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FAMILY MATTERS
Designer Lauren Hood has a knack for designing family friendly spaces, and when asked to transform a dated traditional home in Hayes Barton, she delivers.

ACT OF INFLUENCE
Designer Kristin Tharpe renovates a couple’s Chapel Hill residence—with some gentle persuasion—and it’s one of her most rewarding designs yet.

IN HUMBLE ADORATION
Empty nesters call on designer Anne Wagoner to make their newly purchased home a functional gathering space for family and friends.
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Because interior designers just know how to select the perfect gift to make people happy at home, we asked local designers for their favorite gift ideas.

Designer Debra Zinn shows her gratitude to the women in her life, creating an old-fashioned Christmas brunch for industry friends.

After scouring thousands of new products at High Point Market, designer Kara Cox reveals the top trend on the design horizon.

A velvety blue hue that’s fit for royalty, sapphire is the luxurious color you’ll want in your home.

Raleigh designer Anna Applegate’s interiors are guided by her intuition, and she doesn’t have to travel far to get inspiration for her work.

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FROM THE EDITOR

ARTS AND CULTURE SPOTLIGHT

ADVERTISER INDEX
“There is nothing more serene than the feel of the keys of a Steinway under my fingertips. With a tone that rich, I would never be afraid of the dark. Steinway is the only and the best!”

~ HARRY CONNICK, JR.
Greetings from maternity leave. Three children under the age of three has proven more challenging than I could have ever imagined, so please excuse any errors you may find! While I am fully immersed in postpartum bliss, including diapers, bottles, and pumping on a revolving track, we have another beautiful issue to present—our Great Gatherings Issue—a celebration of coming together with friends and family.

This issue is all about repurposing and reusing to create beautiful and comfortable spaces for families to gather together during every season of their lives. Known for creating comfortable, functional, and sophisticated homes for families with children, designer Lauren Hood was tasked with updating her friends’ Hayes Barton home so that it would be more livable for their growing family. Hood employed a bold, bright color palette that not only freshened up the once outmoded home but also tailored it to the homeowners’ personalities (page 40). Designer Kristin Tharpe’s clients’ dark, dated home was in serious need of an uplift. And though Tharpe faced some resistance from her clients at first, they eventually came to see that Tharpe’s classic designs would easily transform the home into a space that was not only elegant but would accommodate their family for years to come (page 52). Similarly, designer Anne Wagoner was enlisted by her clients to create a space where the couple could gather together with the many groups they enjoy having in their home, including their friends and family (page 64).

When it comes to entertaining, interior designer Debra Zinn and colleague Laura Montross know exactly how to pile on the festive feeling—without going overboard. The designers’ sophisticated and classic touch to holiday entertaining and decorating is displayed in this issue (page 22). And who better to ask about the best gifts than designers who scour local stores and vendors for the perfect piece to complete a client’s home? We tasked five local designers with choosing gifts and putting their own personal touches on them with gift wrap. The result is a gift guide that you do not want to miss (page 18).

Finally, designer Kara Cox brings us the biggest trend coming out of October’s High Point Market. Cox was one of eight international style spotters selected by High Point Authority as a market ambassador and trend forecaster. Her takeaway: furniture as art is the trend to watch. From sculptural shapes in upholstery to stylish statement hardware, art is clearly influencing how furniture makers are designing today (page 30).

Despite the sleep deprivation and nonstop toddler corraling, I’m trying to remind myself that these days are fleeting and to hold onto them as tightly as possible. I wish you and yours a joyous holiday season and a very Merry Christmas filled with precious moments that will transform into cherished memories you’ll look back on for years to come. Cheers!

Ashley Hotham Cox
Editor in Chief
@ashleyhcox on Instagram
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Gifted Designers

These designer favorites will bring style to your holiday gift-giving.

Written by Aleigh Acerni

It’s only natural that interior designers have a knack for selecting the perfect gift. After all, gift-giving is an art, and designers know exactly what makes people happy at home. We turned to local designers for their favorite gift ideas—and how they like to wrap their goodies. Whether you’re shopping for the impossible-to-buy-for or seeking inspiration for the finishing touches, you’ll find ideas here.
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—MARTHA SCHNEIDER, LA MAISON INTERIORS

Emerald Lace 36-inch Wreath / $340 / westonfarms.com

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—KATHERINE CONNELL, KATHERINE CONNELL INTERIOR DESIGN

“I LIKE TO GIVE GIFTS THAT THE RECIPIENT WOULD LOVE TO USE FOR THEMSELVES BUT CAN ALSO SHARE. FOR EXAMPLE, ITEMS THEY CAN BRING OUT WHEN ENTERTAINING FRIENDS AND family. I HAVE FOUND THE GIFTS I USE THE MOST ARE ONES I CAN ENJOY WITH OTHERS.”

—JEFF SNYDER, SIMON’S HOUSE INTERIORS
THE NEW OLD-FASHIONED WAY

A Chapel Hill designer shows her gratitude through an elegant holiday brunch with an old-fashioned twist.

Written by Catherine Ruth Kelly
Photography by Anna Routh

The holiday season calls for joyous celebrations, festive decorations, and, yes, party invitations. Interior designer Debra Zinn combined all three of those elements for a holiday brunch she and her colleague Laura Montross hosted for friends they have met through the design industry.

“We wanted to show our gratitude to the amazing women we have worked with,” Zinn says, “and what better way to say ‘thank you’ than hosting someone for a meal in your home?”

Zinn enjoys entertaining and loves a good party theme. For this particular brunch, she wanted to create an old-fashioned Christmas. She selected an airy, unsheared fir tree and embellished it with organic trimmings such as dried fruits and flowers and natural fiber ribbons. Her windows and mantel were adorned with fresh magnolia leaves and emerald lace from Weston Farms and styled by Diane and Lily Joyal of Bowerbird Flowers.

Guests were greeted with crystal coupes of freshly squeezed citrus-ade mimosas and silver trays of pimiento cheese BLT bites. Chef Paris Mishoe created a traditional Southern brunch, including shrimp and grits, fresh local greens, and homemade Zinn and her guests toast with mimosas in William Yeoward champagne coupes.
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BUTTERMILK ROLLS WITH WHIPPED BUTTER

FRENCH MACARONS

CROQUEMBOUCHE WITH SPUN SUGAR

TOP: Chef Paris Mishoe prepared traditional Southern fare for the brunch, including shrimp with grit cakes and yeast rolls. On the table are Royal Crown Derby salad and dinner plates, Anna Weatherley chargers, Vietri silverware, and vintage amber goblets. The tablecloth and napkin fabrics are by Erika M. Powell Textiles.

BOTTOM: A stunning centerpiece, the croquembouche is garnished with spun sugar by Miel Bon Bons in Durham.
Spend your holidays with Paysage
Terrain faux fir tree is styled by Debra Zinn Interiors with dried oranges, dried hydrangeas, and natural fiber ribbons.

yeast rolls. But for dessert, Zinn requested a classic French croquembouche from Miel Bon Bons. This confectionery tower of cream puffs provides a stunning centerpiece. “It’s not only beautiful, but it’s also delicious and fun to eat!” Zinn adds.

As for the table, that’s Zinn’s specialty. An interior designer since 2013, she started her latest venture, The Curated Table, just last summer. “I was hosting my mother’s eightieth birthday party in Cape Cod and was disappointed with the rental options for china, crystal, and linens,” Zinn explains. “I saw an opportunity and pursued it.”

The Curated Table’s goal is to create unique and memorable events by setting a beautiful table, layer by layer. “Plates are
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pretty by themselves but really shine when you add flowers, linens, and candles,” Zinn says. “Every detail matters.”

And no detail was overlooked for Zinn’s holiday table. Green and gold china plates were accentuated by vintage amber crystal goblets. The Erika Powell tablecloth featured a vine pattern, which Zinn emphasized with gold ivy wire wrapped around complementary linen napkins. Party favors of gourmet chocolates were artfully wrapped and topped with hand-calligraphed gift cards by Myra Jester that doubled as place cards.

Zinn believes that taking the time to set a pretty table makes your guests feel appreciated and cared for. “My favorite moment is to see guests smile when they walk into the room and realize that a very special time is in store for them,” Zinn smiles. “It makes all of the effort worth it.”
Every October, thousands of the country’s top interior designers and home furnishings retailers descend upon High Point, North Carolina, for the world’s largest home furnishings market. I served as one of eight international “Style Spotters” selected by High Point Market Authority as a market ambassador and trend forecaster. After scouring thousands of new products and walking countless showroom miles, I found that one of the most prominent trends emerging from High Point Market this fall is a return to craftsmanship and using furniture as art.

From multiple mixed materials in case goods to sculptural shapes in upholstery, the devil is in the details. Statement hardware is showing up across categories, while even sofa arms are creating interest with architectural shapes. No longer is art limited to the walls; furniture is taking its turn at creating interest and dimension in a space with form meeting function.

Benjamin Johnston Design carefully crafted this art-filled interior with sculptural furniture and lighting from the intricately shaped stools to the curves of the barrel chair. Each piece is unique and thoughtfully selected to draw the eye through the room to create a gallery-like experience.
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This living room by Denise McGaha Interiors showcases furniture as art. From the sculptural side chair to the geometric twist on simple table lamps and brass detailing on the coffee table, each piece is carefully curated, creating artistic interest throughout the room.

1. The Arlo Chair by Gabby features a curvy silhouette and open back with a sculptural quality; gabbyhome.com
2. The Chest Court Lamp by Wildwood Lamps brings a geometric form to the simplest of table lamps; wildwoodlamps.com
3. Much more sophisticated than yard art, this outdoor table from the new Bernhardt Exteriors collection has soft, curvy form for added interest in your outdoor living area; bernhardt.com
4. The Galvarino Coffee Table by South + English uses three simple forms to create multiple ways of puzzle piecing your own custom table; southandenglish.com
5. Shagreen, brass hardware, and curving lines combine in an artistic form with the Shagreen cabinet by Ambella Home; ambellahome.com
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Produced by Ashley Hotham Cox
Written by Christina Spratt Spencer

This velvety blue hue glistens and gleams with a bold and vivacious magnificence seemingly fit for royalty while synchronously approachable. Dazzlingly bright and energetic, it heeds adulation with a juxtaposition of both restrained sophistication and lavish luxury. It’s enthrallingly effervescent when paired with monochromatic facets of powder, sky, and cerulean blues that graduate to this elegant tone, while jewel-box pairings of emerald, peridot, and garnet are splendorous and stately with a noble nod. Contrastingly, canary yellow, coral, and kelly greens playfully evoke a congenial liveliness amidst the dramatic depth of saturation.

1. Designers Zandy Gammons and Liles Dunnigan of The Warehouse 1924 swathed a Raleigh client's piano room in Benjamin Moore Down Pour Blue.
2. Lizzie Fortunato Kerala Earrings / $390 / lizziefortunato.com
3. Jim Thompson Cumulus in Cobalt / to the trade / jimthompsonfabrics.com
4. Cire Trudon Reggio Classic Candle / $115 / trudon.com
5. Lady Swivel Chair by Susan Hable for Hickory Chair / to the trade / ahokeltd.com
6. Mr. Brown London Giotti Bar Stool / to the trade / mrbrownhome.com
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When it comes to interiors, Raleigh native Anna Applegate lets her intuition take the lead. As a result, timeless and fresh designs that are brimming with character and personality are born.

“I often find that I don’t have to travel far to find creative inspiration for my work,” Applegate says. “Browsing through my favorite antique and vintage shops, gathering a pastel palette of seashells at the beach, sifting through a good art book—there’s always something that jumps out and gets my wheels turning. Sometimes it’s an unexpected color combination, or the intricate detailing of an antique picture frame, or the classic lines of an old family chair that just needs great fabric and new upholstery to bring it to life again. It’s the idea of what something could be that gets my heart racing,” she says.

“Translating that inspiration into a well-designed space means layering it with function and beauty, and, most importantly, telling the story of the people who live there and what brings them joy.”

1. Currey & Company Antibes Grande Chandelier / $4,990 / curreyandcompany.com
2. Lee Jofa Monaco Print in Spice/Blush / to the trade / ahokelt.com
3. de Kooning: A Retrospective by John Elderfield / $85 / store.moma.org
4. Highland House Alec Swivel Chair / to the trade / ahokelt.com
5. Bunny Williams Home Bluebird Lampshade / $295 / bunnywilliamshome.com
6. Hyla Dewitt Rosi Earrings / $285 / hyladewitt.com
7. Bryce Speed Great Divide, 2019 / $3,500 / 1stdibs.com
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FAMILY MATTERS

INTERIOR DESIGNER LAUREN HOOD TRANSFORMS A DATED TRADITIONAL HOME IN HAYES BARTON INTO A STRIKING, REFRESHED CENTERPIECE FOR A YOUNG COUPLE AND THEIR CHILDREN.
York grasscloth wallcovering adds texture to the family room, where it comes together nicely with the Schumacher drapes and Stanton Bryant wool carpet custom cut from Eatman’s Carpets & Interiors. Colorful artwork by Kiki Slaughter complements the sofa, chairs, and ottoman from Lee Industries.
Custom blush Fabricut velvet window treatments, which flank a photograph by Eve Kakassy Hobgood, freshen up the traditional dining room. Hood and her client hand-selected a custom vintage Louise Gaskill chandelier crafted in Murano glass. The rug is vintage Oushak. **OPPOSITE:** A vintage bar cart and mirror pop against the existing chinoiserie Nostell Priory wallcovering by Zoffany in the dining room.
Lauren Hood has a knack for designing spaces for children and families. “Most of my clients have kids, and they all want the same thing—spaces that are family friendly and comfortable, but also sophisticated and stylish,” explains the owner of Raleigh-based Progeny Interiors. “I’m not opposed to taking on childless clients, but that’s sort of my thing around here—trying to conceal the toys and the mess and not make a child’s rooms look childish.”

Though not formally trained as an interior designer, the former nonprofit grant writer launched Progeny Children’s Shoppe in Raleigh in early 2014 when her children were young, and she couldn’t find the type of fashionable clothing she sought for them. And later that year, when patrons of her store began asking her to design their nurseries for them, she decided to launch her design practice. One of her first clients was Julia Kerr, who was pregnant with her first child at the time and hired Hood to design her baby’s room.

When Kerr became pregnant with her second child and she and her husband, Matthew Peterson, bought a traditional five-bedroom, five-and-a-half bath house in Hayes Barton in early 2017, they naturally commissioned Hood to complete the interiors. “Our goal was to make it a warm, family-friendly, forever home,” Kerr offers. “We wanted to update the kitchen
and bathrooms and add our touch to the other rooms by keeping the classic, elegant feel of the home.” Since they were putting money into renovations, they didn’t want to spend their budget on unnecessary cosmetic elements, so they made things work where they could. For example, they retained the wallcovering in four of the rooms. “The house had so many fabulous wallpapers and colors. We just wanted to update and add to the style of the house,” Kerr says.

The first order of business was creating an impactful entryway. The previous foyer had dated gold wallpaper that extended up the stairway to the hallway above, and Hood redesigned the space to make a statement with intense blue wallpaper from Lake August. “That was a huge investment and something that we felt would last for a long time. It’s
Opposite: To make a cool statement in the entryway, Hood clad the walls of the entry, stairway, and hallway above in a bold Aurora wallcovering from Lake August with a Sputnik chandelier from Visual Comfort and a Prestige Viscount rug from Eatman’s Carpets & Interiors. The Lucite artwork is by Tommy Mitchell.

Top: Set against existing soft-blue Thibaut wallpaper, Paule Marrot’s Fete print by Natural Curiosities hangs above a DaVinci crib in the two-year-old daughter’s room.

Bottom: The vibrant existing wallpaper in the children’s playroom provides a playful backdrop for the Keiko Genka artwork from Gallery C and a whimsical Vilac Nathalie Lete teepee. The carpet is Cavan Maui from Eatman’s Carpets & Interiors.

just so vibrant and cool and still sort of traditional,” she says. “And that’s what the whole house has been like. It’s a very old house, very traditional. But we wanted to do some contemporary accents and just make it feel young.”

Hood was able to perfectly translate the style preferences of Kerr—who formerly worked in the New York City fashion scene and has impeccable taste—and deliver on all the must-haves that her client sought. Design requests included a master bedroom that serves as a respite with a seating area, installing grasscloth wallcovering somewhere, and using Schumacher’s Citrus Garden fabric, which Kerr had always admired. Hood employed a serene palette for the master suite, painting the walls in Benjamin Moore Palladian Blue and using light neutral tones in the Lee Jofa Allegra Linen cornice behind the bed and Hill House Home bedding. The seating area consists of a custom Duralee sofa, a Lee Industries chair, and the Clover Ottoman designed by Windsor Smith for Century.

Hood found a home for the Citrus Garden print in the breakfast nook, where the vibrant pattern livens up the space, as do the vintage chairs upholstered in a rich orange textile. “Before we redid the breakfast nook, it felt like a second playroom, so we completely took out all of the toys, redid the bench seat, and got a more modern-looking table,” Hood explains. “We also put a little bar area back there, too, that is right off of their backyard.”

The lovely neutral-toned grasscloth wallcovering by York adds texture in the family room and juxtaposes with the bold navy sofa. This living space flows seamlessly into the dining room in terms of structural layout and design elements, which was a deliberate strategy of the designer. “That’s really what we had in mind,” Hood says of the
circulation pattern. “They do have a lot of parties, so we wanted every space to feel like it flows into the next throughout the house. It’s so cool when they entertain; everything is very open.”

To renovate the kitchen, Hood simply replaced the old granite countertops with marble and swapped out the dated tile with subway tile, finished with a darker grout to create a fresh, modern look. “That was all we did, and it completely changed the whole space,” Hood says. “The big island in the renovated kitchen perfectly lends itself to hosting gatherings, as everyone always likes to congregate in the kitchen.”

Kerr agrees that the design is well suited to the way her family likes to socialize in their home. “We love having friends over for backyard fun or some front porch cocktails. And it’s a great flowing house for a fun family dinner party,” she says. “The updated kitchen is a perfect gathering place for cocktails and cooking.” ◆
With walls coated in Benjamin Moore Palladian Blue and Rosecore Harrison Myriad carpet from Eatman’s Carpets & Interiors, Hood created an adult oasis in the master suite. **OPPOSITE**: The seating area in the master suite is outfitted with a custom sofa by Duralee, a chair by Lee Industries, and a Windsor Smith for Century Clover ottoman. Art is from La Maison.
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In place of high-back counter stools that would interfere with the view into the family room, Tharpe chose backless stools by Hickory Chair to streamline the spaces while still providing additional seating.
ART OF INFLUENCE

Sometimes the biggest task for a designer is simply showing her clients design possibilities—and maybe a little coaxing is necessary, too.
With a white base to work with in the family room, Tharpe layered in touches of blue through pieces such as the throw pillows by Lee Jofa and the slipper chairs with fretwork detail by Hickory Chair, which are covered in a striped Kelly Wearstler for Groundworks fabric.

OPPOSITE: Finding the right table for the breakfast dining area was initially a challenge for Tharpe. The designer, however, found a whitish-gray rectangular table by Theodore Alexander that fit perfectly in the space. She then accented with a custom banquette by Hickory Chair and Visual Comfort lighting.
Kristin Tharpe knew she was going to have to do a little convincing. Her clients had hired her to design the interiors of their beach home in Morehead City, and it was during that project that they fell in love with the designer’s timeless, classic aesthetic. “They really allowed me to design a home that was thoughtful and sophisticated, but also fun, which is great for a beach house,” she says.

But when those clients enlisted her to design their primary residence in Chapel Hill, Tharpe surprisingly encountered some resistance. “I think when it comes to designing your primary residence, there’s a different feeling about how outside the box you really want to go,” Tharpe says. “I think the homeowners were really cautious about creating an interior that was a departure from their norm.” That norm was a more traditional and formal aesthetic with dark woods, heavy paneling and crown molding, and a color palette of browns, reds, and mustard yellows.

With the kitchen renovation, Tharpe weighed in on finishes and suggested a color palette that was more neutral and transitional, all of which the homeowners loved. But when Tharpe
began working on a few of the other primary rooms of the home, including the dining room, family room, and library, she found her clients were resistant to change.

They did, however, allow Tharpe some creative license in the dining room. “There was originally a chair rail there, and it just felt like too much,” Tharpe says. So she had it removed. “There just wasn’t a lot going on in that room.” Her clients also wanted to use the same Carolina blue-silk wallcovering by Phillip Jeffries that had hung in their previous residence, but Tharpe knew it wasn’t the right look. “In this case, I felt like the blue wasn’t exactly what I saw fitting with the rest of the space long-term.” So instead, she presented the homeowners with other equally beautiful—but less expensive—options for the dining room walls, and they settled on a blue-gray grasscloth that really grounded the space. “Once they both saw it, they fell in love with the whole look of the room,” Tharpe says. “It just took a bit of persuading.”

The designer was faced with a similar scenario when she did the bare minimum to the library, giving it a makeover with a lighter, neutral color palette and upgrading the upholstery on some of her clients’ existing furniture. “You have to know when to push your clients and when to recognize they’re ready for change,” she says. “They weren’t ready then.” It wasn’t until
The dining room was a departure from what her clients were accustomed to, which was a dark color palette coupled with dark-wood details. Tharpe removed the chair rail and paneling and added a stunning blue-gray grasscloth to set the tone for the space.

OPPOSITE: In the dining room, Tharpe wanted a piece with a wow factor. She found it with the addition of the more modern bar cart featuring brass details, which she complemented with an antiqued mirror with gold detailing.
OPPOSITE: Tharpe encouraged her clients to choose something bold in the library, as it’s the first room you see upon entering the home. The wallcovering with gold rivet detailing by Phillip Jeffries sets the tone for the home’s overall aesthetic.

TOP: Tharpe covered the powder room in a wallpaper by Schumacher in a more modern, geometric pattern. To balance that, a custom-made vanity by W. Johnson Construction is a touch more traditional, as are the Visual Comfort sconces.

BOTTOM: To add to the vignette at the bottom of the stairs, Tharpe pulled one of the slipper chairs with fretwork details by Hickory Chair in a Kelly Wearstler for Groundworks fabric from the family room.

“IT’S THOSE MOMENTS WHERE YOU TAKE SOME OF THOSE RISKS AND SEE THOSE REWARDS THAT SOLIDIFY WHY YOU DO WHAT YOU DO.”
—KRISTIN THARPE

2019 that Tharpe’s clients were finally ready for the change she had been encouraging. It was then that she suggested the elegant navy Phillip Jeffries wallcovering with gold rivets to create a dramatic yet still formal space that welcomes guests as they enter the home. Her clients loved it. “It’s those moments where you take some of those risks and see those rewards that solidify why you do what you do,” Tharpe says. “We could’ve gone with a safe option, but it would not have had that impact.”

And while the family room posed its challenges with all of its angles and lack of wall space for draperies and artwork, Tharpe was able to create a more transitional space from the original, more traditional home. “It was really about refining the space and making it relevant for the design direction, and also in terms of the style of the home,” she explains. But Tharpe did
The homeowners had a penchant for blue, so Tharpe kept the cool hue running throughout the home, including the guest bedroom. Lamps by Alexa Hampton for Visual Comfort and a bolster and heirloom bench, both swathed in a Schumacher print, add small doses of blue without going overboard. **OPPOSITE:** Tharpe loves to repurpose pieces, especially ones with fantastic lines such as this modified wingback chair in the corner of the guest bedroom. Originally covered in a mustard-yellow chenille, Tharpe had the pair recovered in a durable navy Sunbrella fabric, which instantly brought the pieces back to life.
have to do some coaxing in this space, too. “The slipper chairs with the fretwork bottom by Hickory Chair really made the space. But it took some persuading!” she laughs.

While Tharpe says that watching the Chapel Hill home come to life was one of her most rewarding home designs, like any interior design project, it came with its own set of challenges, which she gracefully overcame. “I think it’s really about putting yourself in the homeowners’ shoes and seeing things from their perspective,” she says. “They have to be ready to make that change in their lives and in their home. You can only push so much. But in this case, I think I pushed on all the right things.” ◆
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PURCHASING A RALEIGH HOME TO COINCIDE WITH THEIR NEW PHASE IN LIFE, A COUPLE PUT THEIR TRUST IN DESIGNER ANNE WAGONER TO SEE THEIR VISION THROUGH.
The blue-and-white family room is perfectly appointed and elegantly understated with blue Cowtan & Tout grasscloth wallcoverings and upholstered Lee Industries furniture and Kravet drapery.
Homeowner Creecy Andrews, an artist and avid gardener, designed and created the landscaping of her dreams with the help of landscape designer Tom Nowell and interior designer Anne Wagoner, which includes a trellised vine along the exterior wall and a stone path that leads to the “secret garden.”

OPPOSITE: Stripes in the entryway are hand-painted in custom colors. The window treatments are made with Pindler fabric with Samuel & Sons trim. A Visual Comfort sconce with a custom blue shade is the perfect partner to an antique Gustavian bench upholstered in mohair.
Like many empty nesters, Russ and Creecy Andrews were embarking on a new phase of their life. After their children had grown and gone, Russ Andrews, a longtime financial advisor, felt called to enter the ministry, and together the couple expanded on their faith foundation. In doing so, they agreed it was time to find a home that was more functional for the two of them and the many groups they enjoy gathering in their home, including their children and many grandchildren.

“I was driving around town and happen to see a home for sale that piqued my interest,” Creecy Andrews recalls. “I called a realtor friend about it, and he said, ‘I’m not sure that’s the right home for y’all, but I do have another I want you to see.’” The realtor took the Andrews to a small twelve-home neighborhood in the North Hills area and walked them through one of the homes for sale. “As soon as we walked in,” Creecy Andrews says, “I had a vision for what it could be.” The home, built in 1980 by John C. Williams, was in great shape and had incredible architecture and quality. But it was also a little
dark and needed some updating. The couple agreed it was the home for them, with Creecy Andrews adding a condition to her husband that he allow her to build a secret garden in the back—a request he was happy to oblige.

The couple called on Carter Skinner to flesh out the changes they wanted to make and Matt Walton to execute the build. The team converted a Jack and Jill bathroom and walk-in closet into a private en-suite bathroom for the second bedroom, while downstairs, they added a dedicated dining room and enlarged the den off the kitchen to include a fireplace and some built-in bookshelves. And with the help of landscape designer Tom Nowell, Creecy Andrews was able to create her secret garden in the backyard.

All of these changes were part of what the Andrews call phase one. About a year later, the Andrews’ next-door neighbor suggested they call interior designer Anne Wagoner—A new, young designer with whom her daughter-in-law was working. “My neighbor told me how beautiful Anne’s designs were, and I just called her up, and we instantly clicked,” Creecy Andrews says. “As I later looked through her designs, I saw that she designed with a mix of old and new, with a fresh take on classic design—exactly what I was looking for.”

“When I first walked in, I immediately noticed that what was so special about this home was being hidden by all the floral patterns and bold colors,” Wagoner of Anne Wagoner Interiors says. “The amazing architecture and beautiful outdoor spaces were just begging to be highlighted.”

Wagoner got to work streamlining the furnishings and incorporating solid fabrics with dressmaker details to set the stage for the beautiful millwork and high ceilings. “In doing
“SHE’S TAKEN MY STYLE AND REFINED IT FOR ME.”
—CREECY ANDREWS

OPPOSITE: Calacatta quartz countertops make the kitchen light and bright, while a custom hood by Francois & Co. lends a traditional yet sophisticated feel.

TOP: In the living room, Hickory Chair slipper chairs flank the sofa. The pillows are covered in Scalamandre Le Tigre fabric, and antique Greek key lamps are covered with custom shades. The antique wall plaques of Jesus and the Holy Mother were a surprise from Wagoner to her clients, paying homage to their faith foundation.

BOTTOM: In the powder room, an antique mirror is the perfect partner to an unpolished brass fixture, Visual Comfort sconce, and Calacatta marble countertop.
this, your eye is now drawn through the space to the backyard and secret side garden, both of which are my favorite hidden gems in Raleigh,” Wagoner adds.

The goal for the family was to create a space that was peaceful and inviting for the couple to host bible studies, be with their family, and enjoy their grandchildren. To that end, Wagoner started with a complete overhaul of the galley-style kitchen that was to include a massive island that could provide a seat for every grandchild in the ever-growing family. From there, the rest of the rooms took shape, and over the course of a year, the home began to open up. “Anne went with me to every meeting at Kitchen & Bath Galleries and helped me pick out every detail of my kitchen,” Creecy Andrews says, “which was invaluable—she thought of every detail I never would have, and it's in the details that Anne really shines.”

When working with each room, Wagoner started by combining new furnishings with reproductions and antiques, never ordering anything from a catalog. She shops with purpose, in person, choosing pieces that reflect the story and personality of her clients. “For Creecy and Russ, one of my favorite elements in the design is the pair of bronze plaques that flank the oversized piece of art in the living room,” Wagoner recalls. “The plaques are reliefs of Mary and Jesus, reflecting the foundation of Creecy and Russ’ faith.” Each plaque weighs seventy
Wagoner repurposed the homeowners’ antique furniture in the dining room and created an updated and elegant style. Custom chair covers are made with Pindler fabric, and the fabric and trim on the light draperies are by Samuel & Sons. **OPPOSITE:** Wagoner repurposed the homeowner’s antique furniture in the dining room, including the elegant sideboard adorned with lamps from Visual Comfort to add the perfect glow.
The blue-and-white family room is perfectly appointed and elegantly understated with blue Cowtan & Tout grasscloth wallcoverings and upholstered Lee Industries furniture and Kravet drapery. OPPOSITE: Antique and collected accessories line the shelves of the family room, accenting the blue Cowtan & Tout grasscloth wallcoverings.
pounds, and Wagoner had them hung while the couple was out of town so she could surprise them with the reveal. “The afternoon was a series of hold-your-breath moments, but in the end, it was worth it,” she says.

Since the homeowners already had a nice collection of antiques, Wagoner supplemented with just a few pieces here and there, adding her favorite coffee-table books and tortoise-shell jewelry boxes as accents. “I grew up with antiques and oriental rugs,” Creecy Andrews says, “so it was nice for Anne to come in and tell me to keep most of my things but transform them with fresh updates and updated design. She truly is a young person with an old soul.” Maintaining the design that Wagoner installed has been easy and natural. “I really listened to how Anne designed and why she made the choices she made. That has truly impacted the way I make decisions now when buying for my home,” Creecy Andrews says. “She’s taken my style and refined it for me.”
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The pre-holiday months find many homeowners decluttering the guest room and cleaning the main entertaining areas, making way for visitors to descend en masse during these months of family-gathering. Where will all the boxes of decluttered stuff go? Usually, they end up in the garage. Then, in the blink of an eye, the holidays are over, and it’s time to put away all the holiday decorations. Alas, the garage seems like a good place to store these boxes of re-packed decorations, too.

The holidays may be one of the best times to call Closet Factory to organize the garage. By implementing a storage system now, most homeowners can have their entire garage in order—and be able to park the car in there, too—by February.

According to Sue Pail, CEO of Closet Factory in Apex, the first step in implementing a garage organizational process begins with a no-cost, in-home meeting with a design consultant. The designer will inventory the homeowner’s items, measure the garage, and help match up each item with the storage solution that best fits, providing a final blueprint for a total garage makeover.

Written by Dana W. Todd
Photography by Meg Daniels; courtesy of Closet Factory
“Since garage floors are sloped, we put all cabinets on levelers, or feet,” Pail says. “This design keeps all items off the garage floor for easy cleaning and maintenance and provides protection in case of water leaks and flooding, too.”

Lifted cabinets are just one of the many features that work together to make a Closet Factory garage an organized miracle that easily handles overflow from the house’s more interior spaces. “Workbenches provide a place for work projects, pottery, and even a planting station,” Pail continues. “Deep storage behind cabinets with doors provide space for coolers and other large items as well as holiday decorations.” Flat wall storage provides a place for both flat items like ladders and garden tools and wheeled items like bikes and scooters, keeping every belonging off the floor. Open storage stocked with bins corral smaller objects and contributes to the clean and ordered effect.

“The garage can be the place to be creative by matching cabinets with your car’s color or favorite sports team,” Pail says. “You can add dramatic color you might be hesitant to do in the house.” With a range of paints, stains, finishes, and decorative panels, garage cabinets can be functional and just as beautiful as the cabinets in your kitchen.

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Doug and Nelda Lay, who own The Persian Carpet, know just about everything there is to know about fine rugs. They have been importing hand-knotted rugs from India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, China, Turkey, and Iran since 1976. With so much to learn about buying the right rug for a home, The Persian Carpet provides several articles and tutorials on its website and guides shoppers step by step through making the right buying decision from its inventory of more than 7,000 rugs.

“There is more diversity now than ever before in terms of design, style, texture, color, and quality,” Doug Lay says. “The market has changed dramatically over the years. Because of the large variety, most homeowners need help making a decision.”

Lay advises homeowners to visit the store prepared with room dimensions, color swatches, and fabric samples. He also

HANDMADE HEAVEN

Selecting the perfect hand-knotted rug is an individual process for every homeowner.

Written by Dana W. Todd
Photography by Kevin Seifert
advises them to give some thought to what size they believe they need. If uncertain, The Persian Carpet staff can expertly guide them through the size discovery process. Next, the homeowner will want to discuss style preferences, whether they lean toward traditional, transitional, or contemporary, as well as the colors they wish to include in the room.

With color samples in hand, a rug expert from The Persian Carpet team can help homeowners and their designers quickly sort through the vast inventory to narrow down realistic choices. If the thousands of imported oriental rugs do not yield the perfect fit, The Persian Carpet can access thousands of rugs on today’s market or can work closely with the homeowner to custom design the ideal rug and send it to India to be produced.

“You’re playing Russian roulette if you buy a carpet online,” Lay says. “It is preferable to see the rug’s quality in person. At The Persian Carpet, homeowners never buy a rug they don’t have the right to return.” The company also provides local homeowners with a try-it-before-you-buy-it program, so they can get a feel for how the rug looks and performs in their homes before making a lasting commitment.

In addition to imported handmade rugs in a variety of styles, The Persian Carpet also designs and produces its own line of Southwestern rugs, stocks an array of antique oriental and rare tribal rugs, and produces a line of British Arts and Crafts/American Prairie–style rugs.

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By Sunny Surana
Photography courtesy of LG Hausys

Quartz is a breakthrough trend that’s destined to be a classic.

A countertop is more than a place where meals are prepared. It’s where homework is done, where there’s shared conversation over a cup of coffee, and where the holiday buffet is spread. A countertop surface needs to be hard working in such a busy kitchen. For this reason I often recommend engineered quartz to my clients who want to combine beauty and durability. In fact, Consumer Reports ranks quartz as the number one countertop in terms of performance in busy kitchens. My specific recommendation to my clients is to consider LG Viatera quartz for its reliability and elegance.

There are several reasons we stock Viatera quartz at CRS Marble & Granite. First, it has amazing durability and does not fade. Viatera produces its quartz slabs with up to 93 percent quartz content, which is one of the hardest minerals on earth and provides superior strength to engineered stone. It’s a low maintenance stone that does not require sealing since its nonporous surface does not trap or hide bacteria. That makes Viatera quartz naturally hygienic.

We also are pleased that Viatera is conveniently located in the Southeast, at a factory dedicated solely to quartz production in Adairsville, Georgia. The company produces quartz slabs sustainably, with environmentally friendly business practices and manufacturing processes in place such as waste recycling and...
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The versatility of Viatera quartz also makes it an attractive countertop option. Customers can choose from more than fifty colors organized into eight stylized collections, including new colors added this year, to keep the options fresh. From bold and exotic to subtle minimalist, there’s a style for every homeowner. With Jumbo slabs that are 24 percent larger than the industry standard, Viatera quartz can be successfully used in larger layouts, such as large kitchen islands, with fewer seams.

Another feature makes this product attractive to our customers: Viatera provides a fifteen-year warranty that is transferrable if homeowners sell their house. A warranty is a bonus assurance that countertops will look great for years to come.

SUNNY SURANA is president of CRS MARBLE & GRANITE. Visit the Raleigh showroom at 7521 Exhibit Court, see CRSGRANITE.COM, or call 919-784-9282.
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GRACEFUL RIGHTSIZING

By Evan Bost
Photography courtesy of Visual Properties, LLC
Interior design by Design Works Studio

One of my mantras, “quality over quantity,” coupled with a tinge of minimalism, has crept into the mainstream of custom home design.

Single-use rooms and area-consuming specialty spaces are increasingly subject to the chopping block during plan design, as we progressively value space by the amount of time we spend occupying it and the amount of heating/cooling, maintenance, cleaning, and cost the square footage adds to ownership.

At some point, formal dining rooms were chopped, along with sprawling master bedrooms, reading nooks, home theaters, libraries, and formal living rooms. We could attribute this trend to caution a decade after the housing bubble, or changes in values and tastes. Still, the important point is that smaller, highly functional homes are achievable while maintaining the amenities and stringent quality of luxury custom homes.

The beauty of designing a smaller home is that all space is intentional.

For years, we have helped clients achieve their goals to rightsize gracefully, and we’re still committed to the concept.

Our 2019 Parade of Homes Gold award winner, located at 809 Journeys Rest Lane in the new Destin community, manifests this change in ideals. At 3,750 square feet, it’s snuggler than any home we’ve built in recent memory. Yet, its open sightlines and quality finishes inspire the same “wow” reaction typically received in an extravagant showcase home. A mix of two-story twelve-foot and ten-foot ceiling heights with expansive windows allow light to spill through the foyer and living-dining-entertaining areas. A floating open-riser staircase grants the eye access to an open kitchen and wet bar with a modern wine display,
EVAN BOST is the director of marketing and Green Initiatives at BOST CUSTOM HOMES.
For more information, contact Bost Custom Homes or visit DESTINNC.COM

"THE BEAUTY OF DESIGNING A SMALLER HOME IS THAT ALL SPACE IS INTENTIONAL."

adjacent to a “moving hidden wall” wrapped in vertical shiplap that cleverly opens or closes the study to the main body of the house.

Working within a 2,300-square-foot first floor, balance is struck in providing a lavish owner’s suite while maintaining modest dimensions. There is floor-to-ceiling storage in the shared his-and-hers closet, and openness wherever possible through floating vanity cabinets, a curbless glass shower, and large modern windows. Kohler’s digital showering experience allows homeowners to program their perfect combination of temperature, lighting, music, and sprayers, and a cabinet-integrated tissue dispenser eliminates the possibility of a tissue box occupying precious counter space. Behind the kitchen is a scullery with a secondary refrigerator, a dishwasher, a galley sink, and modern cabinetry. The second floor hosts two suites, a bonus room, and a media room with an entertainer’s wet bar.

Thriving beyond the living room’s twelve-foot vanishing door is easy thanks to a covered porch with retractable screens and vinyl to block insects, chilly air, or pollen, all at the press of a button. A rightsized thirty-three-foot by twelve-foot rectangular pool with an integrated spa and spillway provides subject for the expansive windows.

This rightsized home is currently available in Destin—West Cary’s newest luxury community committed to the concept.◆
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