alexa traveled the world by her father's side, touring the great architectural landmarks and training her eye. Her book explores the beauty of design from the architecture down to the books on the shelves.

**The Whimsical Home: Interior  
Design with Thrift Store Finds, Flea  
Market Gems and Recycled Goods**

**By Susanna Zacke and Sania Hedengren**

Let's face it: vintage is in. And what's more fun than decorating your home with well-used, well-loved and highly styled items? Susanna and Sania use five different homes to show readers how to pull off the vintage chic look with tips at the end of each chapter.

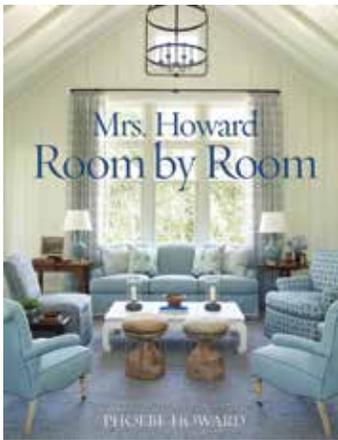
**Design Sponge at Home**

**By Grace Bonney**

When beloved design blogger Grace Bonney published her first long-awaited book, avid fans of her blog, Design Sponge, pretty much considered it a décor bible. With a foreword by Jonathan Adler, you get advice from two major designers for the price of one.

# 10 Must-Reads for the Design Lover's Library

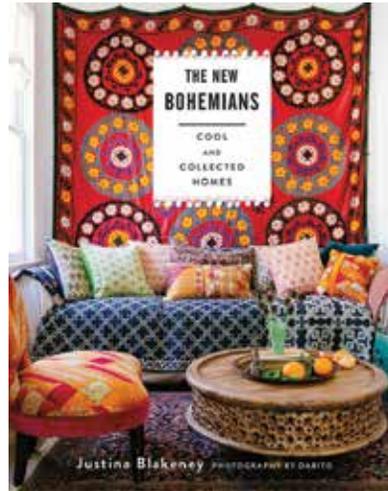
*At a time when this generation has embraced the online world of design blogs, Pinterest and Houzz, talented designers are still committed to publishing stunning books filled with inspiration and beauty. A well-rounded appreciation of design styles comes from a well-rounded collection of resources, and we've chosen 10 titles that deserve a space on your shelf.*



**Mrs. Howard Room By Room**

**By Phoebe Howard**

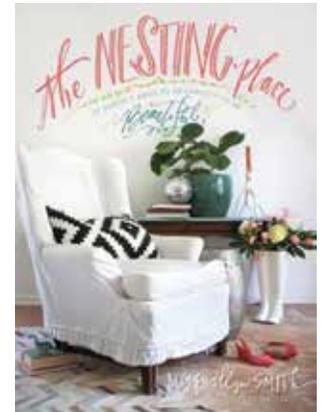
A perfect study in singular spaces, the book is broken down by rooms, with chapters on living rooms and libraries, bathrooms and kitchens, bedrooms, children's rooms, and even outdoor spaces. For when you want to focus on just, you know... a room.



**The New Bohemians: Cool and Collected Homes**

**By Justina Blakeney**

This book explores 20 homes of the New Bohemians, defined by Justina as boutique owners and bloggers, entrepreneurs and ex-pats, artists and urban farmers. In addition, each home is accompanied by an Adopt-an-Idea section that offers general decor, styling and shopping tips for easy duplication in your own home.



**The Nesting Place: It Doesn't Have To Be Perfect To Be Beautiful**

**By Myquillyn Smith**

As it's so appropriately put on Myquillyn's blog, The Nester, this book is for the perfectionist with a stack of art on the floor in the corner or for the friend who thinks homemaking and creativity isn't her thing. It is. It's in all of us. This book has serious heart.



**Simplicity**

**By Nancy Braithwaite**

In the world of interior design, Nancy Braithwaite is known for her single-minded devotion to simplicity. In her long-awaited first book, she dives into how to achieve it in three different styles – classic, contemporary and country.



**Timeless Style**

**By Suzanne Kasler**

Suzanne Kasler is known for her Southern charm, European sensibility and respect for architectural details to her interiors – all three of which translate to a timeless look that's easy to enjoy.



**Styled: Secrets To Arranging Rooms, From Tabletops To Bookshelves**

**By Emily Henderson**

This *New York Times* bestseller starts with a style diagnostics of sorts, to help readers identify their style and then shows you, room by room how to create that style and make it look intentional.





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# Eye for Design

By Brandy Snow

*“Our clients enjoy all the advantages that come with having your own personal interior designer...”*



WHETHER THEY'RE CREATING COMPLETELY NEW aesthetics or simply refreshing existing ones, interior design can be a daunting challenge for homeowners. Chances are you have a pretty firm grip on your likes and dislikes, but preferences alone do not a cohesive design make. Often homeowners are too close to the project and are unable to step back to get a full vision. For many, securing the services of a third-party designer with tried-and-true industry expertise as well as an inside track on emerging trends is the perfect way to gain perspective.

Because there is more to a design overhaul than simply choosing a color scheme, inexperienced homeowners can find themselves easily overwhelmed when overseeing all the details and facets of the intricate process. World-renowned furnishing brand Ethan Allen offers fashionable yet classic styles, an

unrivaled selection of custom options and value-added design services to ensure that each homeowner receives personalized attention in their custom design.

“Our complimentary design service is like no other. We call ourselves the ‘largest interior design firm in the world’ because our Design Centers are staffed by professional designers – not sales personnel – who offer a full scope of services, including everything from picking the perfect piece and coordinating fabrics and patterns to color theory, customization, measurements, space planning, project management, and budget tracking. Our clients enjoy all the advantages that come with having your own personal interior designer – getting expert advice, having a designer’s eye, and having someone in your corner with the know-how to get the job done efficiently and within budget.”



says Dawn Harris, Ethan Allen's Carolina District Design Manager. "We've been told many times by clients that our services help take the guesswork and worry out of the design process, making it more fun and productive, and because the service is complimentary, it provides an extraordinary value not found elsewhere."

Complimentary design services are available for any and all parts of the home – even overlooked areas such as entryways and mudrooms, media rooms, home offices and outdoor spaces. According to Harris, one of the most popular services with clients is coordinating styles and colors within a room and throughout the home, selecting new styles to beautifully mix with existing pieces and creating a seamless mood that flows

uninhibited through the interior. This includes everything from selecting the right upholstery fabrics and scale of furniture to choosing one or two key accent pieces that tie a look together.

Homeowners shouldn't ignore fine-tuning finishing touches to accent the design aesthetic. Ethan Allen designers even help clients with the customization of accessories and fine details, such as creating custom bedding, designing window treatments and hardware, choosing fabrics and trim details on upholstery and pillows, and selecting artwork and custom frames.◆

Need an eye for design? Contact your local Ethan Allen at 4380 Lassiter at North Hills Avenue in Raleigh at 919 781-9431 or 5717 Dillard Drive in Cary at 919 233-9190.



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**Windowfarms**

The tower supplies plants with nutrient-rich water that is cycled through a reservoir in the system's base and then pumped up and funneled down from plant to plant. With a simple electric timer, the system is super energy efficient. Available at Windowfarms.org.



**Garden Scoot**

Take it easy on your back and knees this spring with the Garden Scoot, a steer-able stool that lets you roll from plant to plant. The comfy tractor-style seat adjusts to your preferred height, and an accessory tray mounts beneath the seat to hold tools, seeds, plants and gloves. Available at Amazon.



**Garden Groom Pro Hedge Trimmer**

This eye-catching hedge trimmer is nice and light but tackles even the most stubborn of hedges. The shredding action reduces waste 10:1 and as an added bonus, it cleans up the waste as it goes. Available at Buya.com.



**Click & Grow**

The Click & Grow system of herbs, vegetables and plants requires little effort. Just plug it in, install the cartridges and add a little water - the garden will take care of everything else. The built-in water level and light sensors along with Smart soil (the heart of the product), makes sure the plant gets enough oxygen and nutrients at all times. Available at Urban Outfitters.



**Parrot Flower Power Plant Monitor**

The Parrot is a wireless sensor that monitors your plant's moisture, temperature, light and fertilizer levels, and then relays this info to your smartphone or other device via Bluetooth technology so you'll always know just what your plant needs.



**VegiBee**

The VegiBee imitates the high-frequency vibrations of a bee's wings during pollination. The vibrations release pollen onto a spoon, which the gardener can then use to hand-pollinate other plants. The reward? A 30% increase in crop yield. Available at Vegibee.com.



**Husqvarna Automower**

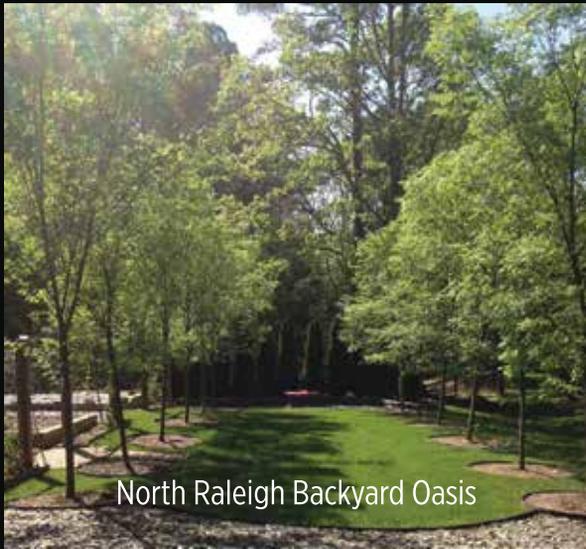
Working a random pattern between the boundary wires around your yard, the robot mower automatically shuts itself off or returns to its charger when finished. It cuts the lawn rain or shine and handles hills less than 35 degrees. Husqvarna.com.



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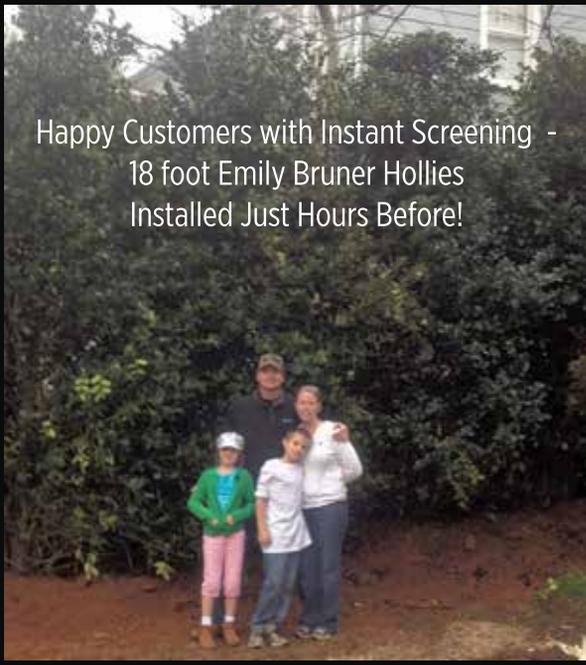
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