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# JULY / AUGUST 2023





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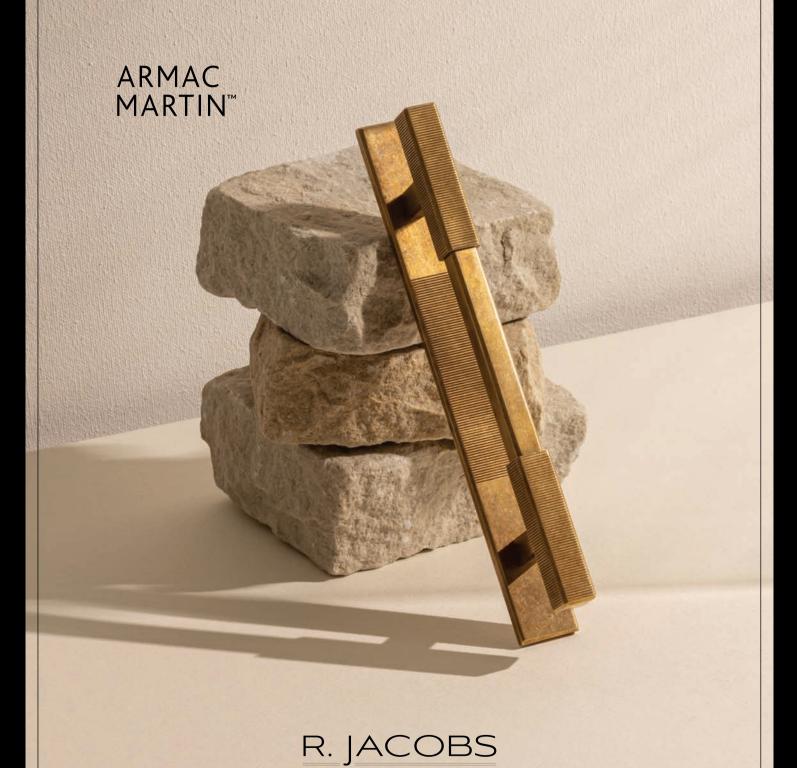
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There's something about being in someone's kitchen that feels overtly intimate. You know as you sit with that friend or family member that the space you're in holds countless hours of quiet weekend mornings, private conversations, loud holiday meals, and never-ending cups of coffee that leave rings on the Sunday paper. These moments are sacred to the inhabitants of the home, and now you too are a memory in the space.

Daily lives carry on in the inches and corners of our kitchens, and our days begin and end in the privacy of our bathrooms, so the thought we devote to making these rooms beautiful and livable is valid—which is why we dedicate an entire issue to recognizing stunning kitchen and bathroom design and the way it impacts our lifestyle.

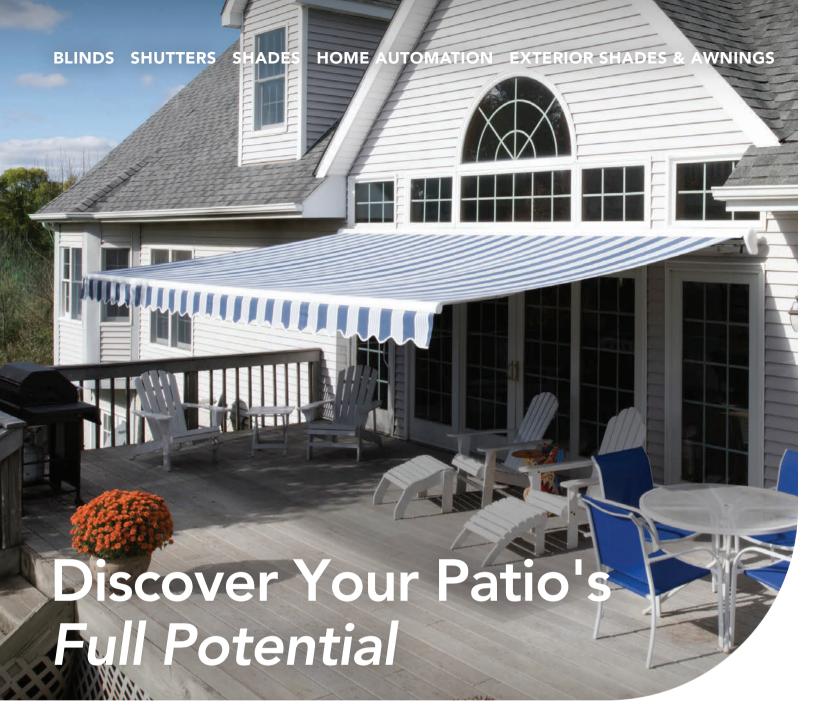
Whether it's tile or wallpaper, barstools or hardware, the devil is in the details when it comes to designing these rooms. Picking just a handful of our favorites to feature proved to be a challenge, but we're confident the inspiration is clear. From cozy and calming waterside kitchens in Wilmington and Smith Mountain Lake to a warm and modern design in Fisher Park, this issue is bathed in spectacular and impressive projects.

Cheers to making the most intimate, the most inviting.

Blake Miller and Anne Marie Ashley Co-Editors-in-Chief

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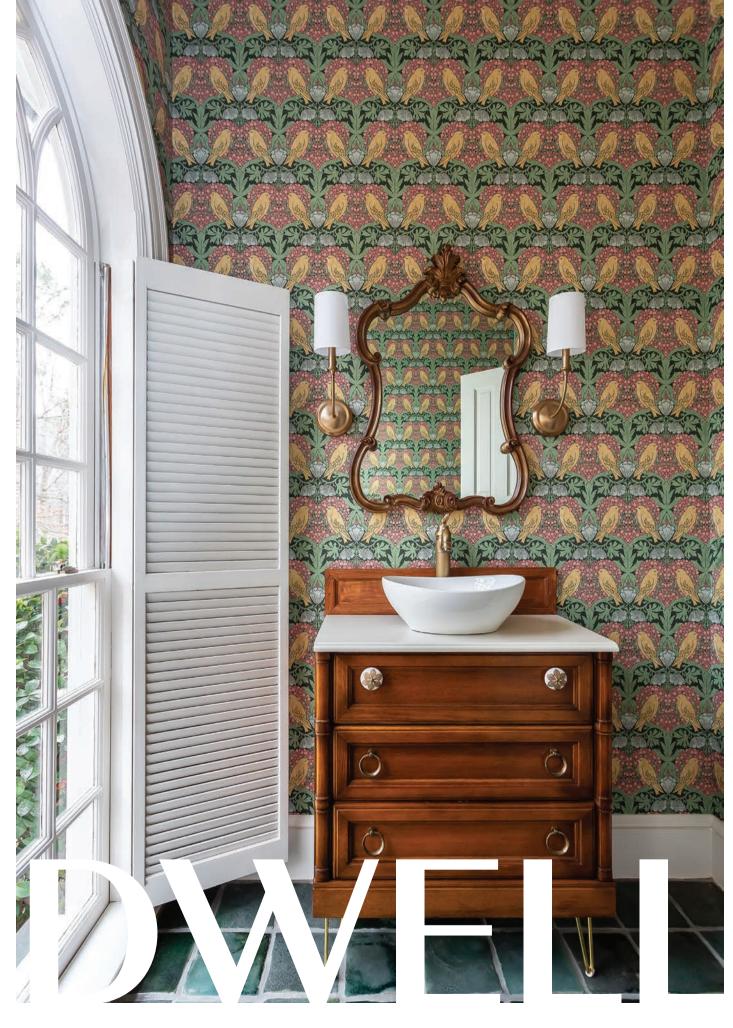


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Nest on a Ledge, Cora Ogden

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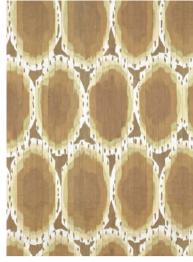
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#### MARKET











Top: Attoll / pierrefrey.com
Bottom: Zanzibar Trellis /
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Above: Stripes / rebelwalls.com

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ARTWORK BY HIDELL BROOKS





WHEN DESIGNER MAAllen was tasked with designing a kitchen renovation and addition alongside home designer Carter Skinner, she knew her globe-trotting clients would be looking for a worldly design that reflected their personality. Avid collectors of Asian artwork, Allen was aware that the client's affinity would leak into the design, but it wasn't until the designer visited Hanoi, Vietnam, shortly after they began the project that her concept really blossomed.

"When I was in Hanoi, which was historically a French colonial settlement, it really struck me how beautiful the Asian modern

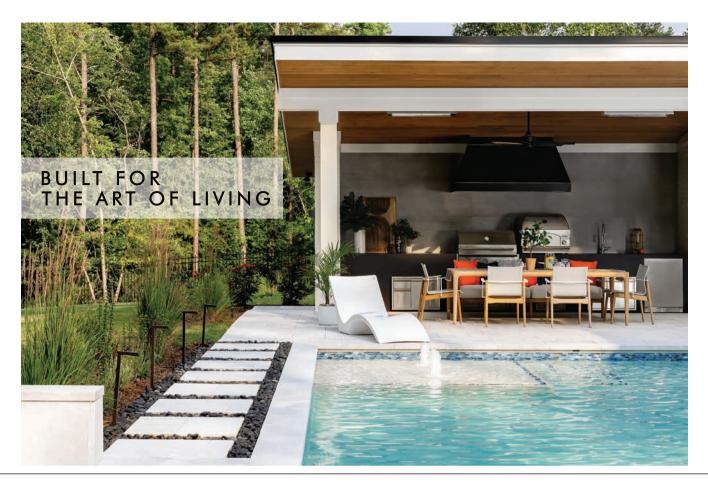
and French colonial design styles combine," says Allen. She pulled these concepts into her client's kitchen design with bamboo drawer pulls, subtle pagoda-styled pendant lights, and a beautiful vertically tiled backsplash that mimics growing bamboo. Alongside, she used French blue hues, a French-influenced range hood, lots of brass elements, and simple taupe cabinets that let the different languages speak. "Carter gave us a gracious footprint to work with in this bump-out addition that included a family room, covered porch, and this kitchen," says Allen.





**ABOVE:** Sink hardware from **Newport Brass** warms the space while adding a French infusion, and counterops in leathered Fantasy Brown bring some texture in neutral tones.

LEFT: MA Allen worked with a local metalsmith to create a custom stainless-steel hood with brass accents to add to the French feel, which pairs perfectly with the Byrd Tile backsplash and soothing taupe cabinets.

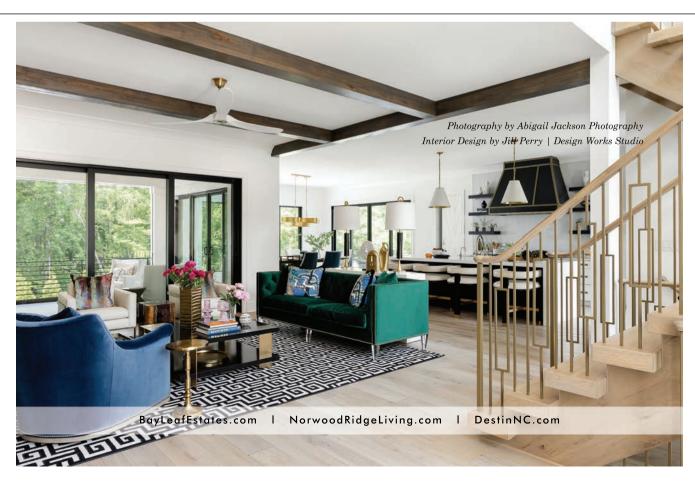


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#### BOST CUSTOM HOMES ... AND REMODELING!







TOP: In the breakast room, MA Allen designer Margaret Richards chose a pretty Schumacher Ikat print for the curtains, pulling in the bright pop of orange that pairs so easily with the brass Arabelle pendant from Visual Comfort. Vintage Ming-style chairs are paired with a modern tulip table for a perfect East-meets-West vibe.

**BOTTOM:** A hidden pantry and scullery houses small appliances, a carbonated water tap, and a work space, all while creating clean lines in the kitchen cabinet run. Cabinet hardware is in Colonial Bronze from Bird Decorative Hardware.



Because of the extra room, Allen added a hidden scullery and pantry behind paneled cabinet walls, which created a seamless cabinet run that was pivotal to preserving the design quality. "I would say 95 percent of my current projects have a working scullery because it just keeps the kitchen looking so clean and beautiful," she says. "We tailor each pantry to the clients, typically having a water source (here, it was a carbonated water tap), countertops, small appliances, and storage."

Allen says her kitchen designs are always zone-led. "I focus on designing kitchens in zones—a baking zone, often with wall ovens, a range cooking zone, and then a prep and serving zone," she explains. "This helps us map out the kitchen for best client functionality." Ease of living is top of mind with Allen, and a personal and unique design for each client's style is inherent in her work—even when it calls for the unlikeliest of pairings. •





This moody dining room designed by Jess **Ebert of Four Story** Interiors masterfully marries earthy plumhued curtains with cool, tranquil blues.

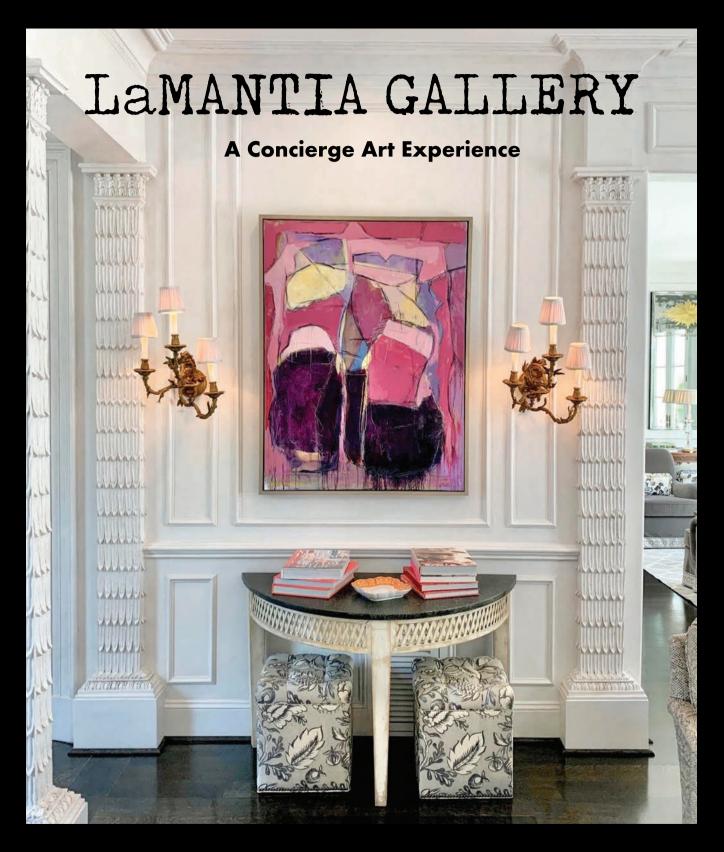


FROM EARTHY TONES OF DEEP PURPLE AND BROWN TO BRIGHT PUNCHES OF BERRY AND LAVENDER, THIS HUE IS RIPE AND READY FOR PICKING.

WRITTEN BY CHRISTINA SPRATT SPENCER PRODUCED BY ANNE MARIE ASHLEY

An enveloping balance between the cool and indulgent depths of indigo and the earthy warmth of violet, this moody and mysterious hue is deliciously dark and daring. Even a dollop of potent plum tones evokes subtle elegance and an air of sumptuous surroundings. The shady range sings with pairings of canary and chartreuse, or oozes pure romance with ombre tones of rose and raspberry; it's a luscious contrast with whisper blues and lavender, and is definitively regal with jewel-toned emerald, peacock, and persimmon. Plum feels at home in its dark pastel magenta family but exemplifies the perfect union of bright and muted.

- Ruby Rug / \$999 for 9x12 / westelm.com
   Faces Throw / \$170 / sundaycitizen.co
- 3. Handcrafted Saki Set / \$715 / wolfandbadger.com
- Cloud Nine Mirror in Benjamin Moore Super Nova / to the trade / wildwoodhome.com
- Dead Flat Matte Paint in Pelt / \$186 per gallon / farrowandball.com
- Peter Dunham Fabrics / to the trade / schuylersampertontextiles.com
- 7. French Bulldog Sculpture in Metallic Plum / \$224 / wolfandbadger.com
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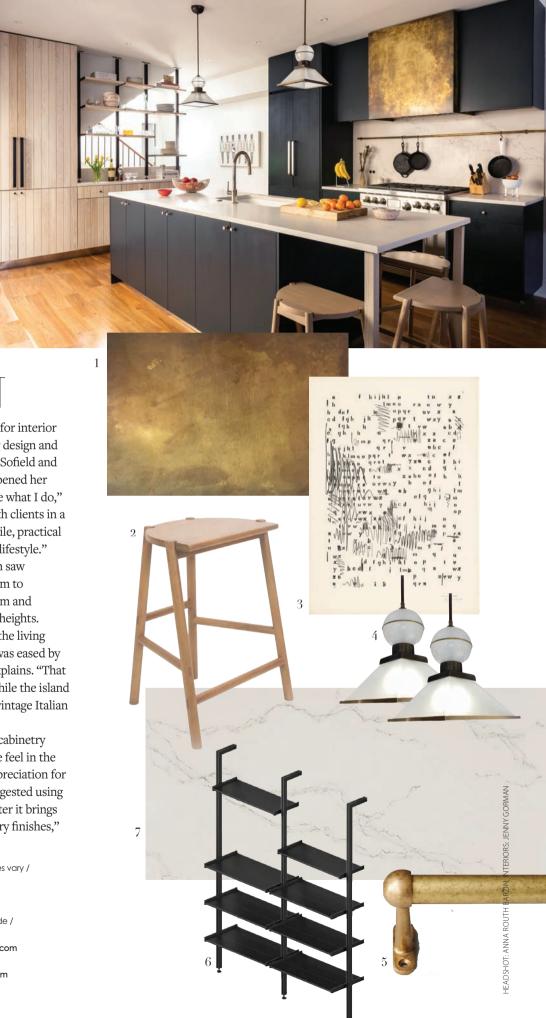


Designer Dana Waldron has had a passion for interior design since she was young. After studying design and working for New York-based firms Studio Sofield and Meyer Davis, she took the next step and opened her eponymous firm in Durham in 2017. "I love what I do," she admits. "I hope to keep connecting with clients in a similar headspace, which is creating versatile, practical design and tailored spaces suited for their lifestyle."

This Philadelphia townhouse renovation saw Waldron working with an architectural team to remove drywall and open up the living room and kitchen, creating a balancing act of ceiling heights. "The transition from a 10.5-foot ceiling in the living space to an 8.5-foot ceiling in the kitchen was eased by dropping the cabinets at the break," she explains. "That division maintained the kitchen's niche, while the island became a focal point for the kitchen with vintage Italian pendants and maximized storage."

Waldron mixed materials with slat wall cabinetry and Rakks shelves to create a furniture-like feel in the kitchen. "The client has great style and appreciation for art and craftsmanship, so the architect suggested using a graduated brass patina hood. The character it brings looks so beautiful mixed with contemporary finishes," she says.

- Custom Brass Range Hood with Aged Patina / prices vary / amuneal.com
- 2. Moon Counter Stool / \$650 / sunatsix.com
- 3. Art Inspired by Jasper Johns Alphabet / moma.org
- Vintage Italian Smoked Glass Pendants / to the trade / balsamoantiques.com
- 5. Aged Brass Pot Hanging Rail / \$150 / devolkitchens.com
- 6. Matte Black Shelves / prices vary / rakks.com
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## PEACE, LOVE & LAKE **HOMES**

TEXT BY ANNE MARIE ASHLEY PHOTOGRAPHY BY DUSTIN AND SUSIE PECK

ONE COUPLE FINDS PEACE IN DESIGNING THE LAKE HOME OF THEIR DREAMS WITH THE HELP OF SOUTHERN STUDIO INTERIOR DESIGN.

FINDING A LAKE HOUSE that suited her tastes with a dock that suited her husband had been eluding homeowner Irma Barrington. The couple had searched for properties for over a year, but to no avail. Her son-in-law found a home for sale on Smith Mountain Lake and showed it to Irma's daughter, Maggie, in an effort to help, but her daughter took one look at the old brick ranch with gorgeous views and said, "There's no way my mother will look at this property," and pushed it aside.

Meanwhile, Irma and her husband had reluctantly concluded that building a custom home was the only way to go. "I was not looking forward to building, but felt it was the only way we could come together on our wants," says Irma. "When I told our Realtor, she said, 'I have just the property for you." Shortly after, they pulled up to an old brick ranch with gorgeous views. "I said, 'Are you kidding me?" admits Irma. But their Realtor urged them











**ABOVE:** In the foyer, a Jamie Young mirror and lamp sit atop a Made Goods console, welcoming family and guests.

**LEFT:** In the living room, Serany let the outdoors be her guide, using warm tones mixed with greens and blues. A leather chair from Lee Industries is perfectly lake house, while swivels from Century Furniture allow conversation to flow over to the open kitchen. The round cocktail table is from Highland House.

to walk straight past the home to the views in the back. "The lot was breathtaking," recalls Irma. "It was flat, with panoramic views of blue water and the mountains, and two acres and enough waterfront to build the dock of my husband's dreams. We made an offer and never went inside the house." That evening, when Maggie looked at the listing link her mother sent, she was amused to see it was the one she pushed aside.

The 1970s brick ranch home was soon razed and the couple enlisted Irby Architects and R&R Builders to construct the home they truly wanted. Traveling often for her job, Irma was concerned about how stressful it would be to design the home, so Maggie connected her with Vicky Serany of Southern Studio Interior







The guest suite is modeled as a second owner's suite with prime lake views for relaxation. A Highland House bed pulls in the greens beyond the windows, and a Century Furniture bench begs for a seat. Nightstands from Lexington and a rug by Feizy round out the space.

Design. "We met with Vicky and there was an immediate connection. She was warm and personable, with a tremendous amount of experience in construction and interior design," says Irma. "At the second meeting we were blown away by the design boards her team shared with us—she nailed our vision!"

"It was clear after their first meeting that Irma and her husband wanted a warm and inviting lakeside home with no clutter and certainly no fuss over wet bathing suits or fishing poles. They just wanted a comfortable home that could be passed down over generations," recalls Serany.

Southern Studio "thrives in the second-home space," says Serany, because they are more casual, with fewer precious pieces and less storage. "It's a cleaner way to design, with fewer constraints, more ways to entertain, and different needs than everyday families," says Serany. "It's a different way to

conceptualize living because it's short-term living-homeowners want cozy spaces people can retreat to and get away from togetherness. There's a lot of downtime in second homes."

To that end, Serany likes to start projects with a "throwdown process." "This is where we throw down all the materials onto a table—from flooring to tile to textiles to paints—and let homeowners pull out things they don't like. We design from what's left," she explains. In this case, what was left was warmth: aged wood floors, copper gutters, custom Amish-made wood cabinets in the kitchen, antiques, old fishing nets, and aged brass candlesticks, among other things.

Her ten years of strictly kitchen design lends Serany unique insight into functional kitchens. In this home, she installed a sink that overlooks the water, and a separate prep sink in the island for large groups and entertaining. Panels hide the refrigerator for













In the guest bathroom, Serany highlighted lake living with rope detail sconces from Arteriors and watery-bluehued cabinets with a sink from Brizo.

low maintenance and the clutter-free look the Barringtons prefer, and a separate wet bar keeps the kitchen free from mealtime traffic jams while entertaining. Faucets in the bathrooms were installed with kids in mind (one handle is much easier for little hands than two), as were bathtubs. "Not only do I design kitchens and bathrooms for the homeowners, but I am designing with guests, resales, and rentals in mind, because that is the nature of second homes," says Serany.

While Serany loved the challenge of designing the rec room with custom bunks, the kitchen, and the bathrooms, Irma prefers the quiet of their "lake room" as her favorite. "It is open to the kitchen with lots of windows that showcase the unbelievable views, which is what allowed us to purchase this property with peace of mind; and it was Vicky that allowed us to love this home and the process." •

## SEASIDE

TEXT BY ROBIN ANDERS SUTTON PHOTOGRAPHY BY GORDON GREGORY

ONE COUPLE ENLISTS DESIGNER SARA SWABB
TO HARMONIOUSLY COMBINE MODERN WITH
TRADITIONAL, COMPLETE WITH A MARITIME EDGE.





CLARE AND DAVID POWERS were on the same page about a lot of things when they moved from Washington, DC, to Wilmington, North Carolina, but the one thing that was most important to both of them was to be closer to family. The couple was ready to embrace a slower pace and to build a home for their three young children in a quiet, safe neighborhood. They longed to be near the water, and they wanted their new Craftsman home to vibe with the geography.

As decor goes, however, they needed help merging their two different design styles. That's where Sara Swabb of Storie Collective entered the scene. "David has more of a classic, contemporary, modern aesthetic, whereas Clare really veers toward the traditional," says the designer.

Swabb's solution was to let their new home's natural environment inspire the materials and color palette. "When picturing our home, my initial inclination was to have a much whiter space, but I am surprised how much I love all the color we used throughout," reflects Clare. "It is very subtle and may look all white to someone else, but the color palette is so intentional and brings so much depth to each space."

Swabb knew that by looking to the outside to lay the decor groundwork, they'd find balance in their design preferences. Their dining room is a perfect example. Swabb chose a wallpaper by Serena & Lily with a repeating palm-leaf motif, "a natural pattern with a strong graphic appeal, and we used a linen floor-to-ceiling drapery that adds a subtle softness to the space."

In the family room, the built-in incorporates a weathered oak stain meant to mimic coastal driftwood—an aesthetic repeated throughout the home, both in the kitchen and in the beams in their bedroom and hearth room. "Clare really wanted a kid-friendly home," says Swabb, "so we paired high and low price points to make it budget- and kid-friendly."

In the family room, for example, a plush sofa with a charcoal fabric is paired with a midcentury-modern chair from Target. "And instead of a sharp-edged coffee table, we chose a soft, rounded ottoman," she says.

As a designer, Swabb always strives to balance two principles—honoring the function of each room in a home and honoring the lifestyle of the families who live there. She explains, "Clare and David's three children are five and younger,



In a home with three children, every space matters. Swabb carved out an area in the home's stairwell for an intimate reading nook and added a pendant light to give it an evening glow.

and Clare wanted to be able to stand at one point and see all the kids at the same time. To do that, you need quite an open floor plan. There are ways to achieve that while creating defined, intimate spaces."

Instead of traditional rectangular doorways reflected in the builder's original design, Swabb incorporated high arches that delineated spaces while allowing for easy visibility and movement. "The arch separating the kitchen and dining room serves as an architectural detail that gives the mind and the eye a clue that the spaces are separated," she explains.

Additionally, an arched doorway from the mudroom to the laundry room, where a graphic wallpaper by Rebecca Atwood hangs, made the rooms feel distinct, even though there's a smooth transition with the slate flooring.

Throughout the home, particularly in the mudroom and the kitchen, Swabb helped Clare identify storage challenges and solutions. In the mudroom, each family member got a locker, complete with lots of upper and lower storage for out-of-season











clothing and equipment. "That way she could keep it all in one central location," says Swabb.

And to design the kitchen, Swabb and Clare walked through a typical day-in-the-life of the Powers family. "We talked about her inventory—the things she has and the things she actually uses. We tweaked the builder's design based on how Clare wants to live in the space, drawer by drawer."

Swabb helped Clare conclude that lower drawers could be stocked with storage tools—things like peg mechanisms, spice storage, drawers for cups and spacers—so that she could forgo the upper cabinets for open shelving, allowing her to display special items and have a sense of openness that would add light and air to the space.

Without upper cabinets, the counter-to-ceiling backsplash, hand-formed from a glazed terra-cotta tile, takes center stage. "The finish reminds me of seashells," says Swabb.

It's the perfect amount of richness and depth that ensures the coastal vibes are respected, but not overwhelming—exactly what the Powers wanted to achieve when they enlisted Swabb's help. "The kitchen is probably my favorite space, and really, the general open first level where we spend all our time," says Clare. "While living the wild reality of raising three little boys, I love being in such a beautiful and calm space." ◆









**LEFT:** The Arhaus Finnley Hall chest in mocha with a white marble top introduces a warm color palette into the dining room as a conduit for blending the natural finishes of existing antique pieces to preserve and accentuate their original character. **RIGHT:** Classic Construction fabricated the custom cabinetry throughout the home while Inspire by Color, Inc. did the cabinet refinishing.

WHEN COUPLE Cindy and Darrel Wells found the home that checked all of their must-have boxes in the heart of Greensboro's coveted historic Fisher Park, their dream of city living finally seemed within reach.

The bones of the property offered great potential, which could only be realized with a total renovation. While the home offered a private courtyard open to the main living area, an established greenspace with trees, and convenient access to downtown dining and entertainment, it lacked the character and sophistication signature to the neighborhood. But Cindy's artist-trained eye saw the possibilities of what could be with the removal of a few walls, the connection of the outdoor terrace to livable square footage, and a total renovation of the ever-important kitchen and primary bathroom.

When the Wells's contractor, Pat Parr of Classic Construction, referred them to Emma Legg and Sydney Foley of Kindred Interior Studios, they knew they'd found designers who not only embraced their vision but also had specific ideas on how to execute it.

"The home needed creativity, especially in regards to the layout, where, as Cindy would say, we needed to 'harvest'

every square inch," says Legg. "They were downsizing from a much larger home and we were challenged to accommodate a lot of amenities in a small footprint."

Nowhere was this creativity put to the test more than in the kitchen, where Kindred was tasked with incorporating necessary functions and modern features into a limited space. The addition of an oversized island, an expansive pantry, and ample cabinetry lent both form and function to the room. Layered textures and diverse materials including leathered quartzite, rift sawn oak, and reeded glass created dynamic visual cues that lead the eye to neighboring spaces.

Because the longest side of the home is a shared wall with no windows, the biggest challenge Kindred faced was capturing more natural light. They eliminated walls between the kitchen, dining room, and den, and added four additional windows, significantly increasing the flow of natural light throughout the back of the house. Likewise, the windowless owner's bath's wet room gained a transom to increase light flow-through. Walls on the main level were painted white and mirrors were added to increase reflectivity while dimmable LED cans, decorative sconces, and pendants were layered in for secondary lighting.







Existing French doors were enlarged and painted black to emphasize the courtyard view. Mirroring black glass pocket doors make intimate dinner parties possible. "Our boldest room is defined by large contrast," says Foley. OPPOSITE: A wet room packs the small owner's bathroom with functionality while seamless tile floors, tonal subway tiles, and custom rounded mirrors accentuate room height. Mixed metals and finishes play the warmth of brass hardware and sconces against the cooler tones of plumbing fixtures.









The abstract Alondra chandelier in natural rattan from Made Goods is an unexpected showstopper that balances the new dining table from RH and dining chairs from Arhaus. The Wells's antique corner cabinet shines against a host of the dining room's modern elements.

The multi-dimensional design is a fusion of old and new, incorporating various textures, architectural details, and warmer tones emphasizing the homeowners' modern tastes in conjunction with a selection of family heirlooms. The Wells's most beloved piece—an antique corner cabinet—finds dramatic contrast with edgy black glass pocket doors. An aged chest paired with Cindy's grandmother's mirror becomes an anchor point for the powder room, playing off the space's new marble floor and brass accents. Modern elements juxtaposed with natural materials such as the rift sawn oak on the range hood, pantries, and mantle, along with incorporated organic items like the sculptural dining room chandelier and quartzite countertops soften the clean lines. Cindy's artwork is integrated throughout the design, with one of her larger works on prominent display on the custom fireplace wall in the den.

"Kindred took our design to the next level, creating more light in the home, much better space utilization, and more visual interest," says Wells. "Many favorite elements from our prior home are now merged into our new, more cohesive space, and we love the eclectic nature of our home."

"The project was a true partnership between designer and client," says Foley. "The Wellses were hands-on, and we helped them curate a modern design that reflects both of their styles while incorporating beloved heirloom pieces." •

















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Christian Faur



## TOP DRAWER

THOUGHTFULLY DESIGNED COLLECTIONS AT STEVEN SHELL LIVING BRING FINE FURNITURE TO THE TRIANGLE.

WRITTEN BY DANA W. TODD



In a world of fast fashion, grab-and-go lunches, and warpspeed web applications, it's a refreshing experience to shop at Steven Shell Living in the popular Village District. With a mindful approach to furniture design that is cognizant of its environmental responsibility, Steven Shell Living carries custom-designed furniture collections for every room of the house. Store manager Kaleigh Koch explains, "Our traditionalwith-a-twist collections are crafted by master artisans, with hand-painted finishes and intricate details."

Koch points to three furniture collections, all designed by Steven Shell, the store's namesake owner, that are best sellers in the Raleigh store. "Although we sell a wide range of furniture lines, we stock Steven Shell's collections because they are in high demand. With our 6,000-square-foot showroom, our customers can shop the warehouse floor in a cash-and-carry transaction or place a custom order for a special piece of furniture," says Koch.

The Chelsea Collection is traditional-meets-whimsically designed bedroom furniture, with carved details on legs and trim and accents incorporating a touch of bamboo. The collection includes upholstered beds, dressers, bedside tables, and end tables.

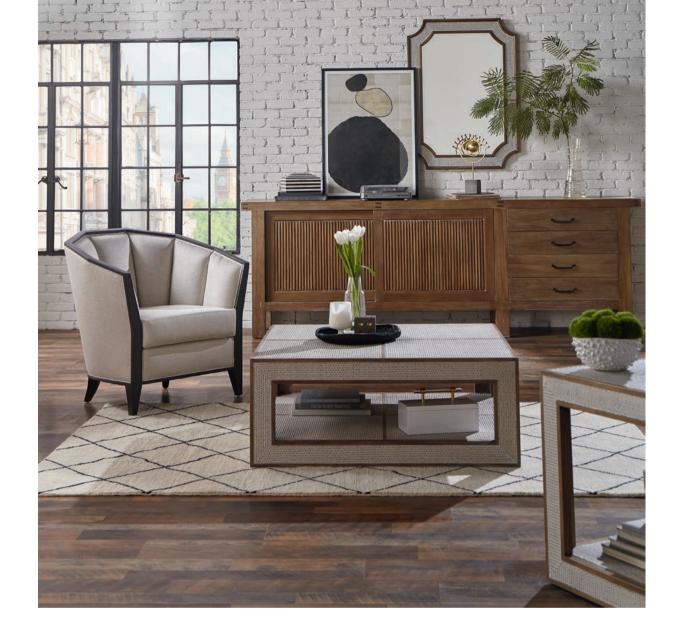
Another bedroom collection, Belgravia, intrigues Raleigh homeowners because of its minimalist elegance. Clean lines with dual trim and some enhancement through rattan detailing, this Steven Shell line has dressers, bedside tables, and upholstered beds in different finishes. The Farringdon dining collection's shabby chic aesthetic is prized for its modern coastal vibe.

And if you can't find exactly what you're looking for on the showroom floor, dining chairs and tables, consoles, and glass display cabinets are available, like all Steven Shell furniture, to customize finish and fabric.

In addition to the Raleigh showroom, shoppers can pull from the 55,000-square-foot flagship Steven Shell Living store in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, with electronic images available for shopping the store's inventory and complimentary delivery from the Lowcountry store directly to Raleigh.

Furniture designer Steven Shell is always creating new furniture lines, which make their way onto the showroom floor. In April, for example, he introduced new furniture





## "OUR TRADITIONAL-WITH-A-TWIST COLLECTIONS ARE CRAFTED BY MASTER ARTISANS, WITH HAND-PAINTED FINISHES AND INTRICATE DETAILS."

### —KALEIGH KOCH

collections at the annual High Point Market that will be added to the Raleigh store for even more product diversity to suit every home style.

"The variety of options go beyond furniture. We source artwork and home accessories from around the globe, tailored to the Raleigh market," says Koch. Find original oil paintings, Turkish rugs, lighting, ceramics, and glassware that make a unique statement. The inventory is ever-changing, with new arrivals in the store every two weeks. ◆



Shop STEVEN SHELL LIVING at 2030 CLARK AVENUE in Raleigh or visit STEVENSHELLLIVING.COM.

## PRACTICALLY PERFECT

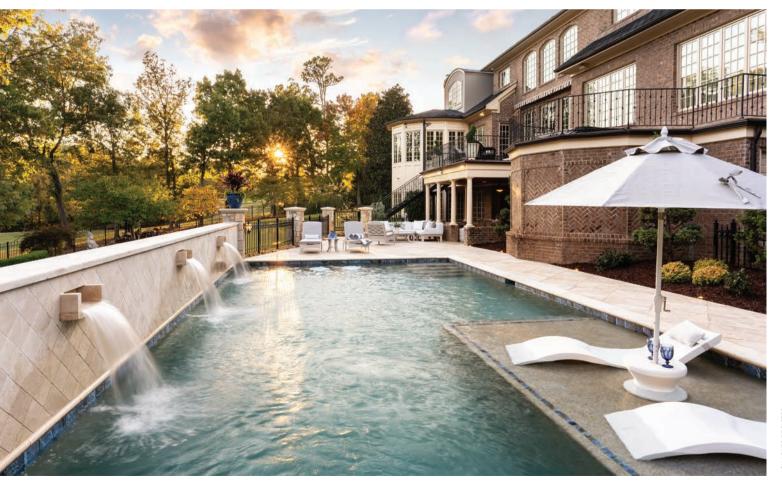
OLD NORTH STATE CREATES A FUNCTIONAL AND FUN BACKYARD THAT INCLUDES EVERYTHING ON A FAMILY'S WISH LIST.

WRITTEN BY DANA W. TODD

One family's backyard in Durham's Treyburn community had a beautiful, expansive lawn, but lacked an outdoor entertainment space. They wanted their son to have an area to play ball and learn how to swim, as well, so they called Old North State Landscape Development to design a backyard tailor-made for their needs.

"The house is on the country club's golf course, so the family wanted to create a level of privacy to enjoy a new pool together," says Ben Strope, vice president of Old North State. "The couple also asked for a courtyard feel to their oversized backyard."

Starting with the design of a large rectangular pool, Strope and his team incorporated a privacy wall at the far end of the pool, blocking golfers from seeing into the pool deck area. A series of scuppers on the wall recirculates the pool water, providing a pleasing background noise. Strope used Turkish travertine on both the pool deck and the privacy wall for aesthetic congruence—twenty-four-by-twenty-four-inch tiles for the decking and smaller six-by-six-inch tiles on the wall both laid in a diamond pattern for added interest. A lighter-







# "THIS IS A STORY NOT ONLY ABOUT A HOME'S LANDSCAPE TRANSFORMATION BUT ALSO THE TRANSFORMATION OF A FAMILY'S LIFESTYLE."

#### —BEN STROPE

colored stone used for the coping around the pool's edge breaks up the monochromatic look.

A PebbleTec finish inside the pool is meant to last for decades, while a tanning ledge with an umbrella and in-water chaise lounges is the right prescription for a lazy summer day. Old North State tied the entire backyard installation together by building columns of hand-picked natural stones at the ends of the privacy wall and each corner of the pool decking, joining them together with a custom-designed iron fence. The new fencing provides safety for children and achieves the courtyard feel the couple wanted.

Bringing in soil to level the backyard created a play space for their son to run, throw a ball, and have fun when he's not practicing his swim strokes. Not forgetting the parents' wish for an entertainment space, Strope ran the same Turkish travertine stone from the pool area to the existing covered back patio so that the entire backyard works together as a multifaceted entertainment space.

"This is a story not only about a home's landscape transformation but also the transformation of a family's lifestyle," says Strope. "They are now able to enjoy and entertain in a custom resort-style space for years to come."



## CLUBHOUSE REFRESH

A NEW DESIGN TREND CREATES A HOMEY AMBIANCE IN MULTIPURPOSE SPACES.

WRITTEN BY DANA W. TODD

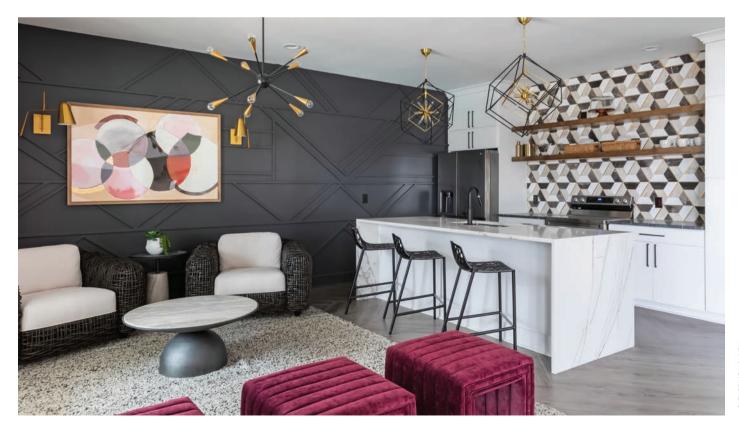
Think home design has no effect on commercial interior design? Think again. Resimercial design, a workplace trend where more comfortable residential elements are integrated into a traditionally commercial office space, is having its day. Betsy Bardi of Bardi Designs has adapted the growing trend of resimercial design for dual-use spaces to provide a more "at home" atmosphere while still upholding commercial standards of durability. "Creating a homey feel in commerical design is imperative," says Bardi. Her latest project was a total renovation of the Northridge Crossings community clubhouse in Raleigh.

"With resimercial applications, you bring in custom details you can't ordinarily find in commercial applications with the

comforting, familiar feel of residential materials that enhance general well-being," says Bardi. "This clubhouse was fun to design, with colorful pops of fuchsia and aqua, and bold graphic fabrics that stretch boundaries to create a wow factor."

Working with Kellie Falk of Drucker & Falk, Bardi Designs created an entirely new look for the clubhouse, which had not been updated since the late 1990s. "We wanted the residents to feel at home," says Falk. "The clubhouse gives a first impression of the community, with the offices and community center located here."

After engaging a contractor to demolish walls and columns and open up the space, Bardi worked with design team member Rebecca Reed to introduce a contemporary style to the









—BETSY BARDI

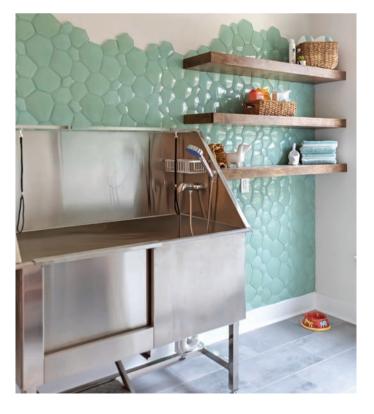
interiors by tearing out the old traditional brick fireplace in the kitchen and replacing it with an eye-catching raised paneled wall in a dark color. Designer Rachael Hodge produced 3-D renderings to share the vision with Falk. "We added bright, plush chenille footstools with channeled upholstery and other fuchsia furnishings such as chairs, drapes, and a custom-painted credenza. The black-and-white palette is foundational but also bold and graphic," says Bardi. This lighter palette allows the brighter tones in artwork and furnishings to take center stage. Black metal fixtures and hardware, a bold-patterned natural stone backsplash in the kitchen, and geometric pendant lighting in black and gold add interest through subdued colors that balance the rooms.

In the sitting area, a new modern electric fireplace is accented by an acoustical wood panel that quiets the space while adding warmth, texture, and depth. Exaggerated sofa lines and end tables featuring hoofed feet add the whimsical touch Falk requested. A doggie spa (a convenient feature that residents are sure to love) features aqua 3-D bubble tile with an unfinished edge for a contemporary nod.



Although there were challenges, Bardi's training in commercial design paved the way for successful resolutions, such as when she had to ensure ADA compliance for the custom glass and steel front doors.

While all the fabrics, finishes, and flooring are commercial grade, they are inviting and comfortable enough to be installed in a home and stand up to rolling events, including little ones' rough-and-tumble treatment—complete with a look that anyone would be proud to have in their home. •



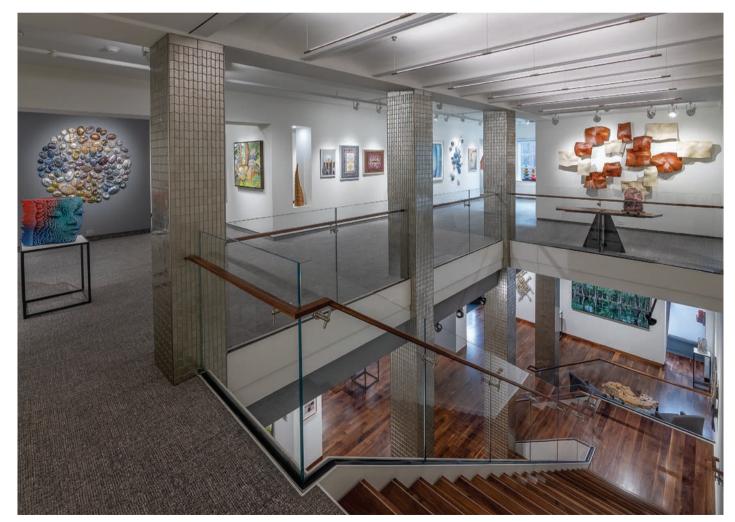
## ARTIN THE CITY

## MOMENTUM GALLERY OPENS THE ASHEVILLE SUMMER ART SFASON WITH FIREWORKS IN JULY AND AUGUST.

#### WRITTEN BY DANA W. TODD

Summer is for art lovers in the cool Western North Carolina mountains. When temperatures soar in the Piedmont, it's time to head up to the milder highlands and enjoy fresh air alongside the most inspiring art shows you can see anywhere in the country. "Momentum Gallery could be at home in any large city, but its progressive vibe pairs particularly well with the Asheville area," says gallery owner and curator Jordan

Ahlers, who is prepping the 15,000-square-foot two-level gallery for four summer exhibitions. As a destination gallery, visitors from across North Carolina and tourists nationwide travel to Momentum Gallery to see the latest contemporary art. With its summer season running June 29 to August 26, this year will feature three solo shows and one group textile exhibition.



# "MOMENTUM GALLERY COULD BE AT HOME IN ANY LARGE CITY, BUT ITS PROGRESSIVE VIBE PAIRS PARTICULARLY WELL WITH THE ASHEVILLE AREA."

### —JORDAN AHLERS

Oil painter Paul Sattler will showcase his latest narrative compositions reinterpreting historical paintings, often inspired by fairy tales and children's literature. "His paintings need an extended look to really examine everything in them," says Ahlers.

Another solo exhibition will feature the cyanotype paintings of Casey Roberts, whose dreamy, Zen-like compositions are simple but elegant, according to Ahlers. Animals play a leading role in Roberts's large-scale paintings, as he also explores trees, water, and sky as subject matters, leaning on silhouettes and selective color to tell a story.

Glass artist Christina Bothwell transports her art to Momentum for display this summer, as well. Using cast glass, raku clay, and found objects, Bothwell creates chunky, figurative yet ethereal sculptures that often combine animal



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and human figures. For added interest, some of her sculptures feature objects embedded inside her solid cast-glass figures, and sometimes she even adds paint or mosaic tile to her sculptures. "Her art is playful and based on dreamlike and spiritual imagery," says Ahlers.

A group show of six artists will round out the summer season with an exhibit featuring a variety of textile wall art, including weaving, felting, embroidery, and dyed fabric. For example, artist Crystal Gregory of Lexington, Kentucky, will show her handwoven fabric art embedded into concrete.

In addition to the special summer exhibits, Momentum Gallery continues to showcase the work of the eighty artists it represents. "From living legends to emerging artists, Momentum has a diverse collection of material-based work focused on glass, wood, textiles, and metal," says Ahlers. "Several of our artists have won Smithsonian awards. We have an engaging atmosphere, which, combined with our artwork variety, makes for a robust and multifaceted experience for visitors."

As a fourth-generation Asheville native who has worked in the art business for twenty-five years, Ahlers is eager to show gallery visitors how art can transform their homes and lives. "Art generally evokes a sense of happiness and well-being, and at Momentum, we strive to convey a sense of wonder and discovery with fresh and stimulating artwork that gives people a chance to slow down and look at the details."

# DESIGN OF THE TIMES

KITCHEN & BATH GALLERIES MODERNIZES A TWENTY-YEAR-OLD SPACE.

WRITTEN BY DANA W. TODD



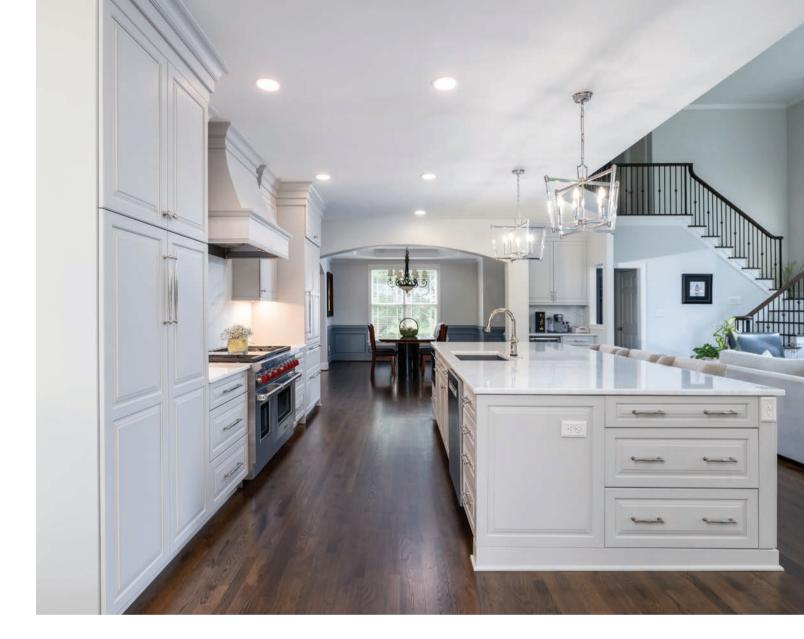
The Preston neighborhood in Cary is home to more than 1,600 families. Builders have been building new homes in the neighborhood steadily since it was founded in 1992, and it's still going strong today. One couple recently purchased a Preston home that was built about twenty years ago, when dark wood kitchens, oversized cabinetry, and beveled granite countertops epitomized luxury. While the family was happy with many of the home's features, the dated kitchen and living areas of the '90s needed a facelift in a major way. Enter designer Michelle Verrill of Kitchen & Bath Galleries, who designed the family's new open kitchen and living room to meet today's standards.

## "THE HOME DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THE SAME RESIDENCE— NOW, IT'S TIMELESS."

#### -MICHELLE VERRILL

Verrill worked with an engineer and a contractor to remove a wall between the kitchen and living room and add a beam for support. Removal of the wall created a need to replace wood flooring between the formerly separate rooms, and Verrill was able to match the look seamlessly. The contractor stained the flooring a deeper color to remove the orangey-yellow tones that aged the space.

By gutting those dated elements, along with dark wooden cabinetry, beveled granite countertops, espresso subway tile, and standard residential appliances, Verrill created space to add modern amenities in their place. Kitchen & Bath Galleries supplied Dura Supreme cabinetry in pearl with a matching vent hood and built-in commercial appliances from Sub-Zero, Bosch, and Wolf to kick off the new look. Verrill then designed a more functional full-sized island at countertop height to



create an eat-in area. Built-in banks of drawers at each end add storage, while an Olympus White marble countertop with soft veining and matching backsplash behind the range soften and streamline the look.

Verrill collaborated closely with the homeowner, helping her choose the right marble from a wide range of options and working with her to integrate Lumens pendants alongside plumbing fixtures she chose on her own.

"There was a small bar in the living room that had a dated lattice wine rack and dark cabinetry," says Verrill. "We turned that area into more of an extension of the kitchen, which is where it really belonged." The updated look includes new functionality now, too; the space is both a wine and coffee station with a built-in beverage fridge and additional storage.

The transformation is dramatically different. "The home doesn't look like the same residence—now, it's timeless," says Verrill. ◆





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FURNISHING HOMES | CHANGING LIVES



# FINE FEATURES, FINE LIVING

BY SHERI HAGERTY

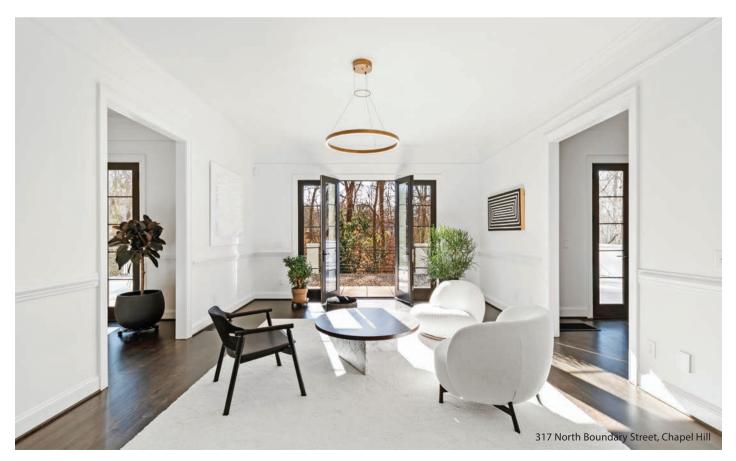
THE RESEARCH TRIANGLE IS A HUB OF ACTIVITY IN OUR STATE, DRAWING AN INCREASING NUMBER OF PEOPLE AS THE AREA'S EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUE TO GROW.

Along with this population expansion comes an increasing need for luxury homes. In today's market, luxury is defined by things like fine finishes, artisanal details, and customized features, but buyers race to snag these homes when they have three characteristics: plenty of customized storage, sculleries, and spacious outdoor living. Two homes for sale in the Triangle area have all these features and so much more, and come in at just under \$4 million. One is a newly constructed home on Nottingham Road in Raleigh and the other is a totally renovated home in Chapel Hill's historic district on North Boundary Street.

Custom closets are a must for high-end homes, especially in the owner's suite, and these two homes really deliver. The Nottingham home's owner's closet is styled like a boutique, with glass-fronted display cases, jewelry storage, pull-down clothing rods for easy accessibility and to maximize vertical space, and shoe storage, not to mention a steam washer and dryer with an adjacent folding area. Plenty more custombuilt storage is scattered throughout, which makes this home perfect for a large family.

The North Boundary home features a spacious owner's retreat with three closets, a dressing area with restored cherry paneling, a fireplace, and a spa-like bath.

Sculleries are important for large families who like to entertain while keeping a clean and beautiful kitchen. Raleigh's home features a scullery with its own separate



THE SHERI HAGERTY GROUP; NOTTINGHAM ROAD, BUILDER: HOMES BY DICKERSON; NORTH BOUNDARY STREET, DESIGN; CINDY SPURIA







## "IN TODAY'S MARKET, LUXURY IS DEFINED BY THINGS LIKE FINE FINISHES, ARTISANAL DETAILS, AND CUSTOMIZED FEATURES."

#### —SHERI HAGERTY

entrance so groceries can be easily and discreetly delivered. It offers everything needed to host an event, including a second dishwasher, an apron-front sink, and open shelving. Chapel Hill's home features a highly appointed main kitchen with a sintered stone island, banquette seating, and commercial built-in appliances, including a wine cooler with a 92-bottle capacity, from coveted brands such as BlueStar, Asko, and Thermador. Custom cabinetry showcases bronze mesh accents and brushed bronze panels on the doors.

Both of these homes have spacious outdoor living areas to boot, complete with all the amenities. Nottingham Road has multi-level outdoor living, with a screened porch off the main level with retractable phantom screens, ceiling heaters, a gas fireplace, a built-in kitchen, and a dining area and bar with a kitchen pass-through window. All of this is beautifully set off by a limestone travertine floor. Below, a covered patio features more in-ceiling heaters, another fireplace, and sitting and dining areas just steps from a saltwater pool and hot tub. North Boundary Street has an infinity terrace with custom railings designed by sculptor Kevin Eichner nestled into woody surroundings, and its indoor saltwater pool is designed for swimming laps year-round. Sliding doors across

the back of the home open the pool onto a stone patio with a firepit for late-night socializing.

Our real estate group provides white-glove service to all the homes and homeowners we represent. Whether owners need help lining up contractors to make repairs to bring their homes to market or need a discerning design eye to stage the home in a way that will catch buyers' attention, we provide all services and expertise necessary to get homes sold. •





## SHRUB SHAPE-UP

BY **DAVID PAYNE** 

YOU MAY HAVE ASKED YOURSELF, "CAN THIS SHRUB BE SAVED? SHOULD IT BE SAVED?" LIKE ALL OTHER LIFE FORMS, PLANTS DON'T LIVE FOREVER ON THIS EARTH: THEY ALL HAVE A LIFE CYCLE.

If it has been in your yard for twenty to twenty-five years, it is at the end of its life. No amount of pruning, fertilizing, or

watering will revive an old, tired plant. Although flowering shrubs may try to throw out a few blooms in the throes of a beautiful spring day, in these sweltering days of summer the truth shines through.

Aside from being past their prime, there are several other reasons why shrubs are not bringing front-door appeal any longer. Perhaps they were planted in the wrong place.





Environmental changes play a big part here, meaning sun and shade. Maybe that fig tree made a perfect statement on the front lawn when you planted it years ago, but a storm blew it down and now adjacent shrubs well suited to its shade must struggle to survive in the hot sun. Our landscapes are dynamic, and as the ever-changing elements that play into a shrub's survival constantly evolve, so must the plants. There's no amount of maintenance that will save the life of a shrub that is not in the right location or environment.

# TO PROVIDE LONG-LASTING CURB APPEAL, PLANTS SHOULD THRIVE, NOT JUST SURVIVE.

Another reason to replace a shrub for better curb appeal is the appearance of a new pest. Maybe a new insect or disease has reared its head, or maybe deer have started munching on your plants while you sleep. While we didn't have to contend with deer twenty years ago, today many homeowners in the Triangle must consider planting shrubs that are not on the deer's menu.

Perhaps your shrubs are planted too close together. If they are growing into a hedge but do not typically grow that way, then your shrubs are probably going to struggle to survive. They need the appropriate amount of space—which provides the right amount of light—to thrive. Crowding is a surefire way to see woody stems, fewer leaves, and no blooms. What's the curb appeal in that?

DAVID PAYNE is the owner of HOME & GARDEN LANDSCAPES and can be reached at 919-801-0211 or HOMEANDGARDENLANDSCAPES.COM.

Consider also your lifestyle. Where you once had plenty of time to prune and water, now with three kids and a full-time job, that time has evaporated. If the shrubs you've chosen to highlight your yard require a lot of time to look their best, it may not be the right season in your life for you to tend to them.

Sometimes we just need to edit—in life, inside our homes, and outdoors. Culling out the shrubs that don't put your home in the best light is essential. To provide long-lasting curb appeal, plants should thrive, not just survive. ◆





## DESTINATION BY DESIGN

BY ELAINE GREENE

FOR OVER THIRTY YEARS, A. HOKE LTD. HAS STRIVED TO BE THE PREMIERE DESTINATION FOR INTERIOR DESIGNERS SEEKING THE HIGHEST QUALITY HOME FURNISHINGS AND ACCESSORIES. WE DO OUR BEST TO BE A TRUSTED RESOURCE DESIGNERS CAN RELY ON.

Our showrooms include beautiful workspaces where designers can meet with clients and have access to thousands of samples. In addition, each year we host a series of educational events featuring the top experts in our industry to help designers gain knowledge and stay abreast of new trends and technologies.

Currently, designers are facing challenges with furniture delivery times. Manufacturers have suffered pandemicrelated labor shortages and supply chain issues leading to longer furniture wait times. To alleviate some of the deadline pressures, A. Hoke Ltd. is stocking our showrooms with beautiful items available for immediate installation. Our goal is to provide instant access to items a designer may need quickly. "I've picked up several pieces," says designer Eliza Stoecker of Fleur Interiors, who has found this to be a great solution. "It's nice to have this as a resource, especially for accessories, tables, and lamps. It's made things so much easier for designers!"





In our showrooms, designers will see a much more expansive collection of sofas, sectionals, chairs, and case goods they can select right off the floor. We have a variety of styles from manufacturers including EJ Victor, Lee Industries, and Century Furniture. This feature has been well received by designers, including Melissa Goodwin, owner of Design Group of North Carolina. "The great thing about shopping A. Hoke's furniture inventory is the fact that they stock many different styles and types of furniture, so you can actually furnish an entire room from their offerings," says Goodwin. "The icing on the cake? The staff is very knowledgeable, and they make it easy for us to select and sell the pieces."

"IT'S NICE TO HAVE THIS
AS A RESOURCE, ESPECIALLY
FOR ACCESSORIES, TABLES,
AND LAMPS. IT'S MADE
THINGS SO MUCH EASIER
FOR DESIGNERS!"

—ELIZA STOECKER



We've also had requests for bedroom furnishings, and to meet the need, we created a special section in our Charlotte showroom filled with beautiful beds, side tables, bedding, and other items that are immediately available. For designers needing accent pieces, we have a vast selection of accessories, including mirrors, lamps, and more. We also expanded our wall art choices and incorporated an "Art Hall" with numerous pieces on display.

We are pleased to continue being a top destination for designers in the Carolinas, providing beautiful home furnishings and making their jobs a little easier. ◆

**ELAINE GREENE** is the president of **A. HOKE LTD.** Visit their designer showrooms in Charlotte and Raleigh, call **704-358-0277**, or explore **AHOKELIMITED.COM**.

## — ARTS & EXHIBITIONS ——

# SPOTLIGHT



#### FURNITURE: CRAFTING A NORTH CAROLINA LEGACY

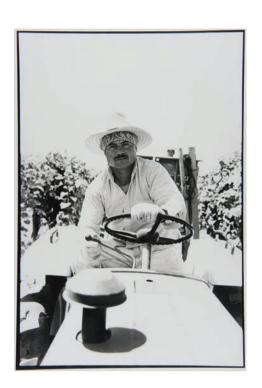
**NORTH CAROLINA** MUSEUM OF HISTORY Through March 4, 2024 ncmuseumofhistory.org

Experience the story of a central part of North Carolina's legacy: the home furniture industry. For hundreds of years, North Carolinians have contributed to the state's economy through furniture production. Families, communities, and entire towns consider the furniture industry to be an integral part of who they are and where they come from. From filling our living rooms to earning a living, for North Carolinians, furniture has always been a part of how we make ourselves at home. Each piece in this exhibit is the product of a unique history, a part of the story of furniture manufacturing in North Carolina. Witness the evolution of style from colonial to modern, see how furniture is made, try your own hand at "loading furniture," and discover a new part of North Carolina's identity in this groundbreaking exhibition.

#### LUIS REYVELASCO

NORTH CAROLINA MUSEUM OF ART August 12–January 28, 2024 ncartmuseum.ora

Luis Rey Velasco creates evocative photographs that capture labor histories, cultural traditions, and everyday people. Featured in this exhibition are a selection of photographs Velasco executed between 1998 and 2005, many portraying members of farm worker communities in California and North Carolina. These compelling images emphasize his longtime focus on communities, histories, and regions that are largely hidden yet integral to the American economy.



#### TRUTH OR DARE: A REALITY SHOW

21C MUSEUM HOTEL DURHAM Through March 2024 21cmuseumhotels.com

Truth or Dare: A Reality Show presents a thematic group exhibition of seventy multimedia artworks by fifty-two artists from across the globe exploring the slippery terrain between fact and fiction. This exhibition features works by artists Siebren Versteeg, Jorge Mendez Blake, Leandro Erlich, Vibha Galhotra, Jane Hammond, Claudia Hart, and many others. "We have become accustomed to the notion of alternative facts, which makes distinguishing fiction from reality increasingly challenging," says Chief Curator Alice Gray Stites. "Highlighting uncertainty and contradiction,

the artworks featured in Truth or Dare emphasize the importance of questioning both knowledge and belief by utilizing illusion to entice, entertain, and explore the contemporary relationship between fact and fiction, presence and absence, reality and imagination."



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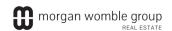






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