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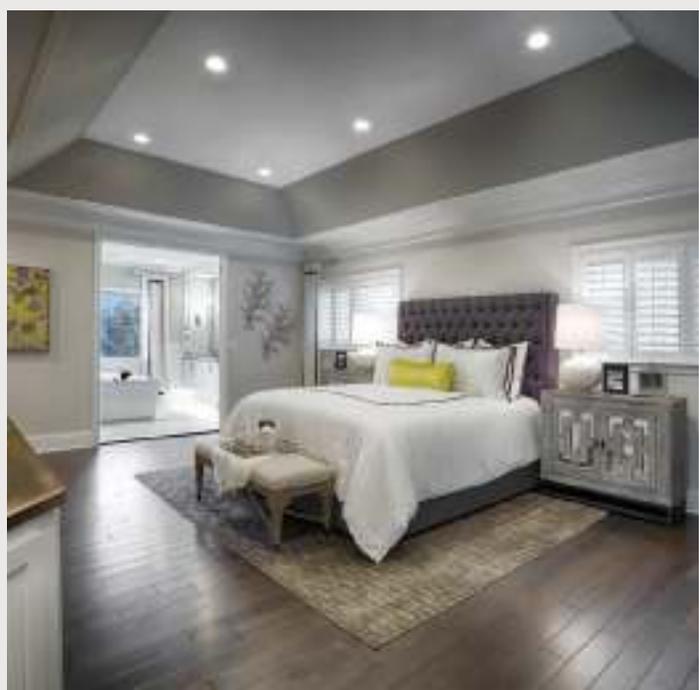
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august / september 2018



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dwell

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Getting back into the swing of things can sometimes be difficult. As I'm emerging from the depths of maternity leave to return to work, I'm figuring out how to love on my babies full-heartedly while at the same time creating compelling content that our readers will enjoy. It's a balancing act I hope to someday master.

But I know I'm not the only one going through a transition. It's that time of year when everyone is coming out of their summer haze and getting back to reality. People are returning from week-long trips to the beach, kids are coming back from camp, school is getting ready to start up, and you are on the go!

Whether you choose the slow days of summer to do a renovation, or the busy days of fall and winter, the project may always seem daunting – but the rewards can be great. In this issue, our kitchen and bath issue, we highlight some of the coolest designs and trends taking place alongside some killer products that you need to know about. These two spaces are used the most, so it makes sense to dedicate time and attention to the details of these rooms.

In these pages, interior designers share some of their favorite kitchen and bath projects and give us the scoop on how they came together (page 26). And while the tried-and-true, all-white kitchen will never disappoint, check out how matte black, one of this year's hottest trends in kitchen design, packs a powerful punch (page 16).

Once again, there is no shortage of design talent in the Triangle region, so it comes as no surprise that we have three spectacular homes to feature. From a revived Hope Valley home to a sound-front beach home, they all highlight incredible design in different ways. With her expansive portfolio and signature style, interior designer Heather Garrett employs a sophisticated mix of old and new, plus a few show-stopping elements, to transform one couple's decade-old home into a stunning space (page 38). Architect Michael Kersting and interior designer Leslie Stachowicz take one Chapel Hill couple's vacation home in Wilmington to new heights with a bright, airy, and art-filled design (page 52). And if you've ever wanted to take a peek inside a designer's own home, check out Jessica Dauray's bright kitchen accented with just the right amount of brooding black (page 64).

Whether it's coming home from a long vacation or returning to work after caring for a newborn, there's something to be said for getting back to your routine. And routine doesn't have to mean boring. It can be exciting; you just need to find your rhythm – *and* perhaps a great interior designer!



On The Cover:

Designer Heather Garrett breathes new life into this long lived-in Hope Valley home, mixing vintage, modern, and even a few wow factor elements that keep things interesting. This master bath features an all-marble tiled floor in a herringbone pattern for extra oomph.

Ashley Hotham Cox
Editor in Chief
[@ashleyhcox](#) on Instagram



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The

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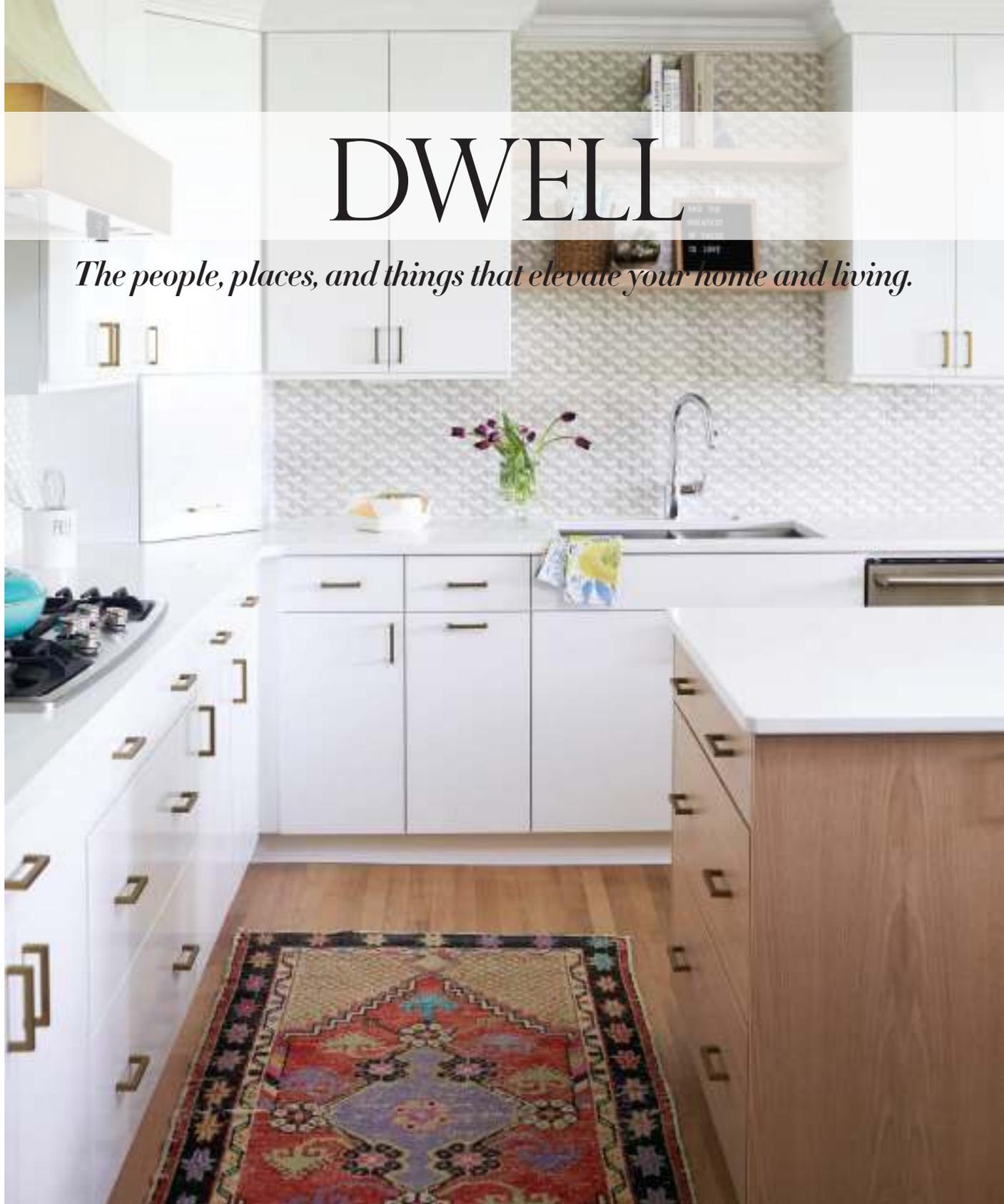


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Interior Design by Kara Cox; Photography by Stacey Van Berkel

Trend
Back in
Black

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Market
Bed, Bath,
& Beyond

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Redefined
Redesign

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Juice

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Allen

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BACK IN BLACK

Produced by Anne Marie Ashley

Bronze is bold, and silver never fades, but matte black is an obsession we can't suppress. When it comes to bold kitchen design, the shine-free finish is appearing on statement-making appliances, interest-bearing backsplashes, and dramatic countertops, and is used strategically in fixtures, faucets, and hardware. It is at once exceedingly practical and arrestingly dramatic – a go-to neutral while also a perfect “pop of color.”

Designer Lisa Mende knows a thing or two when it comes to designing with this dark horse and has a couple tips and a few favorite products for designing with matte black in mind. “Lighting, hardware, fabrics, wallpaper, and furnishings can work together to make basic black interesting, defining a style like traditional, transitional, or modern,” Mende says. “If kitchen cabinets are the matte black element, light and contrast are needed. And while I adore an all black-and-white story, sometimes it's fun to add a color.”



“THE BRASS PEARL IN THIS LISA JARVIS PULL ADDS AN AIR OF SOPHISTICATED WHIMSY.”

Lisa Mende



- Arteriors Norelle Pendant / \$1,050 / www.arteriorshome.com
- Kravet TOBA Fabric / to the trade / www.ahokelimited.com
- Lisa Jarvis Oyster Drawer Pull / \$58 each / www.birddecorativehardware.com
- Livettes Tropical Leaves Wallpaper / Starting at \$36 / www.livetteswallpaper.com
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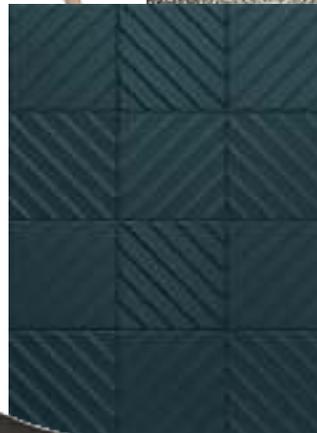
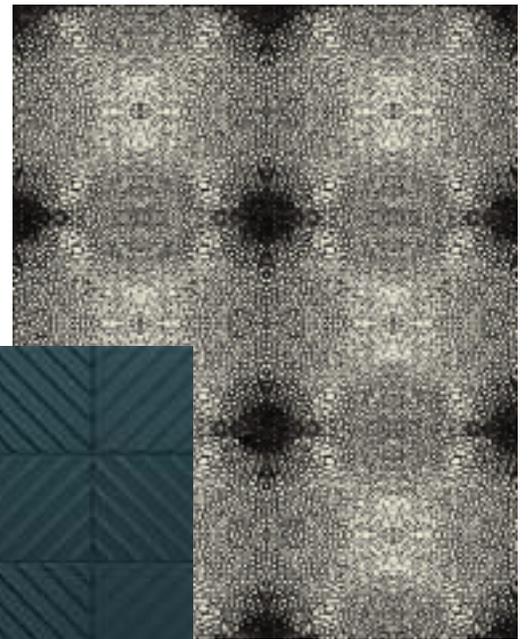
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“EVERY ROOM
NEEDS A LITTLE BLING!”

Lisa Mende



Clockwise from top left:

Louise Gaskill Etta Chandelier / to the trade / www.louisegaskill.com

Shine by S.H.O Alexis Rug / \$68 per square foot / www.shinebysho.com

Walker Zanger 4D Collection in Deep Blue / \$9.75 / www.walkerzanger.com

Kohler Purist Bridge Kitchen Faucet / \$1,236 / www.splashgalleries.com

Rejuvenation Beckett Drawer Pull / \$35 / www.rejuvenation.com

Akan by Lizzo Fabric / to the trade / www.ahokelimited.com

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Produced by Ashley Hotham Cox
Written by Aleigh Acerni



ON THE SIDE

With a brass rim and ferrules, a shelf, and a large drawer, the Austell side table designed by Suzanne Kasler for Hickory Chair pairs the company's signature classic craftsmanship with thoughtful details and functionality. Choose a wood or white onyx top and then customize it with the perfect combination of finishes to make it look right at home in your space. Available through A. Hoke Ltd. / to the trade / www.ahokelimited.com



SHUT EYE

This charming bedding is the result of a partnership between two local forces: interior designer Holly Phillips of The English Room and Leigh Goodwyn of LeighDeux, the bedding and soft goods company tailored toward dorms and small bedroom spaces. Designed and manufactured in the Carolinas, the eclectic collection Bright Eyes & Bushy Tails includes three original designs in four colorways. Whimsical and bold with mix-and-match patterns, whatever your bedroom needs—bed skirts, bean bag cubes, duvets, floor pillows—you name it, you'll find it. Available through LeighDeux / Starting at \$39 / www.leighdeux.com



PITCHER PERFECT

Made from hand-blown glass, these carafes double as beautiful objets d'art. Keep one on your nightstand, and you'll never have to head to the kitchen to quench your thirst in the middle of the night. Each carafe holds more than five cups and is available in four colorways. Available through Anna Karlin / \$210 each / www.annakarlin.com



BASKET CASE

Keep spare bedding or laundry in the Lucca basket by Palecek. With cut-out handles and a powder-coated aluminum frame, this stylish piece can stand up to heavy use. The basket's hand-woven, all-weather synthetic wicker makes it suitable for the outdoors, too. So pick up one in cream for your bedroom and a second in espresso to keep towels handy poolside. Available through Candelabra / \$748 / www.shopcandelabra.com



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This feminine-meets-modern vanity might make you want to consider adding a powder room—just to give it a home. Layers of scalloped detailing create a playful or even beachy vibe. Choose from nineteen high-lacquer colors, including parakeet shown here, or request a custom color for your space. Available in three widths; length is customized in two-inch increments to suit almost any space. Available through Oomph / \$2,450 / www.oomphome.com



TOWEL TALK

Wrap up in style with these one hundred percent cotton Seville bath linens from Matouk. Made in Portugal, the bath towels, hand towels, washcloths, bath sheets, and tub mats have a stylish braid pattern and colors inspired by painted villas in southern Europe. Available at Charlotte's / Starting at \$9 / www.charlottesinc.com



PATTERN MAKER

While subway tile is always a good idea, you may want to opt for a more intricate design for your walls. Cue Young Huh's Essence collection for AKDO. The stone and waterjet glass mosaic tile collection, including the Whimsy shown here in Fog, will give your bathroom walls a subtle, graphic look. Delicate, with a global aesthetic, the tiles are made-to-order and lend a traveled, timeless feel. Available through Triangle Tile & Stone / Starting at \$99.46 per square foot / www.triangletile.com



SQUARED AWAY

Natural texture meets a sleek design aesthetic in the Amala waste bin from Bunny Williams Home. Hand-crafted from bone in a simple geometric pattern, it's a chic, neutral addition to any bath or powder room. Add the coordinating tray, tissue box cover, and candle safe for a matched look. Available through Bunny Williams Home / \$565 / www.bunnywilliamshome.com

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ROUND ABOUT

The Allen semi-circle drawer pull hints at the jewelry roots of its designer, Addison Weeks. The perfect piece of jewelry for your vanity, it'll add texture and contemporary styling to your bath. Sold as a pair—just like your favorite pair of earrings—each piece is handmade with the finish applied over solid brass and coated in lacquer to prevent fingerprints and tarnishing. Available through Addison Weeks / \$176 / www.addisonweeks.com



BE SEATED

Designed to be used in small spaces with a nod to the mid-century modern aesthetic, the lightweight Beetle backless stool is equally at home at a restaurant bar or pulled up to your kitchen counter. Choose metal legs in black, black chrome, or brass, plus a variety of fabric and leather upholstery options. Available through Property Furniture / \$1,040 / www.propertyfurniture.com



STOW AWAY

Waterworks has brought style and impeccable craftsmanship to homes and commercial spaces for more than forty years. Their one-of-a-kind collections are simple and effortlessly stylish. Witness the Bridle cabinetry collection, which draws inspiration from vintage luggage, antique car trunks, and plank doors, resulting in distinctive wood paneling and hardware with metal strapping. Best of all, it's supremely customizable with eight wood finishes, twenty-four paint colors, and seven metal finishes. Available at Bird Decorative Hardware & Bath / Price upon request / www.birddecorativehardware.com



RISE & SHINE

The Ionic collection from L'OBJET gives the classic French press a style update. With its fluted vertical design in brilliant white Limoges porcelain inspired by classical architecture, a brass handle, and top accented in gold, you'll want to set the alarm clock an hour early—there's no doubt you'll want to linger over your morning coffee. Available through Quintessentials / \$276 / www.shopquintessentials.com



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REDEFINED *REDESIGN*

North Carolina designers share the inspiration — and design secrets — from some of their favorite recent projects.

Produced by Ashley Hotham Cox and Anne Marie Ashley
Written by Aleigh Acerni

It's often said that the kitchen is the heart of a home and the bathroom, a sanctuary. Often, these functional spaces face the most use and abuse—and because they're so needed and so used, the logistics of updating or renovating them can feel even more challenging. These beautifully redesigned spaces showcase just how much of an impact it can make to rise to the challenge. Whether it's adding beautiful hand-hewn beams in a kitchen or custom, furniture-inspired cabinetry in a master bath, draw your own inspiration from these eye candy-filled spaces.



**LIZ
GOLDBERG**
CAROLYNLEONA

“This house is almost a hundred years old and located in the historical and charming Raleigh

neighborhood Cameron Park. We wanted to stay true to the history of the home, keeping original windows but reworking every other detail. We added the beam to make it feel as though it is original. In this tuxedo kitchen, instead of traditional black unders [lower cabinets], we surprised with a strong pop of blue. Taking the tile all the way up to the ceiling is a small detail with a big impact! We love how this helps the eye move up, making the ceilings appear higher—and it also feels so luxe and custom.”



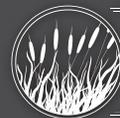


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Photography by Stacey Van Berkel

KARA COX

Kara Cox Interiors

“This kitchen project is actually my personal kitchen! The house is a mid-century home, built in 1954, which had been renovated in the late ‘90s with heart pine cabinets. We gutted the kitchen and updated it with more contemporary slab cabinets and a limed oak island to match the original mid-century style of the home.

The backsplash tile is hand-painted in a mid-century tumbling block pattern and the range hood is a copper hood from Thompson Traders with a burnished brass and nickel finish. I added an antique Turkish rug as a runner for a pop of color and a little touch of cozy.”



Photography by Emily Chidester

HADLEY QUISENBERRY

West Trade Interiors

“The exposed beams, open shelving, and masonry wall provided just the right casual contrast to the sleek tile and stone selections, custom range hood, and stainless appliances. Blue and white is a timeless combination, but it’s also trending in a big way lately. Here we incorporated it with accents and accessories, but it’s also great in fabrics and furnishings. Lighting is another key design element in any space. Circa Lighting is our favorite resource for special fixtures, and their Darlana pendants in old white work perfectly over this expansive island.”



Photography by Brie Williams; Styling by Kendra Surface

TOPS ON TOP

Cindy Crawford on Silestone Countertop



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Eternal Calacatta Gold



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CAREN BISTANY

Bistany Design



CHARLOTTE LUCAS

Charlotte Lucas Interiors

“Classic marble inspired us to keep the cabinetry a classic soft white color to blend. We wanted a transitional look on the cabinetry with furniture details but kept the cabinet doors and drawers clean with a soft bead. The warmth of the unlacquered brass adds a touch of jewelry to the cabinetry. Charlotte [Lucas] did an amazing job selecting the decorative light fixtures and mirrors to add that special touch.” — *Caren Bistany*

“The bones of this house are old, but we wanted the newly renovated master bath to be white, fresh, and open without feeling modern. We wanted a classic style with clean lines, simple but feminine cabinet hardware, and beautiful finishes that would patina over the years. To help create a more open feeling, layer a decorative mirror over a sheet mirror.” — *Charlotte Lucas*



LIZA CLARK BENNETT

Clark and Clark Interiors

“Inspiration always stems from striking the balance of function and feel. This client, a mom of twin boys and a corporate executive, desired a luxurious, spa-like feel for her master bath. Materials make a huge

difference when considering function and feel. We selected quartz and porcelain for their durable, stain-resistant, and low-maintenance qualities. For the tub, we chose a deep soaking tub with air hydrotherapy jets and a heated back to create that spa-like atmosphere. But we kept the footprint small, so it is easy and quick to fill, making her bath time efficient. The result was a timeless master bath with a calming feel that works for not only the client but also her family.”





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Interior design by Dina Bandman with de Gournay hand-painted Lemon Grove design with hand embroidery and beading on Ice Blue dyed silk; Photography by Christopher Stark

JUICY JUICE

The incandescent glow of citron — a tangy, almost fluorescent hue — is electric.

“Zesty” seems all too perfect to define this powerful punch. Its sun-drenched vibrancy has hints of subtle green undertones – not enough to push it into lime or even chartreuse territory but just enough to make it an almost cool yellow. Fiery and ebullient, it bursts forth with dynamic energy and optimism that is infectious and infatuating. It’s chic and cool with greys and black, famously fresh with caramels and creams or perhaps a splash of aquamarine, and alluringly stately with jewel-toned emeralds and teals. Citron always makes for a bold and buoyant pairing.

— Christina Spratt Spencer



Clockwise from top left:

Archive New York Antigua Pillow / \$168 / www.archivenewyork.com

Florence Broadhurst for Selamat Designs Mayfair Garden Bench / \$482.33 / www.shopcandelabra.com

Kelly Wearstler for Groundworks Covet Fabric / to the trade / www.ahokelimited.com

Herbivore Botanicals Glowing Hydration Body Oil / \$26 / www.anthropologie.com

Coleen & Company Leafy Chandelier in Farrow & Ball Daydream Yellow / \$1,850 / www.coleenandcompany.com

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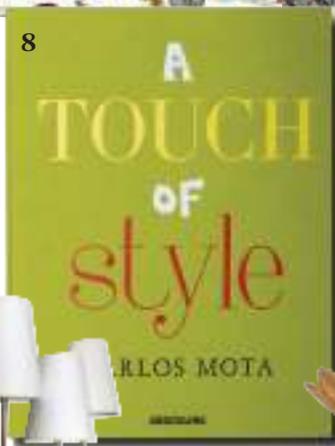
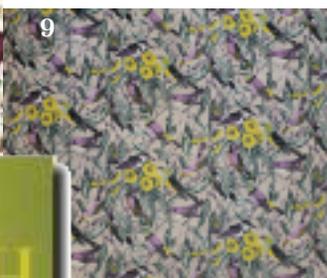
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design board



Versatility, creativity, and style are the hallmarks of designer MA Allen and her nationally-recognized interiors. Ranging from showhouse rooms and tablescapes to whole-home interiors, this Raleigh-based design maven proves time and again that she can inspire through her craft.

“Travel above all else, inspires me, along with fashion and art. I find inspiration for unexpected color pairings in all three. I love exploring new places. Recent favorites include Cambodia and Vietnam. Morocco was another highlight. And Paris is always a good idea! But you don’t have to travel too far to appreciate all the art and culture that North Carolina has to offer.”



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HOME DESIGN



Interior Design by Heather Garrett; Photography by John Bessler

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The two-story foyer features an heirloom Victorian chair from the homeowner's grandmother, complemented by the hand-painted Gracie wallcovering.



what's old is new

Heather Garrett breathes new life into a decade-old home with a perfect mix of new and repurposed.

You may recall the classic children's song that encourages children to "make new friends but keep the old." Though just a children's song, its layers of meaning may resonate with Dr. Cynthia Shortell these days, whose incredible home renovation has her singing the praises of notable interior designer Heather Garrett.

"What's particularly great is that Heather takes a few pieces from your existing setup and reintroduces them to the new one like old friends in a new place," Shortell explains. Examples abound. There are the Victorian chairs, passed down from

previous generations, which were refurbished and recovered; the heirloom painting in the dining room that takes its place alongside new furnishings; and new ceiling beams melding seamlessly with the originals.

After ten years in their Hope Valley Country Club home in Durham, Shortell and her husband, Bruce Peyser, knew it was prime time for a makeover. The home was originally designed when the couple was raising young children, but it didn't fit their current lifestyle of two individuals who like to work, entertain, and host their grown children.

"As physicians, they spend their days taking care of people,





but when they came home in the evenings, the home no longer felt great to them,” Garrett explains. “They wanted to create a place that would feel nurturing and cocooning when they arrived home.”

To create such a space, Garrett repainted rooms with creamy washes of color; she incorporated ethereal wall coverings; and she lightened up the overall palette while matching it to existing rugs and furnishings to maintain the original tone of the interior. And since the couple loves fire and candlelight, Garrett added fireplaces and subdued the

Left: By repurposing a dining room rug and incorporating new fabrics and upholstery pieces, the family sitting area is nostalgic and familiar all at once.

Right: Wallpaper by Cole & Son appeals to book lovers in the home’s unique powder room.



A Turkish Oushak antique rug from Eliko Antique Carpets in New York City is the resting place for the walnut dining table, custom-made by James Stephenson in Raleigh.



“Warm, embracing colors and soft, natural light were absolutely, critically important.”

Above: The Maturin-Aubrey book series by Patrick O'Brien, on which the movie "Master and Commander" was based, is the source of this distinctive dining room accessory.



Custom drapery made with a Weitzner fabric blends seamlessly with vintage caned dining chairs Garrett found on the online auction Chairish. When slip-covered with Brentano performance velvet, it creates a stunning vignette in the dining room. A painting from the homeowners' personal collection brings it all together perfectly.



The Tiffany-style lamp was part of the homeowners' special collection and flanks a comfortable seating area in the home's heart room.

lighting, installing two-dozen sconces. All of the lighting is on smart switches so that when the couple returns home from work – usually well past daylight hours – everything is already softly lit.

“Warm, embracing colors and soft, natural light were absolutely, critically important,” Shortell says.

Indeed, warm hues and light fill the dramatic foyer. Occupying pride of place is the custom, hand-painted Gracie mural. There was much back-and-forth communication between Durham and the New York-based Gracie studio until the meticulously created finished product arrived from Europe. “It came in pieces with diagrams, and our wallpaper installer was



terrified, but he did a great job,” Garrett says.

Meanwhile, the rich wood tones of the entryway’s floor nicely contrast the white crown molding and balusters of the grand staircase. Originally, one walked into the home and could see all the way to the back of the house, creating an odd visual perspective. Today, a back wall forms a cozy niche, complete with treasured pieces from the couple’s original collection: an antique rug, a Stickley table, and intriguing artwork.

The foyer’s airy ambiance travels through the adjacent dining room. The walls are swathed in a polished plaster and topped by an English wallpaper border with added shine to reflect maximum light. The light illuminates the custom-made table, which rests on a

sculptured base. Garrett found the distinctive dining chairs through 1stdibs, and she covered them in custom skirts. The fabric of the original draperies was cut and repurposed for new valances.

One of the room’s unique elements is the ship replica that Peyser had commissioned for his wife. “There is a series of novels by Patrick O’Brien that I love dearly,” Shortell explains. “The ship, the Surprise, is Captain Aubrey’s ship. Bruce got it for me for Christmas one year.”

While the ship is a favorite piece, the room she likes to spend the most time in is the family room. “It is an incredibly beautiful but warm, embracing room with lots of very soothing spaces and a lovely view,” she says.

Above: The bed linens are the perfect recipe for a restful sleep: duvet from Restoration Hardware, bedspread in Sunbrella linen for an easy wash after the pets take naps, and pillows in fabrics by Rubelli, Donghia, and Kravet.

Opposite Top: A vent-free fireplace, complete with cabinetry for the television, allows the homeowners to enjoy all of today’s modern comforts.

Opposite Bottom: Wall sconces from Visual Comfort illuminate the master suite and much of the rest of the home.



The room contains a reading nook, television viewing area, and window seat. The coffered ceiling and beams were repainted – including the trays in wood veneer – to maintain the homeowners’ preference for the feel of a paneled room without the darkness of the original. Garrett added decorative sconces to showcase the curio cabinet, which has its own interior lighting and contains souvenirs from the couple’s many travels.

“We also used their rug that was previously in their dining room and got all new fabrics and upholstery pieces, but again, it was still a familiar palette to them,” Garrett says.

While the kitchen proper is still a work in progress, the adjacent hearth room is an inspired addition to the home and serves as the perfect complement to the kitchen space. Garrett installed a cozy fireplace, antique rug, and a stained glass Tiffany-style lamp alongside a custom-made table that can seat up to twelve people, so that kitchen activity can easily spill into this space.

The master bedroom and adjacent sitting room is a luxurious retreat, complete with fireplace, a wall of built-ins,



Left: A marble, herringbone floor, provided by Best Tile, serves as the backdrop for the oasis that is the master bathroom. *Right:* The master suite is a luxurious retreat reached by the dressing hall that exudes country manor warmth.

a chaise lounge, and a garden right outside the windows. Garrett created paneled molding squares and papered them in thin, wood veneer paper for walls

that look fresh and light yet also sophisticated. A chandelier that was previously in the dining room now lights the master bathroom, which is wallpapered in a fun



pattern. All of the bathroom surfaces received an upgrade so that the result is a sanctuary of rest and relaxation.

The homeowners couldn't be more pleased with their renovated residence. "It is very eclectic, blending different

colors, styles, and fabrics in a really interesting way," Shortell says. Not only that, it seamlessly blends the old and the new, just as the song says. ♦



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Gone to Carolina

A CHAPEL HILL COUPLE ESCAPES
TO WILMINGTON TO THEIR
STUNNING SOUND-FRONT HOME.

Architecture by Michael Kersting | Interior Design by Leslie Stachowicz
Written by Blake Miller | Photography by Michael Blevins

Architect Michael Kersting designed the open floor plan to allow for easy entertaining and flow from the inside out to the expansive decks. A custom-designed dining table made from Oregon black walnut with zinc encased in resin by Corey Springer serves as the focal point of the great room.





The kitchen was purposefully left all white so as not to detract from the ocean views outside. The perimeter counters are quartz while the island is marble.

Michael Kersting knew he had the advantage. When his clients reached out to him about their sound-front lot in Wilmington Beach, he knew exactly how he'd position the home on the land. "When I saw that it had an existing home on the lot, I was excited," the architect says. And rightfully so.

Because of Wilmington's setback laws, new construction homes need to be positioned farther back from the water often leaving prime real estate unused. But if there's an existing home on the land, the setbacks original to the property are grandfathered in. And Kersting was eager to take advantage of this loophole. "Those setbacks were a major player in how the form of the

home took shape," Kersting says of the L-shape structure, which seamlessly connects the house to the adjacent dock and allows for water views from nearly every room—inside and out.

It took only one back-and-forth meeting with the homeowners to get the home's design just right. "Michael and his team read us so well," the homeowner says. "It's like they climbed right into our brains and knew exactly what we wanted." Drawn with a Dutch Caribbean aesthetic with dark wood flooring and all-white interiors, the clients wanted a home that was effortless, casual, and appropriate for the beach, yet sophisticated. Kersting and project architect Mark Wilson designed the home such that the homeowners could live on the top floor comfortably without any guests but also easily host family and friends on the bottom

Though the homeowners frequently travel around the world, their Wilmington Beach home is still one of their favorite places to come back to.



Above: The homeowners commissioned pieces from North Carolina pottery artist Ben Owen to be displayed in the glass cabinet Kersting designed in the kitchen. It illuminates the kitchen and dining area at night and highlights the colors of the landscape outside.



Left: Lighting the kitchen was a bit of challenge due to the vaulted ceilings, says Stachowicz, who chose glass pendants, which nearly disappear allowing the views to remain center stage. Counter stools by Williams Sonoma Home provide a dose of modernity to the space.

Right: The master suite features a few seating areas including this quiet corner, which Stachowicz outfitted with a pair of chairs from McGuire upholstered in a Barbara Barry fabric from Kravet. Throw pillows in a complementary pattern by Schumacher finish the look.

floor. “We didn’t want to feel lost in the house if it was just the two of us staying here,” the homeowner says. Water views were, of course, also of utmost importance.

The homeowners enlisted the help of designer Leslie Stachowicz of Peridot Interiors to create an interior design scheme that highlighted the views while also utilizing the

couple’s extensive art collection. “They had pieces from all over the world from their travels,” Stachowicz says. “Michael purposefully left large walls open to hang artwork throughout the home, so I used that as a building block for the interior design.”

Adjacent to the wine cellar, which Kersting refers to as a



“jewel box” in the kitchen, the architects designed a shelving unit to house custom ceramic and pottery pieces by local North Carolina artist Ben Owens. “We have art from all over the world and wanted something to represent North Carolina,” the homeowner says, whose primary residence is in Chapel Hill. The ceramic pieces provide a dose of color—and a stunning

feature—to the otherwise all-white kitchen and dining room. The adjacent wine room serves as the perfect complement to the colorful artwork display with its dark stained white oak. A custom light fixture created from wine bottles consumed at the homeowners’ groundbreaking party provides a modern touch without detracting from the wine room’s beauty itself.



Top: The homeowners loved the look of Dutch Caribbean design: light-colored interiors and furnishings juxtaposed with dark wood detailing and floors. In each bathroom, dark maple cabinetry provides that complementary look.

Bottom Left: To create interest in the main master suite, Kersting designed recessed areas behind the bed and the dresser, which Stachowicz covered in grasscloth by Phillip Jeffries to add texture.

Bottom Right: The main master bedroom boasts a simple queen headboard, which Stachowicz had reupholstered in white cotton and complemented with crisp white linens.



Comfort was of utmost importance, so the homeowners sat in every piece of furniture in the home including the outdoor pieces before committing to anything. These chaises by Kingsley Bate Furniture hit the mark.





Left: All of the outdoor living spaces were outfitted with shutters that not only protect the home during potential tropical storms and hurricanes but also provide relief from overly windy days.

To keep the views and artwork the primary focus of the home, Stachowicz focused on clean, simple lines, patterns, and textures. Each bedroom features crisp, all-white linens from Serena & Lily, Yves Delorme, and Williams Sonoma Home while key furniture pieces such as the custom dining room table, which features a piece of Oregon black walnut wedged between two pieces of zinc encased in resin, are decidedly neutral but classic. In the main master bedroom on the top floor, Kersting designed recessed areas behind the bed and dresser, which add depth to the space. “I felt like they needed a little something, though,” Stachowicz says, who added texture to each recessed pocket with grasscloth wallcovering by Phillip Jeffries.

Though the homeowners frequently travel around the world, their Wilmington Beach home is still one of their favorite places to come back to. “It’s comfortable and relaxing,” they say. “Michael and his team really listened to us and captured the essence of what we wanted in a home. It’s a lovely home and is reflective of who we are as a couple.”◆



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The robin's egg blue high gloss lacquer is Benjamin Moore Stardew, the perfect contrast for this dramatic black kitchen. The black cabinet paint is Benjamin Moore Midnight Oil, and the center island is painted in Benjamin Moore Simply White.





Classic with a twist

Gold accents sparkle like jewelry in interior designer Jessica Dauray's confident black kitchen.

When Jessica Dauray designs interiors, she hones in on her client's personality to understand how they live in the space. This helps her design a room around their lifestyle. For her latest kitchen remodel, she only had to know herself. And in her own kitchen, she knew she would add a sense of depth and character by incorporating a touch of black.

"Brushed gold against black is one of my favorite combinations," she says. "It's like a simple black dress worn with a beautiful gold necklace. To me, there's nothing more beautiful, timeless, or elegant."

Dauray also knew how she wanted to live in her new kitchen. That's why she eliminated the traditional walk-in pantry, which takes up lots of space. Instead, she designed four deep drawers to hold items like cereal, rice, and quinoa. "I eat very clean these days, without a lot of processed food," she explains.

The light blue lacquered cabinets over the deep custom pantry drawers were designed to give Dauray the space she needs to store large kitchen appliances. These cabinets feature another of her signature touches, the gold mesh insert, which she says reminds her of her northern roots.

"I'm a Connecticut Yankee," she laughs, explaining how she grew up in New Canaan, Connecticut, and fondly remembers the stately older homes she's seen in nearby Newport, Rhode Island. Growing up only forty-five minutes from Manhattan, the big city feel that has always inspired her style is evident in Dauray's designs.

The kitchen's subway tiles are rectangular rather than the standard square to give a modern, graphic element. Dark grout adds a timeless, vintage quality.

The placement of windows in a corner presented a design challenge for Dauray; window treatments wouldn't really work. Taking the subway tiles up to the ceiling was the perfect solution. "I love the clean look," she says.



The Fornasetti plates over the banquette add a touch of whimsy to balance the formality of this classic kitchen.



Top Left: A close up of the robin's egg custom designed cabinets shows the polish of brushed gold hardware and mesh inset.

Bottom Left: The banquette pillows are a modern take on a classic Jacobean floral in blue and dark taupe fabric by Designers Guild. Chairs are covered in Sunbrella fabric for practical and durable luxury.

Bottom Right: Subway tile reaches to the ceiling for a timeless, vintage charm that is framed on one side by bold black accents from the faucet and range hood and the soft blue cabinetry on the other. Countertops are white Carrara marble in a polished finish.

The black range hood makes a bold statement in the room, with custom molding matching the custom motif on the kitchen island. Black stainless steel appliances from Kitchen Aid have a sleek design that blends seamlessly with the black cabinetry and accentuates the dark grout in the tiles.

Dauray chose fabrics for her banquette that tie the kitchen together. Throw pillows covered in a blue and dark taupe fabric by Designers Guild unify the look and add a pop of color, while chairs from CR Laine covered in vellum white Sunbrella fabric make it practical for the kitchen. She likes Sunbrella fabric, which she says has a more luxurious feel than what you would expect from outdoor fabric.

Dauray collaborated with BMC Builders on the project, who helped her achieve the spacious feel in the room. "They were fabulous to work with on the bells and whistles that give this kitchen its custom mark."

Black *can* be severe, but not in Dauray's kitchen. Whitewashed wide plank floors, the soft blue lacquered cabinets, and the white island with its black walnut butcher block countertop balance the room and lighten the drama that black cabinets convey to create a look that is both formal and comfortable. "I am very excited about the balance," she says. "I love the way the pantry area over the microwave mimics the banquette."

"I'd say this kitchen is classic with a twist," Dauray says. "When my girlfriends walk in, they say, 'You can tell this is Jessica's kitchen.' I take that as a compliment and the true sign of a well-designed kitchen." ♦





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Interior Design by Heather Garrett; Photography by John Bessler

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BROUGHT TO Life

By Dana W. Todd



Not one inch of this Cary kitchen with attached dining room and sitting area remained untouched during its renovation process. Interior designer Vicky Serany of Southern Studio along with contractor Dicky Gephart of Gephart Building Company transformed the space into one large open room that is casually sophisticated – a perfect accompaniment for a large home overlooking the Prestonwood Country Club golf course.

As a total renovation project, the owner tasked Southern Studio with transforming it into an open concept for entertaining and updating its architecture and color palette. An extensive part of

the project involved the kitchen and dining area. Serany began by having floor-to-ceiling columns removed and gutting the rest of the space, removing and reconfiguring floor tiles, cabinets, walls, doors, and windows to strip away all traces of the dated decor with the intention of adding light throughout the room.

The reconstructed kitchen received a design facelift with new finishes and materials. Creamy white cabinetry and Ashbury tile in fieldstone provide a light-enhancing, neutral backdrop for the homeowners' art collection and accessories, which introduce pops of azure blue while also enlivening the space. Elegant hanging lighting from Visual Comfort in antique nickel and white glass add to the approachable yet chic vibe. The theme is continued with



granite countertops in “white ice.”

“Antiqued oiled and hand-scraped wooden floors provide incredible character and set the tone for the room since they were one of the first choices we made,” Serany says.

“Every project has surprises, especially when moving and changing the architecture of a space, but a great relationship with the contractor like we had makes all the difference.”◆

Vicky Serany and her team at Southern Studio provide full-service collaborative design focused on casual sophistication. Contact the firm at www.southernstudio.com or 919-362-5143.

Tips for Kitchen Renovation:

- Give thought to lifestyle. Determine kitchen priorities such as efficient workflow, ample storage, or space for entertaining.
- Establish a budget and allow for unexpected surprises.
- Select appliances with features that fit the needs of your family.
- Pay attention to the hardware. It’s the jewelry of the design.
- Layer lighting for specific tasks. Include ambient lighting, task lighting, and accent lighting.
- Consider the function of each cabinet and drawer. Add features for specialty function to customize the space.
- Have fun with the backsplash. It’s the perfect place to add pattern or color.

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Elegant *estate*

By Brandy Woods Snow



The decision to purchase a home relies heavily on what is physically seen through the eyes of the buyer. Is the floor plan accessible and accommodating? The lot spacious? Is the community well-maintained and secure? Is there ample natural light streaming through expansive windows? What materials are being used in the interior? The list of considerations is endless.

And while these things are important to the homeowner, it is often the behind-the-scenes amenities that will ensure each home offers the highest standards in efficiency, integrity, and livability. Baker Residential understands this and enlists as much care and concern into these factors as it does the comprehensive package. The company's attention to detail in these unique construction techniques ensure homeowners the best possible experience in their new home for years to come.

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and marketing. “And as much as homeowners want to live in a beautiful place, they also want a comfortable home of sound construction. We build each home with the family in mind with superior construction and innovative building methods to exceed all expectations.”

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Likewise, construction techniques geared toward convenience and environmental protection may not always sound glamorous but are invaluable in the long run. The homes in Providence feature mastic sealed vents that decrease air leakage and Firefoam to reduce airflow penetration. The laundry room’s seamless floor drain eliminates the need for a washing machine pan while a jumper duct reduces room pressure and maintains humidity stability. The installed LP Techshield Radiant Barrier Sheathing reduces whole-home cooling costs by lowering attic temperatures up to thirty degrees.

Lantz encourages homebuyers to do their homework and always be vigilant of both the aesthetic and structural components of a home when making the ultimate decision to purchase. “Quality of materials and craftsmanship are two big items to keep in mind. Consider this: Do the homes stand the test of time? How have homes aged in neighborhoods that have been built by the same builder? Doing your due diligence and research will ensure you purchase a long-term home that is both beautiful and structurally sound. That is true peace of mind.”◆

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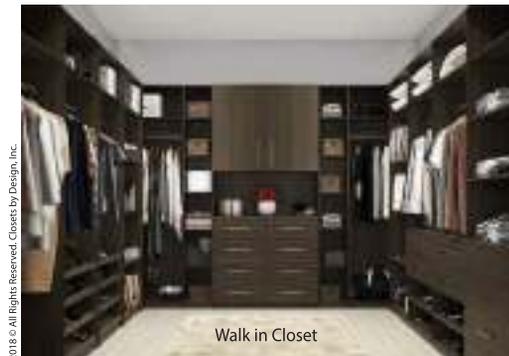
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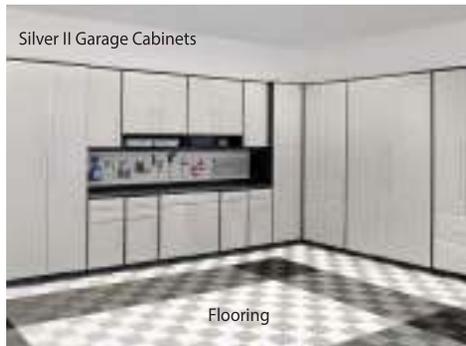
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SMALL SPACES, REIMAGINED

By Lee Rhodes

Photography by Megan Q. Daniels

A small space can have big impact. Consider the closet, for example. In terms of functionality and style, these little rooms have endless design potential that can be manufactured for the way you live and the items you store. At Closet Factory, designers collaborate with customers to help them realize this potential, and with the company's new design center that opened last month, customers can find endless inspiration.

A visit to the Closet Factory's new factory design center showcases the broad array of products that the company offers for the closet and well beyond. Design consultants can advise on solutions for your home office, Murphy bed, pantry, garage, laundry room, bathroom, and much more. From simple storage solutions for space optimization to high-end shelving with decorative finishes and custom appliques, there is an endless number of offerings and accessories for any space imaginable.

"The range of product we offer is one of the things that sets us apart," CEO Sue Pail says.

Another differentiator? Once the designer and client have come up with a solution they are happy with, it's manufactured on site in the factory and then delivered and installed by an installation crew. "A lot of clients like to be able to see where

A visit to the Closet Factory's new factory design center showcases the broad array of products that the company offers for the closet and well beyond.

their product is manufactured, so we can give them a tour and show them while they're on site," Pail says. Additionally, every person who does any work for Closet Factory is an employee; there are no subcontractors.

Design consultants also do in-home visits to meet with clients, discuss needs, measure spaces, and showcase samples. Clients can then visit the new design center, if they choose, to see design





options on 3D rendering software. Consultants create solutions that fit seamlessly within the aesthetics of the home and maximize unused wall space. The solution is specifically set up for how people store things – whether it’s the number of pairs of shoes one has or how many things hang in a closet. Closet Factory designers work with people for a plan that is tailored to them and their needs. Not only that, the potential for creative solutions in smaller spaces (and spaces that sometimes get overlooked) is endless.

“Our first goal is to solve your needs organizationally and then to find your balance between aesthetics and budget,” Pail says. “We can do so much from an aesthetic point of view, but we also want to work within your budget.”◆

Have a small space problem that needs a solution? Call Closet Factory to set up a consultation at 800-838-7995 or visit the showroom at 2031 Production Drive in Apex. Visit www.closetfactory.com for more information.



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setting
the
scene

By Dana W. Todd

Very few of us have the innate ability to walk into a retail store and choose the correct fixtures and finishes that work together to convey a particular design aesthetic, whether that look is traditional, modern, transitional, or rustic. To address this issue, Splash Galleries is renovating its showroom to take the guesswork out of choosing custom plumbing fixtures, cabinetry hardware, paint colors, lighting, and countertops, with the goal of making these choices homeowner-friendly.

“We are setting up seventy percent of our showroom in a vignette-inspired fashion,” says Lauren Phillips of Splash Galleries, a kitchen and bath showroom. “These stylized vignettes help our customers think outside of the box when designing or renovating a bathroom or kitchen, especially if they do not have an interior designer to help them visualize the finished product.”

Each vignette tells a story. For example, the rustic farmhouse set features a Native Trails driftwood vanity and hammered copper sink, complete with a Graff Bali vessel faucet in oil-rubbed bronze. Another display shows how well a wall-mounted, polished brass California Faucets fixture pairs with an Afina antique gold mirror, modern, stark white pedestal sink, and dark navy painted walls.

Phillips says Splash Galleries has partnered with granite fabricators, tile distributors, and other suppliers to provide

comprehensive displays for homeowners to peruse. With each complete scenario depicting paint, countertops, plumbing, fixtures, cabinetry, hardware, and lighting, homeowners can feel confident their choices will result in the desired aesthetic once installed. And they can walk away with both ideas and product samples.

“We have so many different styles in a showroom that is totally design focused,” Phillips says. “We are not a commission-based showroom, so our designers and salespeople are not pushing a particular product line. We focus on choosing and offering quality brands to our customers at a range of price points. The same look is achievable at many pricing levels, and we can help customers navigate that decision process.”

In addition to room displays, Splash Galleries provides a fully functioning and interactive wall of showerheads and faucets, where customers can try before they buy.

Since the company is family owned and operated, it has the freedom to continually update its vignettes and displays to showcase the latest pairings and product introductions. Homeowners always will find something new in the ever-evolving Splash Galleries vignettes. ♦

Are you in need of design expertise to help choose the right products and finishes for a bathroom or kitchen project? Visit the Splash Galleries showroom at 5060 Trademark Drive in Raleigh or call 919-719-3333 to schedule a design consultation.



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Beyond FOUR WALLS

By Corinna Houston



Kitchen & Bath Galleries (K&BG) is so much more than the name suggests. You can browse vignettes in their showroom and purchase appliances, of course. But K&BG also offers design services as simple as creating a custom kitchen island to more involved projects like renovating a master bath and coordinating a full remodel.

Desi McAlister has done it all. She's been a designer at K&BG for over two decades. Her passion for the work and the company is palpable. She believes that having the vision to see beyond four walls not only sets them apart — it ensures they exceed their clients' expectations.

“Most places want clients to already have a design in mind and bring it to them because they don't offer any ideas or creativity,” McAlister says. “When we meet with a client, we come up with several ideas, even if it's nothing more than relocating an appliance to make a space more open and efficient.”

No matter the size or intent of a project, a site visit is crucial. McAlister recalls a Sneads Ferry, North Carolina, beach house restoration that wouldn't have been given a wow-factor facelift had she not gone to the home for an assessment.

“I was told the homeowners were dealing with some water damage. But when I walked in, I immediately noticed the pantry and hallway bath were blocking the view of the beautiful



intercostal waterway! I would've never seen this if I was just given a floor plan."

Needless to say, they knocked down the pantry and bath and relocated them. The final product is stunning, certainly. But a lot goes into a project from start to finish. "There's so much math involved. We have to ensure everything fits; it's not just deciding what looks pretty together," McAlister says.

K&BG strives to make a stressful renovation process seamless for their clients. Along with design services, they offer a wide selection of appliances so clients don't have to shop anywhere else. "By ordering appliances or plumbing fixtures from us, sending necessary specifications comes off their plate. We handle it all," McAlister says.

"We are responsible for making sure the air clearances are correct and combustibility codes are in place," she explains. Several safety requirements must be met along the way. That way, a project can pass inspection; therefore it stays on schedule and progresses as intended.

For Desi McAlister, it always comes back to going above and beyond for her clients. "To me, that's standard." Her goal is to produce something that surpasses what they had in mind. "People have an idea, a concept, for what a kitchen can be, and



we take it beyond that. It's more than they ever expected. We show our clients 3-D renderings so they can get a feel for what's to come, but there is nothing like that 'wow' reveal moment."◆

Looking for design services or consultation? Call Kitchen & Bath Galleries to set up an appointment in one of their showrooms at 919-783-7100. Visit www.kandbgalleries.com for more information.

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All this said, it's important to be prepared to avoid “paralysis by analysis” during construction, which can prove frustrating and expensive.

Here are some crucial planning tips for a successful custom home design-build experience.

Select the right homesite. Consider the topography, orientation, soil composition, and tree makeup before purchasing a homesite. If a walkout basement is desirable, then a lot sloping toward the rear of the property is appropriate, whereas a flat lot is ideal for non-basement homes. Don't assume that you can cheaply accommodate the house to the slope or drastically alter the topography of a lot – it's easy to spend tens of thousands on earthwork and raised foundations. This can render a discounted sloping lot more expensive than better initial options in the long run.

Southern sun exposure is another factor to consider: Where would you prefer low winter sunlight to enter? For energy conservation and coziness, winter sun through main living area windows is ideal (Don't worry; modern windows shield the harmful sunrays).

Lastly, peer beneath the earth if you can – drilling wells, digging foundations, and





laying out a septic system is particularly difficult and expensive in rocky soils. Hiring a soil scientist during due diligence is worth it if there's suspicion of poor drainage or shallow bedrock.

Work with a lender that offers construction loans. Lenders that provide construction-to-permanent loans are a great option for financing custom home projects. These loans allow you to lock in your rate and close on the land and home before construction begins. This means that you will be able to move in as soon as a certificate of occupancy is issued, and you can rest assured that releasing of funds won't be the cause of any construction delays.

Be realistic about how you use your home. What are your ideal goals for daily living? Drinking morning coffee on the screened porch and grilling by the pool, or reading a novel in the conservatory and trying new recipes in a gourmet kitchen? Of course, it would be nice to have it all and a movie theater, too, but the budget might disagree.

It's important to rank floor plan and outdoor living features based on your use and enjoyment of spaces so that you can decisively omit lower ranked items that aren't budget-friendly.

Another option is to design your home with future expansion in mind. For example, pre-wire for a movie theater with plans to finish it five years later.

Communicate often. During design, open communication about financial goals and constraints will enable a design-build firm to hone in on a plan that fits your style and budget, hopefully curtailing any sticker shock at contract presentation. Throughout construction, frequent communication and questioning helps avoid mistakes and delays. If a design concept is not fully understood in a phone call or email, ask to meet on site to discuss and decide in person. It's always cheaper and less frustrating to get it right the first time rather than to tear something out and rebuild it. ♦

Evan Bost is director of marketing and Green Initiatives at Bost Custom Homes, an award-winning custom building firm serving the Triangle. With thirty years of proven expertise, Bost Custom Homes designs and constructs custom residences with superior craftsmanship, a focus on health and sustainability, architectural authenticity, and structural integrity. To begin the conversation of your forever home, call 919-460-1983 or email info@bosthomes.com. Learn more at www.bosthomes.com or www.facebook.com/bostcustomhomes.



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arts and culture

SPOTLIGHT



Carolina Ballet: FIREBIRD & A Tribute to Russian Ballet & Its Composers

Fletcher Opera Theater

September 13-30

www.carolinaballet.com

The Carolina Ballet will open its 2018-2019 season with the classic Russian fairytale *Firebird*. The show combines many enchanting elements, including a prince, a princess, and an evil sorcerer.

Firebird is set to orchestral works by renowned Russian composer Igor Stravinsky. The ballet was first performed at the Opera de Paris on June 25, 1910. *Firebird* has since become one of the most remarkable ballets ever presented.



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Meymandi Concert Hall

September 21-22

8 p.m.

www.ncsymphony.org

Beethoven's legendary Fifth Symphony will take the stage at Meymandi Concert Hall this September as the North Carolina Symphony's season opener. One of the most brilliant and popular works in classical music, the program will feature four extraordinary tributes: *The Consecration of the House*, *Rondo for Piano and Orchestra*, *Choral Fantasy*, and *Symphony No. 5*. Individual tickets go on sale August 13.

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www.lungcancerinitiative.org

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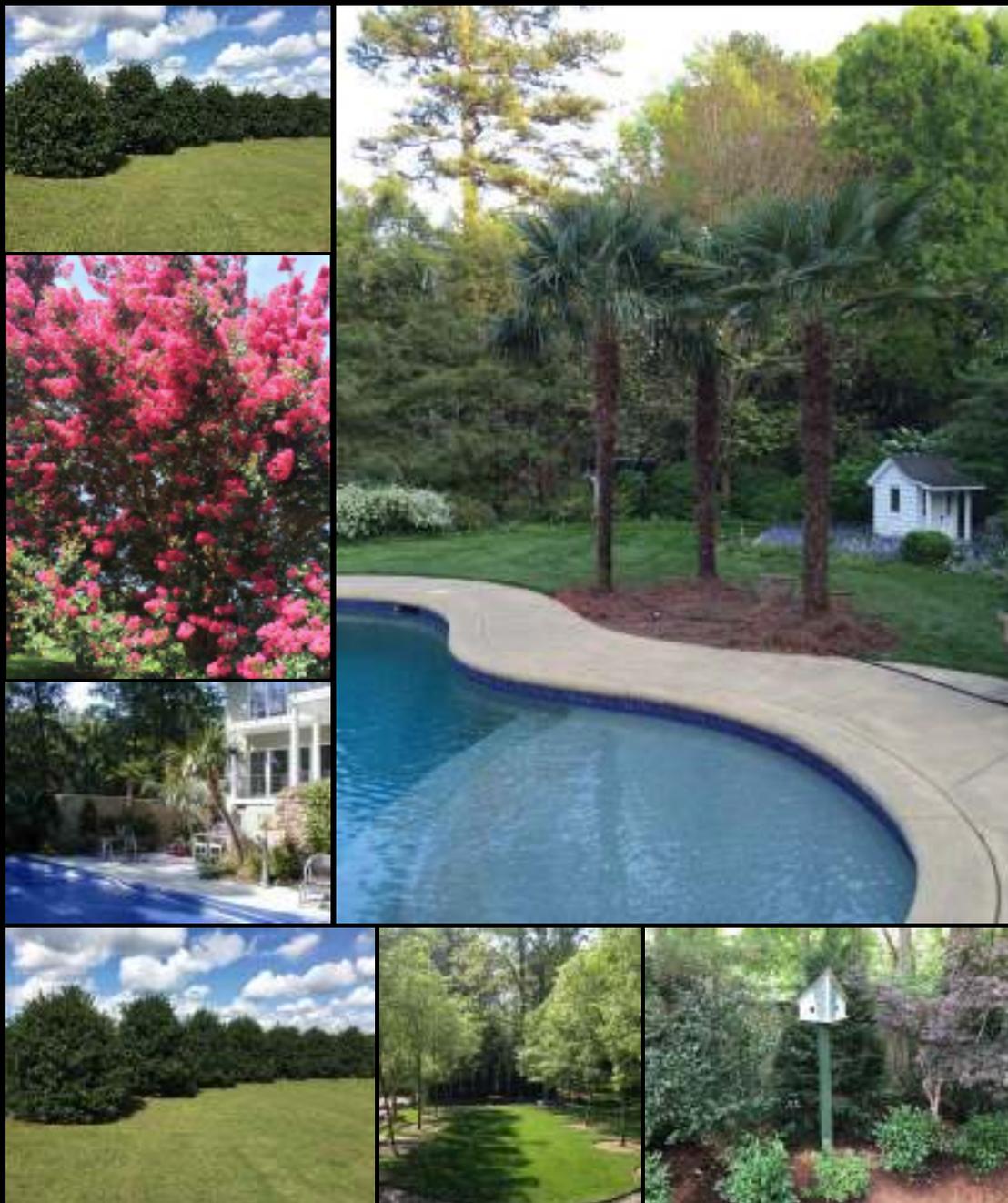
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