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features

58 MEMORY MAKER
Designer Deborah Hensley firmly believes in filling a home with pieces that have special meaning. Her home on her old lot is a testament to that belief.

72 DESIGN LEGACY
Growing up immersed in design, Kate Hutchison always knew it was her calling. After founding kate.h.design, she got busy renovating her own home.

84 MODERN LOVE
Purchasing an older home that was a modern architectural gem, designer Brandie Sweany has seen her Durham home through many changes over the last five years.
MARKET
When great minds collaborate, the results are nothing short of brilliant. These stunning collections and designer texts will enhance any space and inspire imaginations.

TREND
Canopy beds are making a comeback in a very contemporary way. Check out modern interpretations of this classic piece.

PALETTE
Find out what makes mustard-seed yellow the most colorfully unexpected neutral.

DESIGN BOARD
Interior designer Leslie May creates chic, cozy spaces that embrace the havoc of a home filled with family, friends, pets, and parties.

DESIGNED TO TRAVEL
We asked five local designers to weigh in on their favorite cities, resorts, and hotels spanning the globe.

CUSTOMIZE TO MAXIMIZE
Luxury home builder Baker Residential listens to what families want, believing that what goes into your home is as important as the location of your home.

DESTINED TO DELIGHT
CRS Marble & Granite is known for its extensive collection of natural stones and expansive customer service. Find out why customers are singing its praises.

GREEN SCREENS
Good (green) fences make good neighbors. David Payne of Home & Garden Landscapes shares some factors to consider when shopping for your privacy screen.

STRIKING A CHORD
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While the temperatures may be cooling, the design scene is heating up. Extracurricular activities are in full swing. Discover ADAC just concluded, Maison et Objet is over, and we’re now on the heels of High Point Market, where our local designers will fill up their creative tanks with inspiration. I can’t think of a better time to show our local love for these creative talents than right now with our Designers at Home Issue.

There’s a slew of new designer collaborations taking place that deserve to be in the spotlight. From textiles to texts, we wanted to share some of the most exuberant and exciting launches out there (page 20). While I will be anchored here at home for the foreseeable future with yet another newborn, I’ve already begun my travel itinerary after reading our Designed to Travel story. Local designers divulge their favorite places to visit. You’ll be ready to pack your bags and head for the Seven Hills of San Francisco, too (page 35).

When it comes to designing your own home, there are no concessions—except for maybe trading the oversized television for the large dose of purple in almost every room, which sounds like a pretty good deal to me. For the most part, designers have the free will to do as they choose, and, boy, did these three do just that. For Deborah Hensley, her desire to create comfortable, inviting spaces and her refined level of taste go hand in hand. From custom-painted chevron floors to the display of her sea biscuit collection, no stone goes unturned, so to speak, in the Hensley home (page 58). For High Point native Kate Hutchison, who took her first steps in her grandfather’s furniture showroom, the family history is there but doesn’t define her. Hutchison embraces her roots along with her penchant for lighter, more contemporary elements with a mashup of new and old in her newly renovated home. What else would you expect from someone who came from a lineage of designers (page 72)? And for interior designer Brandie Sweany, who loves architecture and mid-century modern design, her home has become a true representation of just that. It’s been a work in progress (what home isn’t?), but it’s timeless, flexible, and functional—a home that continues to evolve with her family, just the way she likes it (page 84).

What happens when the client-gloves come off? Total design freedom. And I couldn’t love it more. Design-lovers, get ready. You are in for a treat. No tricks, just treats.

Cheers,

Ashley Hotham Cox
Editor in Chief
@ashleyhcox on Instagram
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ABRA-COLLAB
When the brightest minds in design and products come together, the results are nothing short of brilliant.

Written by Anne Marie Ashley

GLOBE TROTTER
In his first capsule collection with CuratedKravet, designer Nate Berkus introduces his love of travel to the world. The collection of framed textiles from Berkus' Well-Traveled collection mixes history, architecture, art, and craftsmanship for the ultimate display of casual cotton and linen textures. A few patterns of note include Blockstack and Dessau, presenting truly innovative ways to design, alongside Inkwashes and Dash Off, which are offered as lampshades in both hardback and pleated styles in a variety of colors. A long-time anti-trend designer, Berkus hopes his designs will bring texture, layers, and, most importantly, personality to a room. Available to the trade. ahokeltl.com

SET IN STONE
Labrazel, the leader in luxury bath accessories for homes, resorts, and spas, has partnered with one of the world's leading interior designers, Alexa Hampton, to create a one-of-a-kind collection with the kind of craftsmanship that only Labrazel is known for. The new Titan collection of bath accessories is made of Italian travertine, hand-carved from a single block and inspired by Italian architecture. Each piece is uniquely patterned from the individual travertine stone, offering a truly luxe appeal for the most discerning taste. labrazel.com

THE ENGLISH GARDEN
Renowned English designer Nina Campbell has been a mainstay with Osborne & Little, producing gorgeous designs and original collections for more than twenty-five years. Her latest revelations, a series of fabrics and wallcoverings inspired by the English country garden, are reminiscent of woodland walks on the English countryside. The collection is called Ashdown, named after an area of beautiful countryside in Sussex, England, and it is full of florals and patterns spanning neutrals to jewel tones. osborneandlittle.com
TOUCHABLE TEXTURES

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ENGLISH LACE
Charlotte-based designer Holly Hollingsworth Phillips of The English Room has teamed with well-known Atlanta designer Beth Lacefield, owner of Lacefield Designs, to pull together a range of patterned fabrics inspired by global travel. Phillips' bold colors and lively patterns were an ideal match to Lacefield's classic, traditional style. Both equally passionate about travel, Phillips and Lacefield created each pattern inspired by a specific travel image. “For example,” Phillips explains, “the stripe is based off a watercolor ceramic bottle of olive oil on the coast of Positano in a restaurant called Lo Scoglio.” As she puts it, it is pattern-play perfection. The collection features fifteen textiles available by the yard and a collection of seven pillows. lacefielddesigns.com

RUNWAY COLORWAY
There's rarely been a time when fashion hasn't influenced interior design, but none more directly related than the new collaboration between perennial design house Schumacher and fashion designer Johnson Hartig of Libertine. “Johnson's unique rule-breaking sensibility has always intrigued me; it's full of exuberance but very sophisticated at the same time, so it aligns amazingly well with Schumacher's DNA,” Dara Caponigro, creative director of Schumacher, says. The completely original fashion designer also has a passion and understanding of decorating, which makes his designs both enlightened and functional. According to Hartig, you can expect a collection full of exuberant color, texture, patterns, classicism, and modernity. Available to the trade. karensaks.com

SIDE PIECE
As part of its 10-Year Anniversary Collection, home furnishings and accessories house oomph debuts its newest introduction, the Milbrook, in collaboration with interior designer Katie Ridder. Combining practicality and whimsy, the luxurious side table features textured surface and drawer, accented with custom hardware and oomph's signature lacquer. The custom avocado color and leather-faced drawer are completely unique and resonate Ridder's vibrant aesthetic. oomphhome.com
THE NEW ELEGANCE:
STYLISH, COMFORTABLE
ROOMS FOR TODAY
BY TIMOTHY CORRIGAN
Renowned interior designer Timothy Corrigan has landed on the AD100 list of interior designers on multiple occasions not just because he’s a well-known name, but also because he’s incredible at what he does. In his latest book, The New Elegance, Corrigan tips the scales to and fro as he demonstrates the balancing act so many try to achieve in design—visual elegance and gracious comfort. “Comfort is not antithetical to elegance, but rather its support and backbone.” On October 21, Corrigan will be in Charlotte for a Q&A with HD&D editor in chief Ashley Hotham Cox followed by a book signing at Anne Neilon Fine Art Gallery. To reserve a spot, contact events@anneneilsonfineart.com, or to purchase locally, visit shopquintessentials.com.

BEIGE IS NOT A COLOR
BY CARLOS MOTA
A design book from a design consultant has never been so captivating. Former Architectural Digest international style editor and Elle Decor editor-at-large Carlos Mota has curated more than 270 of his favorite photographs (some his own and others gathered from interiors photographers) and combined them with quotes and thoughts from numerous designers, creating an artistic book that celebrates the joy and beauty of color. While interiors are highlighted, readers can also expect images of table settings, spices, tiles, jewels, floral arrangements, paintings, sculptures, and much more—all bursting with bold and inspiring colors. vendomepress.com

LIVING WITH COLOR: HOW-TOS TO BRIGHTEN UP YOUR HOME
BY REBECCA ATWOOD
thewarehouse1924.com

SOPHISTICATED SIMPLICITY
BY SUZANNE KASLER
laaisonraleigh.com

MORE DECORATING
BY TOM SCHEERER
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BY KELLY WEARSTLER
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Emerged in Europe during the Middle Ages, the canopy bed is what sweet dreams are made of. Typically a four-poster frame draped in heavy curtain fabric, the “bed of kings, and the king of beds” was originally intended to provide warmth and privacy, since it was commonplace for lords and noblemen who first used these beds to share their sleeping chambers with their attendants. Today, these stately beds are making a comeback with modern interpretations. Here are some of our favorite updates on the classic piece.

1. Highland House Courtney Canopy Bed / to the trade / ahokeltltd.com
2. Doorman Designs Julia Upholstered Canopy Bed / $2,450–$2,550 / doormandesigns.com
3. Mr Brown Belmont Twin Canopy Bed in Velvet / $5,685 / mrbrownhome.com
4. CB2 Acrylic Canopy King Bed / $2,499 / cb2.com

FIT FOR A KING

The dark and moody bedroom designed by Baton Rouge–based interior designer Rachel Cannon features the Park Lane canopy bed by Frontgate.
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Mustard-seed yellow adds a cultured spice to any space.

Produced by Ashley Hotham Cox
Written by Christina Spratt Spencer

An enveloping hazy dollop reminiscent of languidly fading sunshine, mustard seed is a dynamic and equally dramatic shade of yellow. Bold and brilliant as yellows come, mustard’s darker undertones of rich brown, gold, and olive add complexity to this hue, evoking a distinct sophistication to its mellowness. Ranging from vivacious and vibrantly gilded and sunny to nearly neutral, mustard-seed yellow adapts easily from classic to contemporary designs and pairs beautifully with a range of hues—from brilliant jewel-toned emerald and sapphire to soft pastels like lilac and duck egg, from broody and muted earth-toned moss and umber to crisp and classic navy and white, and a monochromatic range of grays and black. Mustard-seed yellow is, perhaps, the most colorfully unexpected neutral.

2. Anthropologie Tulip Chair in Antique / $1,598 / anthropologie.com
3. Hokanson for Scott Group Studio Karri Rug in Ochre / price upon request / scottgroupstudio.com
4. Entangle Paper in Mustard by Kelly Wearstler for Groundworks / to the trade / ahokeltd.com
5. & Tradition Flowerpot Table Lamp / $580 / andtradition.com
6. Maison de Vacances Coussin Vice Versa in Ochre / price upon request / maisondevacances.com

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF THE TAJ MAHAL PALACE, MUMBAI.
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For interior designer Leslie May, creating bespoke homes for families is what drives her. “I want my clients’ homes to be the cozy backdrop to life with family, friends, pets, and parties—fabulously bedecked, but, if you look closely, can stand up to real living,” May says. “I create spaces that embrace fun, boisterous living and all the chaos that comes with it, but are still chic, elegant, and completely cozy.”

May says she begins every room with the fabric. “I love layering and connecting colors and textures.” She even started her own upholstery line. “I drew a lot of inspiration for the pieces from 1950s glam fashion and the overall aesthetic of the decade—sculpted lines, tailored skirts, contrasting welts, and detailed trims.”

Travel is her other greatest muse. “Details from the gold medallions in the Sienna cathedral, a historic inn in the Italian Alps, and the colorful walls of Mount Vernon have made their way into my clients’ homes.”

It’s not about “foregoing the dazzling details” that make a space special. Rather, it’s about “layering them in where they are immune to the jostles of real life,” she says. “Because, in truth, family and good friends make every home more stylish.”

1. Addison Weeks Starburst Backplate / $74 / addisonweeks.com
2. Carvers’ Guild New Wave Mirror / to the trade / carversguild.com
3. The Urban Electric Co. Venetian Lantern / $3,543 / urbanelectric.com
4. Cole & Son Royal Palace Maze / to the trade / cole-and-son.com
5. Oly Studio Wren Coffee Table in Dark Shell / $2,900 / olystudio.com
Glenwood Design Center Open House
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104 Edwards Booth Lane, Durham, NC – This farmhouse design offers a unique combination of a master and guest suite down, a fully outfitted prep kitchen adjacent to the main kitchen in the open concept area, and an expansive outdoor living area with outdoor kitchen and exposed timber truss architectural detail. The second floor includes several additional spacious bedrooms, 2 unfinished storage areas and a game room with bar area. Price reduced to $1,174,900.

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DESIGNED to TRAVEL

Five local designers share their favorite designer-worthy resorts and boutique hotels throughout the world.

Written by Sarah Crosland
Produced by Blake Miller
When Lindsay Speace and her husband traveled to Tuscany earlier this year, she was in search of something that would offer relaxation and inspiration. She found both in the classic Italian region of Tuscany, known for its rolling hills, red-roofed villages, and spectacular food and wine. Her favorite stop on their travels was the Hotel Il Pellicano, a spot perhaps known best as the backdrop for shots by the famed fashion photographer Slim Aarons.

“The hotel maintains a cool but casual glamour, and I left most inspired by the exuberant color palette and attention to detail,” Speace says. She suggests ordering the region’s famed Aperol Spritz cocktail, which is served at Il Pellicano in hot-pink glasses that contrast perfectly with the hotel’s canary-yellow striped beach towels and the turquoise waters of the Tyrrhenian Sea beyond.

Tucked into the cliff over a bay, the hotel’s almost fifty rooms and cottages have played host to names ranging from Jackie Onassis to Bono. Its saltwater pool sits above a private beach, and its restaurant with an elegant stone terrace has two Michelin stars. But it’s the hotel’s views of azure water and stunning sunsets that have made this spot one of Tuscany’s top treasures since 1965. pellicanohotel.com
Discover North Raleigh’s newest luxury community, Montreaux, located minutes from Downtown and offering custom-built homes crafted from an impressive and thoughtful palette of classic architectural styles featuring defined characteristics and signature elements. After one visit we think you’ll agree that Montreaux is a rare and exclusive opportunity for luxury living in a sought-after location.

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THE BOUTIQUE
“When you’ve had your fill of the sun, head down to the boutique,” Speace says. “I likely confused the staff, taking as much time photographing the millwork and dressing room drapery as I did admiring their collection of punchy dresses from Italian label La Double J.”

PELLICANO TUSCAN GRILL
“In the mornings, have breakfast on the patio underneath a scalloped and tasseled awning overlooking the entirety of the property, out onto the Tyrrhenian Sea,” Speace says. “It will have you feeling like jet-set royalty yourself.”

PELLICANO RESTAURANT
“The dining room is inspiring,” Speace says. “Its Fornasetti wallcovering features birds in vining branches, trellis millwork, and tole sconces with oranges that appear to jump right off the wallpaper.”

WINE TASTING
Get off property and enjoy the Tuscan countryside by touring its Maremma region. A private driver from the hotel will take you to the area’s top local wineries, including the Antinori family’s Le Mortelle and Tenuta di Monteverro wineries. You’ll also visit medieval hilltowns and stroll through artistic gardens on this countryside tour.
Each year Tula Summerford takes at least one trip to Paris, and each time she stays at L’Hotel Paris. The historic hotel—known as the last home of famed writer Oscar Wilde—is nestled in the iconic Left Bank neighborhood of Saint-Germain-des-Prés.

“The area is the perfect place to experience the art and culture of Paris,” Summerford says of the neighborhood that Monet, Renoir, and Hemingway all once called home. Today, its bustling streets are lined with chic cafes and galleries—and, most importantly to Summerford—fabric houses. “L’Hotel is within walking distance of Holland & Sherry, Pierre Frey, Dedar, and Nobilis.”

But L’Hotel offers more than just an enviable location. Jacques Garcia designed each of the five-star property’s twenty bedrooms differently in opulent themes like Japanese Pagoda and Italian Baroque. An ornate spiral staircase that winds beneath a domed glass roof and an indoor hammam pool round out this sumptuous boutique property. l-hotel.com
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SUMMERFORD’S PARIS TOP SPOTS

CAFÉ DE FLORE
“This café is famous and photographed constantly,” Summerford says. “I could sit and people watch for hours.” cafedeflore.fr

LOULOU
“It’s in the Louvre,” she says. “You sit outside, and it has this amazing ambiance right there at the Louvre.” loulou-paris.com

MUSÉE DE L’ORANGERIE
“The one thing I do every single trip is walk to the I’Orangerie Museum by Tuilleries and go to the Monet exhibition,” Summerford says. “It always inspires me.” musee-orangerie.fr

MARCHÉ AUX PUÇES PORTE DE CLIGNANCOURT
You could easily spend more than a day scouring this flea market that features more than 2,500 vendors. Here you’ll find an extensive selection of antiques from around the world, crystal chandeliers, textiles, and more.

FONDATION LOUIS VUITTON
The building itself, designed by famed architect Frank Gehry, is a work of art in itself. But inside, you’ll also find works belonging to LVMH including some by artists Basquiat and Jeff Koons. fondationlouisvuitton.fr
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THE MARLTON HOTEL
New York, New York

It may not be New York’s grandest hotel, but what it lacks in size, The Marlton Hotel more than makes up for in character. Just a block away from Washington Square Park, this elegant hotel has played host to guests like Jack Kerouac and Lenny Bruce during Greenwich Village’s heyday.

Today, the hotel, which was designed by hotelier Sean McPherson, features just over one hundred rooms. While small (many around 150 square feet), most of the rooms are decorated with elegant molding, gold accents, and herringbone floors that hearken another era. “The rooms are small but beautifully designed,” Jessie Short says. She loves to stay at the hotel on her visits to New York. “The marble and unlacquered brass bathrooms are my favorite.”

The hotel, which features its original brick facade and a terrace overlooking the city, also offers several inviting dining options. The Parisian-inspired restaurant, Margaux, can be found at the back of the hotel, while the cocktail bar just inside the doors is perfect for a drink by the historic hotel’s fireplace after a busy day in the city.

marltonhotel.com

JESSIE SHORT

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SHORT’S NEW YORK CITY TOP SPOTS

BENNISON FABRICS
“This is my favorite showroom,” Short says of the English company that specializes in hand-printed fabrics. bennisonfabrics.com

ABC CARPET AND HOME
The Manhattan flagship location of this home design and decor shop is worth the visit. “It’s an iconic place where you can find all things design,” Short says. abchome.com

BROOKLYN FLEA
Open every Saturday in Williamsburg, this flea market is consistently ranked as one of the best in the world. “The Brooklyn Flea is my favorite place for finds, especially art,” Short says. brooklynflea.com

PRIMARY ESSENTIALS
This small boutique in Boerum Hill features a finely curated selection of home goods pulled by owner/stylist Lauren Snyder. Snyder’s eye for design as a former stylist at Bergdorf Goodman is ever present in selections like block-printed throws, geometric brass bottle openers, and more. theprimaryessentials.com
Hanoi has a long and rich history that can be found in details like its stucco facades, oddly angled streets, and quaint parks. Centuries of Chinese occupation overlap with decades as a French colony, which has resulted in an eclectic East-meets-West blend that has inspired the modern city’s food, architecture, and culture. It was this enchanting mix that first drew MA Allen.

“For a designer like myself, who loves to mix various design styles, the impact was profound,” Allen says. “It’s a gorgeous metropolitan city with just enough of that grit that is Vietnam.”

Tucked in this city’s French Quarter on a tree-lined street filled with sleek boutiques is the Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi, a luxurious neoclassical hotel that has welcomed guests for more than a century. Allen recommends the stay. “It’s French Indochina meets modern Asia. The green-painted shutters add charm to the white facade, and the wrought-iron balconies are to die for,” she says. sofitel.accorhotels.com
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ALLEN’S HANOI TOP SPOTS

HANG GAI
“For anyone on the hunt for textiles, I found a few gems,” Allen says. “Don’t miss Hang Gai, meaning Silk Street, where you’ll find an abundance of silk dealers. Tan My, at 66 Hang Gai Street, has beautiful hand-embroidered tablecloths.”

THE TEMPLE OF LITERATURE
“I was very inspired by some of the Chinese architectural details in The Temple of Literature,” Allen says. “I even brought back inspiration for a client’s custom stair-rail design.”

54 TRADITIONS
“Visit New Yorker Mark Rappaport and get a great education,” Allen says. Rappaport, who was born and raised in New York, is now a renowned Vietnamese art and antiques collector based in Hanoi. “He sells to museums all over the world.” 54traditions.vn

HOAN KIEM LAKE
This beautiful lake is situated in the center of the city and provides a wonderful respite from the buzz in Hanoi.

VAN TRIBAL HERITAGE
“This store has fantastic products and prices,” Allen says of Van Tribal Heritage, which showcases Vietnam artifacts. “I also bought a good bit of art and tribal antiquities in Hanoi.” vantribalheritage.wordpress.com
THE WARWICK HOTEL
San Francisco, California

It was the location—San Francisco’s trendy Lower Nob Hill neighborhood—that first drew Kristin Tharpe to The Warwick Hotel. But it was the hotel’s gorgeous Beaux-Arts style architecture that made this spot her favorite for finding design inspiration.

The storied boutique hotel, designed by the architect Arthur Brown Jr., who also designed San Francisco’s City Hall and its legendary Coit Tower, was originally built as a mansion at the turn of the century but was established as a hotel in 1913. Today, its sophisticated and modern rooms pair perfectly with its timeless facade.

“Beaux-Arts was popular in the US between 1880 and 1930,” Tharpe says. “It’s classical in nature with Greco Roman styling. Buildings tend to be massive and constructed of stone, and typically feature decorative columns, arched windows, and door frames.”

The Warwick checks all of those boxes, giving plenty of nods to its European inspiration. Inside you’ll find BOTA, a Spanish-style bar and lounge featuring paella, tapas, wine, and modern-meets-rustic decor. And just off the lobby is The European, the perfect spot for handcrafted cocktails with a swanky gastropub vibe.

It is the location, though, that continues to make this destination stand out. “Union Square is two blocks from the hotel and has exquisite designer shops,” Tharpe says. “There are tons of upscale restaurants and bars, such as Benjamin Cooper, with cocktails and spirits you’ll want to write home about.”

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TOPS ON TOP

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THARPE’S SAN FRANCISCO TOP SPOTS

CHINATOWN
“The experience alone is inspirational,” Tharpe says. “There are authentic Chinese dresses, many antique stores with carved facades, bookstores, and dim sum—a must.”

ANYON
“This is an incredible design shop owned by designer Lindsay Brier,” Tharpe says. “Definitely the coolest curated range of products from original art to vintage furniture finds. It’s so unique, and I always pop in on each visit to the city.” anyondesign.com

ALEMANY FLEA MARKET
“It’s located in Bernal Heights and has everything your heart desires,” Tharpe says. “Vintage clothing, paintings, books, architectural finds, vinyl records, vintage cameras, and on and on.”

ANTHEM
“Anthem is as stunning outside as it is inside,” Tharpe says. “Wonderful accessories, the best selection of Alicia Adams (alpaca wool throws), beauty and spa products, and fun jewelry.” anthemsf.online
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THE WADE
It was a labor of love to bring the staircase to fruition. "I knew I wanted a wrought-iron railing on a circular staircase, but this particular design didn’t allow for it," Hensley says. Instead, Vision Stairways & Millwork curved the bottom and top of the railing so that it appears to be circular. The rugs are from Eatman’s Carpets & Interiors.
MEMORY MAKER

DESIGNER DEBORAH HENSLEY’S RALEIGH HOME IS ALL ABOUT PAYING HOMAGE TO THE MEMORIES AND MOMENTS THAT A FAMILY CREATES TOGETHER.
Before the home was built, Hensley knew she wanted a painted floor in her home office, so she enlisted Kluttz Thompson Designs to create the gray-and-white chevron pattern on the floor. OPPOSITE: Acanthus Stripe grasscloth by Celerie Kemble for Schumacher swaths the walls of the mudroom while a lantern by Suzanne Kasler for Visual Comfort hangs above. Along the custom cabinetry by LuxeMark Company are photos Hensley’s mother, aunt, and grandmother.
Deborah Hensley loved her nearly twenty-year-old home. Years of memories had been made. It was where she had raised her three daughters. But the home was fast becoming unsuitable for everyday life. “Things just started coming apart,” she says. “The old kitchen was non-functional. Cabinets were breaking. Sinks were cracking and couldn’t be replaced. At one point, I had to use the laundry room sink to wash dishes.”

After purchasing a lot for a new-build nearby, Hensley had an epiphany. “I loved the lot our old home was on, so why not tear it down and rebuild there?” And so the existing home was razed, and in its place, a stunning Southern-inspired Georgian was erected. “I’m really drawn to that Southern Town & Country aesthetic,” Hensley says. She teamed with architect Craig Skinner to design the classic and timeless home with red brick and navy shutters.

The interiors, though, were where Hensley was able to truly add her personal stamp. Not one to shy away from pattern and color, she took a more-is-more approach throughout the home, layering heirloom pieces with collected ones against the backdrop of vibrant wallcoverings and fabrics. Hensley’s process
Hensley kept the design of the breakfast room bright and airy with Brunschwig & Fils draperies, a white sideboard and mirror from Robert Corprew Antiques, and a basket-weave sisal rug from Eatman’s Carpets & Interiors.
begins with wanting a room to evoke a certain feeling—one that aligns with feeling comfortable, welcome, and relaxed. “I firmly believe in filling a home with things that remind you of a wonderful memory or tradition, or something that simply makes you feel warm and happy,” she says. “I love using handmade pieces that have been passed down.”

Blue willow pottery can be found throughout the home. “The blue willow pottery was collected by my mom, so every time I see it, it makes me think of her,” Hensley says. The designer also wanted the home to be comfortable enough for her large extended family to gather, so every room provides ample seating and seamless transitions from space to space. The breakfast
LEFT: Hensley opted for an all-white kitchen including a Carrara marble island with dramatic gray veining to complement the LuxeMark Company custom cabinetry. The white and pewter bowl and vase are from Quintessentials. The bar stools are by Frances Elkins.

TOP AND BOTTOM RIGHT: One side of the wet bar, which features a Brunschwig & Fils wallcovering, is more utilitarian with a granite countertop that’s great for making cocktails, while the other side features a sleek walnut counter and china cabinets. Just outside the bar, an abstract print by artist Robert Robinson is showcased along with a white lattice light fixture.
To make the family room warm and inviting, Hensley covered the walls in a vibrant green velvet by Kravet. She then accented it with artwork by her grandfather above the mantle. A pair of custom corner seats swathed in Brunschwig & Fils fabric flank the fireplace.
"I JUST REALLY WANTED THAT ROOM TO BE A PLACE WHERE EVERYONE COULD RELAX ON THE SOFA WITH A BLANKET."

—DEBORAH HENSLEY

room, for example, features French doors, which open out to the backyard so that during family gatherings, people can easily move inside and out without feeling cramped.

But it wasn’t just the accessories and artwork that the designer incorporated into the design to achieve that warm, inviting feel throughout. For Hensley, the color palette was of the utmost importance. In the family room, Hensley looked to a vibrant Kelly green for the walls. “It’s where we gather as a family for holidays and after dinners,” she says, “so I wanted this room to feel warm, happy, and inviting. The only way to do that, in my mind, was to put a warm green-velvet wallcovering on the walls. It’s also a color that works well with the adjacent rooms the family room opens up to.” Several paintings by Hensley’s grandfather are hung throughout the home—most notably in the family room above the mantle, which also features a large conch shell Hensley collected during her travels. The designer took a similar approach in the library where wood-paneled walls in warm cherry and chestnut hues coupled with fabrics and patterns evoke a feeling of being enveloped. “I just really wanted that room to be a place where everyone could relax on the sofa with a blanket,” Hensley says.

The foyer and mudroom are also other areas that Hensley designed with family and memories in mind. In the mudroom, old photographs of the significant women in her life—her mother, grandmother, aunt—are all hung above the lockers and bench. In the foyer, the dramatic gallery wall features a handful of vintage photos of her family, not to mention her grandfather’s artwork. “It’s these layers of memories throughout that really make you feel warm and comfortable in a room,” Hensley says.

To make the family room warm and inviting, Hensley chose a vibrant green velvet by Kravet to cover the walls. She then accented it with artwork by her grandfather above the mantle and a pair of custom corner seats swathed in Brunschwig & Fils fabric flanking the fireplace.
Though it doesn’t feature any heirloom pieces, the kitchen was created so that it would also be a gathering place for friends and family. An oversize Cararra marble island with adjacent butcher block doubles as a place for the kids to do their homework or snack as well as a space with enough room to entertain large groups of people comfortably.

The rest of the home is designed with the same premise in mind—to create a warm and inviting place to gather and make memories as a family. “This home was designed so that all of my daughters would be able to come back when they’re older with their spouses and kids and have room to stay and be together as a family,” she says. “To me, decorating a house is almost like a movie. I think of the events and special memories and milestones that happen here, and how this should be a place to create those memories.”

ABOVE: Throughout the home, Hensley layers family heirlooms along with found objects, including sea biscuits she collected while in the Caribbean that are on display in a bamboo tray, each labeled with the month and year from which they were collected.

OPPOSITE: Hensley used furniture from her previous residence to furnish the library, a space she calls one of the warmest and most inviting in the entire home. The artwork is by her grandfather, while the antique silver lamp and table are family heirlooms.
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Fearing they would rarely use a formal dining room, the couple opted for a casual eating space off the kitchen. The garden stool is a Maitland-Smith piece. OPPOSITE: Hutchison relaxes in the family room with her dog, Lola, on a custom sectional and chair by Wesley Hall. She made sure all of the fabrics were pet friendly.
KATE HUTCHISON HAS DESIGN IN HER BLOOD, AND HER OWN HOME RENOVATION REFLECTS THAT HISTORY.
The pillow and Roman shade fabric is by Galbraith & Paul. The artwork over the sofa is Adele Yonchak. A sisal custom rug is by Eatman’s, and the wool oriental rug is from Turkish Carpets. **OPPOSITE:** Trays make for quick and easy organizing for game nights or displaying a beautiful bouquet in a vintage Chinese ginger jar. The tic-tac-toe set is by Regina Andrew.
When your grandfather happens to be a world-renowned furniture designer, and you take your very first baby steps in his showroom at market, destiny just might be calling. “I honestly don’t remember a time in my life when I didn’t know that I wanted to be in the design business,” Kate Hutchison, owner of Raleigh-based kate.h.design, says. “It’s just been an inherent part of my life.”

Hutchison’s maternal grandfather is Paul Maitland-Smith, of Maitland-Smith Ltd. and Theodore Alexander fame, who traveled the world collecting antiques and later manufacturing his own furniture lines.

Even as a young girl, Hutchison was unknowingly working on her first design project: a Playmobil Victorian dollhouse. “I would spend hours getting everything exactly the way I wanted
it—which, of course, changed all the time,” she laughs. “My friends would come over and want to play with it, but I wouldn’t let them because I’d already done it for that day.”

After graduating with art and design degrees from both North Carolina State University and Meredith College, Hutchison began charting her own course as a business owner, founding kate.h.design in 2015. When she’s not working with clients, she is busy renovating her own home, a 1956 ranch fixer-upper in the Drewry Hills neighborhood of Raleigh. Hutchison
and her husband, Wylie, gutted about 75 percent of the home after living in it for nearly a year and learning how they and their two rescue dogs, Lola and Macy, functioned in the 2,200-square-foot space. They added a powder room, completely reversed the kitchen footprint, shifted several doors and windows, and put down hardwood flooring.

Hutchison’s favorite color palette of blue and white ebbs and flows effortlessly through the home in different shades. She says she is drawn to them because they are calming, easy to live with, and mix with a variety of accent colors.

In the living room, newly installed drapery panels and chair pillows in Puff by Carleton V add lots of personality, along with original artwork by Nancy McClure. The vintage sofa belonged to Hutchison’s father, the chairs to her grandmother—and all of the pieces have been neutrally updated. Hutchison pairs the old and new by bringing in stools from Modern History recovered in
a new colorway of the Les Touches print by Brunschwig & Fils. More family heirlooms flank the sofa—a coffee table with brass hardware was handed down from her paternal grandfather (who was a graphic designer), and the other was custom-made for her by Maitland-Smith and features a turquoise stone inlay.

A cased opening to the kitchen is made more interesting with the unexpected pairing of an antique china hutch (which she found in the back of one of Maitland-Smith’s warehouses and had repaired) and an ultra-modern mirror by North Carolina artisans vanCollier. Built-ins with hardware by Addison Weeks store a collection of family treasures and fun objects collected over the years.

A fearless fabric—Enter the Dragons by Jim Thompson No. 9—was the inspiration for a guest bedroom, which introduces more vibrant blues on pillows, panels, and bed skirts. The twin-bed headboards formerly belonged to her parents, and Hutchison had Steins Furniture lacquer them in Benjamin Moore Hale Navy. The stool at the foot of the bed is a one-of-a-kind nickel and
shagreen piece made for her by Maitland-Smith. “He had a similar one at his place in Thailand, and I kept joking with him that I was going to put it in my suitcase and take it home with me,” Hutchison says. “A few months later, this one showed up as a gift!”

Since this young couple prefers more casual dining, they skipped a formal dining room in favor of a stylish breakfast area off the kitchen with a table and chairs from Theodore Alexander and a whitewashed mirror by Noir Furniture. In the kitchen, barstools from Mainly Baskets provide additional countertop

LEFT: An antique replica chest from the 1920s, purchased in Paris by Hutchison’s grandfather, Paul Maitland-Smith, and since refinished, makes a statement in the entryway. The ginger jars throughout the home were a sentimental wedding gift from Hutchison’s aunt, who is also an interior designer. The mirror is by Cooper Classics.

RIGHT: The neutral living room comes alive with a brilliant combination of blues and greens. The table lamps are by Regina Andrew; the tall corner table is from Theodore Alexander; and the small painting is by Eric H. Little.
eating space. The painting is by Adele Yonchak. Even on small wall spaces, Hutchison finds a spot for original artwork—the one decor item she says every home needs. “Each painting, photograph, or sculpture that you invest in will forever hold a memory from when and where it was purchased, whether it’s on a special trip with your family or in a local gallery with a friend.”

The Hutchisons spend much of their time in the family room with friends, relaxing or watching television. And because they are dog lovers, the design choices had to allow for the occasional muddy paw print, spill, and shedding. That means layering a naturally stain-resistant wool rug over a sisal rug and using Crypton and other performance fabrics that are easy to clean. The burl wood coffee table by Ave Home adds warmth and texture and invites you to kick back—true to Hutchison’s philosophy that a space needs to be just as livable as it is beautiful.
Her design style has come full circle. “Because I grew up around so many antiques and antique replicas, I think I rebelled against that very traditional look when I first started,” Hutchison says. “I shied away from a lot of brown wooden furniture because I didn’t want my grandfather’s approach to define or dictate my style. But now, I love layering antiques and richer pieces with more contemporary styles. Eventually, I found my way back to my roots.”

**LEFT:** “This room wouldn’t allow for a queen bed without blocking one of the windows, so twin beds were a great solution for accommodating multiple guests, especially since we have five nieces and nephews!” Hutchison says. Her mother found the silk screen on parchment paper print—resembling her dog, Lola—at High Point Market and had it framed.

**RIGHT:** A vintage campaign dresser and a mirror by Red Egg are both refinished in Benjamin Moore White Dove. Artwork by Linda Donahue and a silver lamp by Visual Comfort complete the look in the guest bedroom.
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Vintage reupholstered chairs and a vintage painted table acquired from the original owner create the perfect vignette in the sitting room. Sweany not only loves plants but also wants to pull the outside in whenever and wherever possible. A thrifted radio mingles magically with surrounding thrifted artwork to round out the welcoming space.
INTERIOR DESIGNER BRANDIE SWEANY TOOK HER LOVE OF MODERN ARCHITECTURE AND CHARACTER-DRIVEN SPACES AND APPLIED IT LIBERALLY TO HER DURHAM HOME.
Floor-to-ceiling windows bathe the dining/living room in light. A Seno table and Svelti chairs by Article add perfect seating for small or larger groups, and pendants by Rejuvenation add a bit of drama. Various found art pieces dot the walls, including a piece over the piano created by the original owner of the home. A Lane Brutalist hutch salvaged from a garage sale creates a little depth and character in the room, while the vintage 1955 Mason & Hamlin piano, purchased from the original homeowner, brings a warm mid-century era appeal to the room.
When the Sweany family decided it was time for more space, they gave themselves plenty of time to find the right home. Coming from a small 1950s traditional house in downtown Durham, they had an idea of exactly what they wanted. For the following year and a half, they looked in and around for an older home that was a modern architectural gem. Although the market for these in Durham is plentiful, their popularity has driven up the cost.

"Unbeknownst to me, my mother had visited one of these homes and told the homeowner’s daughter that I would love a home just like it," Brandie Sweany, homeowner and principal designer of Studio Evloh, recalls. "When the elderly homeowner passed just over a year later, the daughter called my mother and asked if I might want to view the home before she put it on the market.” Though the home had an ideal layout for her family and sat on a one-acre wooded lot, it took five visits to the house before Sweany decided to pull the trigger and purchase it. “My first hesitation was that it was too large and too far from downtown,” Sweany says. “Nine years in downtown walking and biking everywhere made the thought of moving farther a little scary. But we came to the realization that we would be foolish to pass it up—and here we are!”

Construction on the home had been completed in 1970, and it had remained relatively untouched since. As Sweany puts it, “It was kind of like walking into a time warp.” She adds that you could tell immediately that in its prime,
the home was indeed something special. But with years of collections covering up spaces and some neglect on the interiors, the house needed many repairs that only became visible once empty. “The first year, it sort of felt like we bought a money pit—but there was no mistaking its potential,” Sweany remembers.

“The front ‘California courtyard’ was covered in giant, overgrown cactuses, which were actually really beautiful, but also super impractical with a two- and four-year-old,” Sweany says. “A greenhouse located off the dining room was caving in and had to be taken down immediately, which, coupled with the wallpaper stripping and floors, became our first big step in making the house livable.”

Sweany set about creating harmony between inside and outside, new life and original architecture. That fluidity needed to carry through—not only from room to room but throughout their life as well. “I wanted to create a design that was timeless, yet flexible,” she explains. “It could evolve as the kids grew and the family aged, and our priorities and lifestyle shifted.” They replaced all the carpet with white-oak wood floors, gave everything a fresh coat of paint, and replaced all the boxed lighting with fixtures or recessed LED lighting. Next, Sweany hired a landscaper to come in and redesign the courtyard, which included the addition of raised garden beds and a new fence, visually connecting it with the kitchen.
LEFT: Rift sewn white-oak veneer cabinets are stained black to bring an earthy feel to the mid-century modern kitchen, and quartz countertops in sand brighten the space. Black-wire style hardware provides a sleek silhouette and a handmade kilim wool rug by World Menagerie brings some warmth. A custom-cut stainless steel countertop on the island reduces maintenance and germs while getting softer with use. The walnut Crosby stool from Rejuvenation speaks harmoniously to the walnut hardware on the cabinets.

TOP RIGHT: Sweany, shown relaxing in her sitting room, was reluctant at first to move farther away from her original downtown Durham location but now soaks up as much time in her architectural gem as possible.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Black-stained white oak veneer cabinets create a moody and earthy kitchen and are carried through to the adjacent breakfast area, with plenty of storage to boot. A series of collected items dot the shelves inside the cabinets. Various found objects, gifts, and secondhand items create an edited and complementary look.
Speaking of the kitchen, the Sweanys waited almost four years after moving before touching the kitchen. “Our vision for the kitchen was an open and peaceful space that felt centered in the natural surroundings.” She adds that the woods behind the home felt “rich and moody,” with light continually filtering through the trees. It was this inspiration they used to design the kitchen. “It was important for the finishes to complement the materials that were staying,” Sweany says. “That included the multi-colored slate floor with hues of brown, teal, black, and eggplant, the now prominent tan brick wall, the natural white-oak floors, and the dark-brown stain and aluminum metal accents used on the screen porch.” From there, they created high contrast by choosing black stained white-oak cabinets with walnut pulls on the largest doors and simple black wire pulls on the rest. The result was a rich and earthy feel, perfect in the marriage of outdoors and indoors.

The eleven-foot island is covered in a custom stainless-steel top with an integrated sink, making wipedown a breeze. For the

TOP: At the entry, vintage mid-century modern art found at a dear friend’s yard sale greets guests. A custom walnut bench from Etsy is the perfect perch for the day’s weight, and greenery from local Durham shop The Zen Succulent brings some instant cheer.

BOTTOM: A bright yellow door is the hallmark of the Sweany home, painted in Sherwin-Williams Kingdom Gold. Vintage metal chairs in white add a punch of character.

OPPOSITE: Sherwin-Williams paint in Dried Thyme bathes the mudroom built-ins in a calming color; hardware complements the kitchen for an overall cohesiveness that’s hard to resist. Custom pillows and a found rug bring a bit of coziness to the stop and drop.
cabinet wall, Sweany chose a sand-colored quartz countertop, which she carried up the backsplash wall for additional easy maintenance. “Efficiency of the space was paramount, so we placed items at the exact location we planned to use them,” she says. “You don’t have to move far for much of anything.”

The adjacent den was designed for flexibility. Currently, the kids hang out there while dinner is prepared. There is plenty of storage for crafts, games, and homework necessities. “We knew we might want it to function in various ways in the future,” Sweany says. “We made sure that we could fit our dining room table in the event it relocates from the living room, and have even considered a small television and lounge seating once the kids are grown.”

Though the house has gone through and will continue to go through many changes, the goal for the Sweany family is always the same: sustainability, flexibility, and functionality. All of these are covered with the latest renovation of kitchen, den, and mudroom. “I love what the house has turned into over the past five years,” Sweany says. “There is something so deep-felt in connecting with your home and your surroundings. We all really enjoy being in the kitchen now. It’s super efficient and functional, and in moving the kitchen to be right off the screen porch, we use it a lot more.”

“I now have a great downtown office for my design studio, but I find myself wanting to spend more and more time working from home.” Ultimately, isn’t that the goal?◆
Where you choose to build a home is a big decision. Sure, it’s important to find the best school, an accessible neighborhood, and all the necessary amenities nearby, but what goes into your home is as important as where it is located. The right home builder delivers a balance to homeowners.

“We put a strong emphasis on listening to families about what they need in a home and gaining a strong understanding of the market area where we’re building,” Rachel Greene, Baker Residential’s marketing director, explains. “Our goal is to incorporate as many of those desirable features as possible into our floor plans to enhance livability.”

As a luxury home builder, Baker Residential specializes in attention to detail. Its three communities of estate homes in Cary and Apex reflect this higher standard for “standard” features. Elements like coffered and beam ceilings, wainscoting, eight-foot-wide double entry doors, and 5 ¼-inch-wide cove crown molding are customary in these communities. Additional standard features include beadboard porch ceilings, LED recessed lights, soft-close cabinetry, and the choice of granite or quartz countertops in the kitchen and baths.

Currently, the company is developing three communities of luxury homes: Providence at Yates Pond, McKenzie Ridge Manors, and Weddington. Baker Residential’s portfolio of...
distinctive home designs includes eleven floor plans that range from 2,700 to nearly 6,000 square feet of fully appointed living space.

Greene says a common request is to accommodate multi-generational households with more than one master suite, including at least one on the main floor. “Our lifestyles have changed,” she says. “Aging parents are moving in with their grown children, and more adult children are choosing to live at home longer. This creates a new dynamic in terms of living space.”

The builder’s market research also led to the development of the latest house plans, such as The Chatham, where 80 percent of the living space is on the first floor. The new ranch-style plans, The Stanton and The Whitby, place all living on one level. All the plans maximize storage space, according to Greene, because that is one of the number one requests from homebuyers.

“We encourage our homeowners to get creative with their options,” Greene adds, “but with so many standard features, they’re already visualizing a home that exceeds their expectations.”

Touring a model home is the best way to capture a close look at the details. In addition to the models, Baker Residential builds homes that are move-in ready for those who want to act quickly without compromising quality or appointments.

“With so many standard features, homeowners are visualizing a home that exceeds their expectations.”

—Rachel Greene
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**Sweet Potato Kale Salad**

Total Time: 30 minutes | Makes 4 servings

**INGREDIENTS**
- 2 medium sweet potatoes
- 1 tablespoon canola oil
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 (12-oz) bag sweet kale vegetable salad kit (contains kale and other green veggies, pumpkin seeds, dried cranberries, and poppy seed dressing)
- 1/2 cup crumbled feta cheese

**STEPS**
1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Peel potatoes and cut into 1/2-inch cubes. Coat potatoes with oil and salt, then place on baking sheet; cook 12–15 minutes or until tender when pierced with a fork. Let stand 3 minutes to cool.
2. Place all salad kit ingredients in salad bowl. Add potatoes and cheese; toss and serve.

**CALORIES** (per 1/4 recipe) 290kcal; FAT 15g; SAT FAT 4.5g; TRANS FAT 0; CHOL 15mg; SODIUM 370mg; CARB 29g; FIBER 5g; SUGARS 15g; PROTEIN 7g; CALC 15%; VIT A 260%; VIT C 90%; IRON 10%
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Sudha Rathie laughs as she explains how she exhausted the staff at CRS Marble & Granite, visiting day after day and making decisions only to change her mind about which high-end stones she wanted in her new custom home. “Everyone at CRS was so open to taking me into the warehouse as many times as it took for me to make a decision,” she says. “They went so far as to use their machinery to pick up two slabs I was considering for the kitchen and put them side by side so I could decide if they would flow well together.”

Rathie visited several natural stone vendors, but she quickly chose CRS Marble & Granite for two reasons: its extensive collection of 350 high-quality natural stones, including rare specimens,
and its reputation for expansive customer service. “I needed to buy so much stone for my new home that I wanted to go to a showroom where there were many choices,” Rathie says. “CRS explained all the various features, how to clean the stone, how to best blend it with cabinetry colors, and how different lighting affects the look.”

With several bedroom suites and kitchens for multigenerational living, Rathie and her husband, Satpal, purchased six different types of natural stone for the home. Hawaiian Fusion granite, for example, adds movement and glamour to the master bathroom. The showstopper semi-precious agate countertops in the upstairs and downstairs bars are underlit for a stunning effect. “I particularly liked finding out where my granite originated and how it was cut at the quarry. Working with CRS was an amazing experience,” Rathie adds.

Evan Bost with Bost Custom Homes relies on CRS to supply granite, quartzite, quartz, and marble countertops and flooring for some of his fine residential building projects, including special finishes like the leathered Taj Mahal quartzite kitchen countertop and backsplash, and the exotic backlit Cristallo quartzite wine cellar floor in The Lodge at Avalaire. “The impressive selection and attentiveness to service at CRS Marble & Granite makes for a delightful stone selection experience. It’s obvious they know and care deeply about what they do,” Bost says.

“For the past twenty-five years, we’ve partnered with amazingly talented stone fabricators, builders, architects, designers, and homeowners,” Sunny Surana of CRS says. “We go to any length to tailor each new project to the needs of our customers.”

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Green fencing is a good option for privacy screening in Triangle neighborhoods.

Written by Dana W. Todd
Do good fences make good neighbors? David Payne, horticulturist with Home & Garden Landscapes, believes so based on the high demand from local homeowners for green fences. Privacy screening is an asset to a home’s value and is especially useful in today’s new construction on smaller footprints. The right evergreen trees and shrubs can provide visual barriers to unwanted sights and serve as a simple solution for seclusion from neighbors.

“There are several factors to keep in mind when determining which trees or shrubs fit your needs,” Payne says. “These factors are important whether you are installing evergreens during new construction or on a mature lot.”

**Width of Area**
A plant’s mature height and width determine if the available space will work long term. “If the area is only five feet wide,” Payne says, “you need a plant that can be contained or pruned so it will not outgrow the area.” Hollies such as Nellie Stevens and Emily Bruner cultivars grow well in the shade and can be sheared to fit in confined spaces. Emerald Green Arborvitae grows slowly, remains narrow, and enjoys sun. Green Giant Thuja is a sun-loving and fast-growing evergreen tree appropriate where the space available is wide.

**Height Needed**
“There is usually an ideal height for your screen,” Payne says. “Are you OK waiting a few years for the plants to grow, or are you willing to spend more money and purchase larger specimens? Larger specimens require machinery for installation, so the location of existing patios and walls may affect your choice of large or small plants.”

**Shade or Sun Tolerance**
Respecting the sun or shade needs of a plant is important for the long-term health of the privacy screen. “As a general rule, high sun tolerance allows many more options for screening,” Payne says. Several cultivars of Holly and a broadleaf evergreen like Chindo Viburnum are suitable for shade.

**Irrigation**
“It is highly recommended to install a drip irrigation system for efficiency and sufficient watering,” Payne says, “as most yard sprayers are not up to the job in larger landscapes. And have the irrigation system checked regularly to ensure proper functioning, as the first indicator of malfunction is distressed or dying plants.”

Homeowner Karen Brown worked with Home & Garden Landscapes to replace a mature privacy screen of Redtip Photinias that succumbed to snow damage and a subsequent fungus attack. Payne added about thirty plants, including two sizes of Hollies, to replicate the previous mature privacy screen.

“The plants were fourteen- to sixteen-feet tall when installed and three years later are more than twenty feet tall,” Brown says. “They are great replacements that blend with an already established landscape. David Payne provides a wonderful service of large-scale installations that is very necessary in our area.”

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According to Greg Barfield of Hopper Piano, “The joy and beauty of our business, for more than sixty years, has been the array of people who come through our doors and into our lives because of the family of Steinway pianos. One of the last American treasures, the Steinway is a handmade gem that spans generations of families and homes.”

The Steinway & Sons story began more than 166 years ago on the west side of Manhattan, where Heinrich Steinway began handcrafting square grand pianos. (The first one that sold is on display in New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art.) Later, the makers of the world’s finest piano moved to what became known as “Steinway Village,” shaping the Astoria neighborhood into a company town, much as the history of the piano shaped the country.

The Steinway name is also analogous to attention to detail and elegance. Case in point: The sophisticated and iconic shape of the grand piano, as well as the artistry and aesthetic character of all of the company’s instruments, are the result of 139 patents, steeped in the company’s innovative history. The peerless quality of sound attests to the fact that more than 98 percent
of the world’s active concert pianists choose to perform on the Steinway Piano.

But it’s not just about history—it’s also about continuing to make history. The company continues to innovate and evolve, as exemplified by their recent introduction of the Spirio high-resolution reproducing piano. A masterpiece of artistry and engineering, Spirio enables you to enjoy performances captured by great pianists—played with such nuance, power, and passion that it is utterly indistinguishable from a live performance.

As the only authorized Steinway & Sons dealer in the Triangle and eastern North Carolina since 1977, Hopper Piano has its own point of historical pride. Founder J. Lee Hopper envisioned a new standard for the sale and servicing of pianos when he opened his first piano store in Raleigh in 1959. Recently, Hopper was awarded Steinway’s Dealer of the Year for sales and service, their fifth receipt of this coveted award.

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—GREG BARFIELD

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SHOWHOUSE SHOW-OFF

Raleigh design duo’s next magnum opus on display in High Point.

Written by Dana W. Todd

When Liles Dunnigan and Zandy Gammons first saw the 2019 High Point Designers’ Showhouse, they surveyed the shell of a historic home torn down to the studs. As the first example of a Craftsman-style house in the town, the home was an important architectural remnant from a bygone era in High Point. When Dunnigan and Gammons, owners of The Warehouse 1924, a Raleigh interior design firm, were asked to design a room of the home after it was rebuilt, they jumped at the chance.

“The house had experienced two fires and had no sheetrock or windows,” Dunnigan says. “The only salvageable part was the original wood flooring in the dining room.”

“We wanted to participate in this project because showhouses end up being inspiration for people to follow in their own home designs,” Gammons says. “We can be more creative than we usually are balancing clients’ wishes. We can stretch our creativity and mix patterns that truly showcase our abilities.”

A pattern from a fabric swatch served as the jumping-off point for the team, who agreed to design the breakfast room of the historic Dalton-Bell-Cameron house. They chose Carleton V’s Puff linen fabric with fantastical dragons in lavender and gray on an espresso background as the room’s design inspiration, using it for custom window treatments and coordinating it with another fabric that tents the vaulted ceiling over a white lacquered break- fast table from Titter Feefer.

“We hung an oversized cream light fixture from a South African company called Ngala Trading Co. that is leathered and tasseled and is the central element in the middle of the tented
“SHOWHOUSES END UP BEING INSPIRATION FOR PEOPLE TO FOLLOW IN THEIR OWN HOME DESIGNS.”
—ZANDY GAMMONS

Fabric,” Dunnigan says. “We like to work with small retailers like this one who handmade the chandelier. Product lines like this can add interest and bring a room to life.”

The Warehouse designers’ inspiration board also included a Chelsea House console table and dining chairs from Dowel Furniture, which made the cut in the final design.

The process for designing a showhouse is the same for designing a homeowner’s residence, according to Gammons. There is usually a starting point, and if it’s not a special fabric or wallcovering, it may be something practical, like the budget. “The budget lets a designer know what kinds of products to look for that fit the homeowner’s price range,” Gammons says.

Next is setting deadlines, something that is as imperative with a group of designers creating a showhouse as it is for a homeowner and designer collaborating to create a personal masterpiece. Knowing deadlines upfront and communicating them—such as an upcoming family event hosted at the home—is the best way to ensure happiness on both sides.

The Warehouse’s work will be featured in the 2019 High Point Designers’ Showhouse from October 19 to November 3.
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From its humble beginnings as a garage-based business in Alma Hoke Greene’s Charlotte home to its two state-of-the-art locations in the Carolinas, A. Hoke Ltd. has become a nationally revered trade showroom for interior designers. Over the past thirty years, Greene and her husband, Don, have worked together to build A. Hoke Ltd. into the region’s premier designer showroom. Don Greene served as a sales executive for a major fabric company for thirty-five years. It was his knowledge of the design business and understanding of designers’ needs that helped A. Hoke Ltd. become what it is today. Their daughter, Elaine Greene Hougham, learned the business from her parents as a young girl and carries on the tradition, working hand-in-hand with her mom in the showroom, carrying on the work of building strong relationships in the design community.

“Elaine is my right and left arm of the company,” Greene says. “I couldn’t do this without her.”

Today, A. Hoke Ltd. represents more than one hundred companies in the design trade, serving customers from across the country and acquiring a reputation for being the region’s premier resource for high quality, extensive selection, and design expertise.

Raleigh’s 13,000-square-foot showroom opened in 1993 and features workspaces for designers to view sample books and
organize their plans. Committed to quality, A. Hoke Ltd. only represents manufacturers with an established reputation for craftsmanship, paying special attention to local NC-based suppliers as well as the latest in green materials.

“Our showrooms are impressive, featuring thousands of square feet filled with beautiful furniture, rows of fabric choices, thousands of sample books, decorative trim and hardware, lighting, accessories, artwork, and more. It’s a designer’s dream!” Greene says.

Equally important to the company’s vision is maintaining a top-notch staff. Designers searching for a design solution often rely on A. Hoke Ltd. for their knowledge and expertise. With decades of experience, they are touted as having an in-depth product knowledge as well as a strong commitment to customer service.

Kensi Luck, the Raleigh showroom manager, has been with the company since graduating from NC State with a degree in textiles. Her depth and breadth of knowledge in fabric selection, among other areas, keep the location running like a well-oiled machine.

“Our staff—many of whom have been with us for more than twenty-five years—take pride in staying current and well informed about products and techniques. They use these skills to assist designers in making the best choices for each project and ensuring all customer needs are fulfilled,” Greene says. “Our staff is our most important commodity.”

Today, local designers look to A. Hoke Ltd. for design inspiration and access to some of the most beautiful and cutting-edge design elements available anywhere in the world. Although the showrooms sell exclusively to the trade, designers can bring in their clients to participate in the selection process. “On any given day, you will find local designers in the showroom selecting designer fabric, viewing collections of upholsteries and case goods, or searching for the perfect carpet or wall covering,” Greene says. “We provide a creative atmosphere where our carefully curated offerings act as a muse to the design community.”

For more information, call A. HOKE LTD at 919-832-5555 or visit AHOKELIMITED.COM.

“ON ANY GIVEN DAY, YOU WILL FIND LOCAL DESIGNERS IN THE SHOWROOM SELECTING DESIGNER FABRIC, VIEWING COLLECTIONS OF UPHOLSTERIES AND CASE GOODS, OR SEARCHING FOR THE PERFECT CARPET OR WALL COVERING.”

—ALMA HOKE GREENE
As we approach a new decade, we anticipate developing technologies that promise major improvements in home construction.

While some of these technologies have been buzzwords for several years, they have made great strides in recent months. Others have resulted from fascinating innovations in material or manufacturing science. I find them all interesting and look forward to watching their development and positive impact on sustainability, affordability, and lifestyle in the 2020s.

The brilliant concept of computer-guided additive manufacturing, or 3D printing, has struggled to scale in the housing industry as quickly as many hoped. Nevertheless, a few US companies have progressed toward a 3D-printed home reality in the last year, while others work toward 3D-printed design elements. In July 2019, S Squared printed a 500-square-foot home from concrete in Patchogue, New York, in less than twelve hours for around $2,000 for the structure. The company has since announced plans to build hundreds of affordable housing units. A Dutch company, Aectual, is printing custom flooring designs, facade panels, built-in furniture, and textural wall panels. I believe the next decade will see enormous opportunity for 3D-printed designs for everything from floor, wall, and ceiling panels to custom light fixtures and trim details.

Thermo-responsive hydrogel roofing and cladding materials are the most interesting building science products I’ve read about lately. Hydrogel refers to a material that osmotically absorbs water and swells with moisture due to its hydrophilic internal structure. Several companies are exploring thermo-responsive hydrogel coatings on roofing and cladding materials that absorb water when it rains and “sweat” it out when exposed to hot temperatures. As the perspired water evaporates off the surface, it effectively cools the building with no energy expense. Hydrogels can be naturally derived from cellulose or created with synthetics to achieve desired results. Preliminary studies show that hydrogels can reduce building surface temperatures for up to three hours during peak daytime heat.

Carbon Fiber Reinforced Concrete (CFRC) is not a new development, but its usage could gain traction in the coming years, greatly expanding architectural possibilities due to its strength and reduced weight. Concrete is a hard material that can withstand enormous pressure yet requires reinforcement to achieve flexibility under tension. For over a century, steel has been the reinforcement material of choice, even though it’s extremely heavy and corrodes over time. Enter carbon fiber, a lightweight...
"WE ANTICIPATE DEVELOPING TECHNOLOGIES THAT PROMISE MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS IN HOME CONSTRUCTION."

material that is strong, noncorrosive, and less taxing on the environment to produce and transport. Although it’s currently expensive, costs will decrease as competition enters the market and the benefits of lighter, stronger, and more durable concrete are realized. CFRC is more commonly used in Europe but could increasingly make its way across the pond.

Bost Custom Homes has a proven history of utilizing innovative building products and techniques. We will continue to pursue innovation in residential construction excellence and are prepared and excited to advise on and deliver innovative products and techniques for our clients.◆

Evan Bost is the director of marketing and Green Initiatives at BOST CUSTOM HOMES. For information, call 919-460-1983, email info@bosthomes.com, or visit BOSTHOMES.COM.
Intersections: New Paintings by Augusta Wilson

The Centerpiece
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thecenterpiece.com

Augusta Wilson’s abstract paintings play with connections—what it means to have a clear path and, adversely, what it feels like to forgo the path and discover your surroundings. In this show of new pieces inspired by Raleigh, Wilson explores our environment as well as different stages of life and how we move through them. Using unexpected color palettes, a variety of layers, and imaginative mark-making, the Atlanta artist works to create a series that allows for each viewer to transport their emotions into the paintings and discover something of themselves. Intersections: New Paintings by Augusta Wilson begins with an opening reception on Friday, November 1, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

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24th Annual American Indian Heritage Celebration
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ncmuseumofhistory.org

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artsourcefineart.com

This year marks ArtSource’s fourth annual 12 x 12 Holiday Show. The front gallery will feature dozens of 12 x 12 gallery-wrapped and gift-ready paintings by several artists for all of your gift-giving needs. The show will include abstracts and traditional pieces—something for everyone to put under the tree—and will run through the end of the year.

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