



LUXURY FIBERGLASS I CONCRETE POOLS AND SPAS



30 YEARS' EXPERIENCE

godfreyandjones.com



919.271.1780

Residential and Commercial I General and Landscape Contractors



Call or visit today 919-828-0541 8820 Westgate Park Dr., Raleigh, NC, 27617



Kitchen Ebath galleries



APPLIANCES COMPLETE KITCHEN & BATH DESIGN CABINETRY

KANDBGALLERIES.COM

CARY 108 E. CHATHAM STREET 919.467.6341 **CHAPEL HILL** 1201-J RALEIGH ROAD 919.929.1590 **RALEIGH** 8411 GLENWOOD AVENUE 919.783.7100 **RALEIGH**4209 LASSITER MILL ROAD, STE. 130
919.600.6200



WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU DURING THE



DESTINNC.COM | 919-521-4345

1000 DESTINATION DRIVE | APEX, NC
NEW AVAILABLE LUXURY HOMES IN PROMINENT WEST CARY | CONCIERGE LIFESTYLE

SALES & MARKETING BY COLDWELL BANKER HOWARD PERRY AND WALSTON NEW HOMES & LAND







Life and Luxury, Connected



Enhance the everyday with the brilliance of a Dacor kitchen. From the seamless integration of technology in a wine column to the handcrafted details of our knurled range knob, every sensation, every interaction, every touch is an inspiration.

Dacor. Life and Luxury, Connected

Showroom: 5910-127 Duraleigh Rd. Raleigh, NC 27612

919.571.1803

www.DistinctiveKitchenAndAppliance.com









CUSTOM CLOSETS | GARAGE CABINETS | HOME OFFICES | PANTRIES | LAUNDRY | HOBBY ROOMS

12 MONTH FINANCING
WITH APPROVED CREDIT. CALL OR ASK YOUR DESIGNER FOR DETAILS. FOR A LIMITED TIME.

40% PLUS FREE INSTALLATION*

AND AN ADDITIONAL 15%* OFF

CALL FOR A FREE IN-HOME DESIGN CONSULTATION AND ESTIMATE

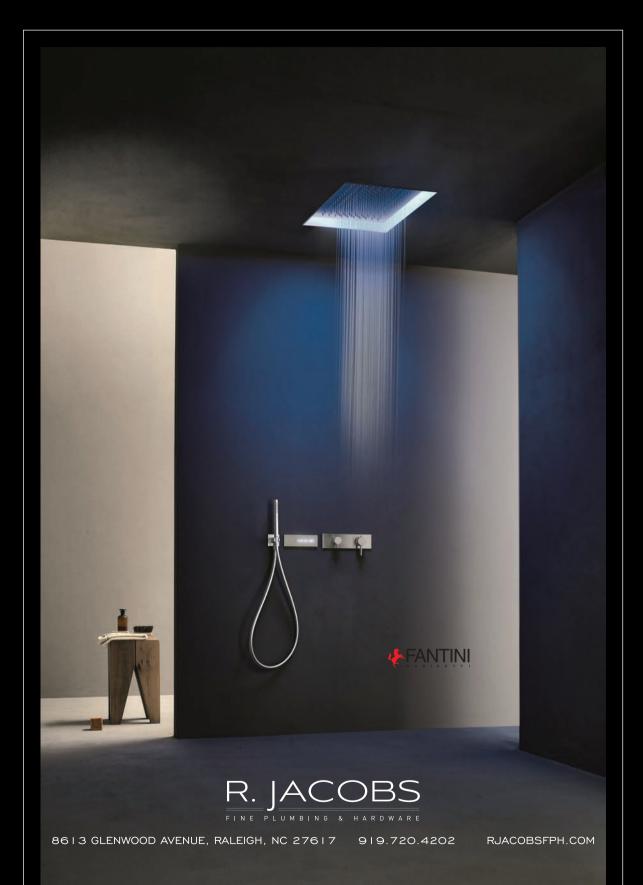
CLOSETSBYDESIGN.COM

919-670-2990

*40% off any order of \$1500 or more, or 30% off any order of \$750 or more. Not valid with any other offer.

*Additional 15% offer expires October 15, 2023.

Free installation with any complete unit order of \$600 or more. With incoming order, at time of purchase only.



SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2023





FEATURES

40 DRIVEN ORGANICALLY

Designer Kristie McGowan's bright and colorful Chapel Hill home stuns with bold hues and patterns.

52 AT MY GRANDMOTHER'S TABLE

Designer Lauren Branch preserves and updates her late grandmother's midcenturymodern home.

64 MODERN MARVEL

Striking color and modern lines transform designer Rima Nasser's Raleigh abode.





Acrylic on Canvas, 30" x 30"

Low Tide Blue Heron, Mark Slawson

GALLERY | ART CONSULTING | CUSTOM FRAMING

7400 Six Forks Road, Suite 19 | Raleigh, NC 27615 www.thecenterpiece.com | 919.870.5342 | contact@thecenterpiece.com

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2023





DWFII

20 MARKET

These North Carolina designers and inspired artisans debut thoughtfully curated collections.

26 PALETTE

Classic and stylish, textural and interesting, tortoiseshell can bring an unassuming depth to design.

28 DESIGN

A local designer invites us into her beautifully redesigned Greenwood home.

32 DESIGN BOARD

Designer Shannon Cassell loves a wow dining room moment.

34 NEW + NOTABLE

A landmark showroom and luxury source for designers closes its doors—but opens others.

RESOURCES

68 LOVE + INTERIORS

Furnishing homes for families in need, The Green Chair Project prepares for its annual Chairity event.

70 THE SECRET WEAPON

A. Hoke Ltd.'s commitment to the design community is not just for show.

72 THE FALL EXHIBITION

Momentum Gallery introduces the work of five diverse artists in its fall exhibition season.

CONTRIBUTORS

74 SET IN STONE

Grace Your Space Sunny Surana

INNER SANCTUARY

Design, Well Deserved Michelle Hardy

80 ULTIMATE OUTDOOR LIVING

Blurring Boundaries Chris Jones

82 OUTDOOR OASIS

Beautify Your Yard David Payne

84 VINTAGE REVIVAL

Color Cues Kelly Schupp

SPOTLIGHT

- $10\,$ from the editors
- 88 ARTS & EXHIBITIONS





DESIGN FOR THE TRADE

 $CHARLOTTE \ \ 2122 \ Freedom \ Drive, \ Suite \ A, \ Charlotte, \ NC \ 28208, \ 704.358.0277 \\ RALEIGH \ \ 1405 \ Capital \ Blvd., \ Raleigh, \ NC \ 27603, \ 919.832.5555$

AHOKELIMITED.COM



Our annual Designers at Home issue is easily one of the most anticipated issues of the year. The voyeuristic excitement we and our readers feel comes from a place of natural curiosity about how others cohabitate, mixed of course with a passion for interior design. What a thrill to get a glimpse into the homes of some of the South's most notable designers.

It's always enjoyable perusing the homes of others, but it's even more exciting when the homeowner happens to be a designer and the project was a personal labor of love. Here, we showcase three designers in their element, with carte blanche over every facet of design—from architectural details and paint selections to fabrics and accessories—and with no guidelines or criteria, resulting in a truly unique perspective of interior design.

Spanning renovations and new construction to a fun mix of wholly different aesthetics, this issue does not disappoint.

So pull up a cozy seat and peer through the looking glass.

Blake & Anne Maria

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





3D PHOTOS AND A SUPERIOR DESIGN PROCESS

RALEIGH I CARY I MORRISVILLE

3809 FRAZIER DRIVE, SUITE 117 RALEIGH, NC 27610 919.205.9550 RIVERBIRCHREMODELING.COM





homedesiandecormaa.com

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023 VOL 11 NO 5

CO-EDITORS-IN-CHIEF ANNE MARIE ASHLEY **BLAKE MILLER**

ASSOCIATE EDITOR KARIN SIMONEAU

ART DIRECTOR LINDSAY RICHARDS





@homedesigndecor triangle

PUBLISHER MICHAEL KOOIMAN

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER OONAGH MURRAY

WRITERS SARAH CROSLAND LEE RHODES BRANDY WOODS SNOW CHRISTINA SPRATT SPENCER DANA W. TODD

PHOTOGRAPHY

GRIFFIN HART DAVIS KATHERINE JOHNSON ALLIE MULLEN **CAT WILBOURNE**

> SALES SUE MOONEY

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR SHELLEY KEMPER

PRODUCTION SUPPORT

STACY LONG **CATS-UP GRAPHICS**

CONTRIBUTORS

MICHELLE HARDY **CHRIS JONES** DAVID PAYNE **KELLY SCHUPP** SUNNY SURANA

> **PHONE** 704-741-2774

All contents copyright 2023, Curated Media, LLC No part of this publication may be reproduced in whole or in part without the express written consent from publisher. Mention of any product or service does not constitute endorsement from Home Design & Decor® Magazine. The information contained in this publication is deemed reliable from third party sources, but not guaranteed. Curated Media, LLC does not act as an agent for any of the advertisers in this publication. It is recommended that you choose a qualified remodeling, home furnishings or home improvement firm based on your own selection criteria.

Curated Media, LLC, d.b.a. Triangle Home Design & Decor® Magazine, will not knowingly accept advertising for real estate which is a violation of the Fair Housing Act. All real estate advertising in Maps Media, Inc., d.b.a. Triangle Home Design & Decor® Magazine, is subject to the Fair Housing Act which states "We are pledged to the letter and spirit of U.S. policy for the achievement of equal housing opportunity throughout the nation. We encourage and support an affirmative advertising and marketing program in which there are no barriers to obtaining housing because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin."

Curated Media, LLC, d.b.a. Triangle Home Design & Decor® Magazine, does not act as an agent for any of the realtors or builders in this publication. It is recommended that you choose a qualified realtor to assist you in your new



1526 WAKE FOREST ROAD | RALEIGH, NC 27604 | 919.890.5102 | RALEIGHFABRIC2020.COM

TUESDAY-FRIDAY 10AM-5PM | SATURDAY 10AM-3PM | OR BY APPOINTMENT





Grand Highland ESTATES









PRIVATE | GATED | LUXURY

From \$1.4 Million to \$2.5 Million+

Wake Forest, North Carolina

GrandHighlandLiving.com | 919.457.9002





THE SHERI HAGERTY GROUP

Sheri Hagerty, Mary Holmes, Mary-Ellen Santos, and Mae

Sheri - 919.862.6258, Mary - 919.278.8011 | sheri.hagerty@hodgekittrellsir.com

sherihagerty.com | F in the Connect with us @sherihagertygroup Covering the Triangle & the Triad in North Carolina

Hodge & Kittrell

Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY



Scan me!

VANITY FAIR

REAL PRODUCERS









WPO

Women Presidents Organization



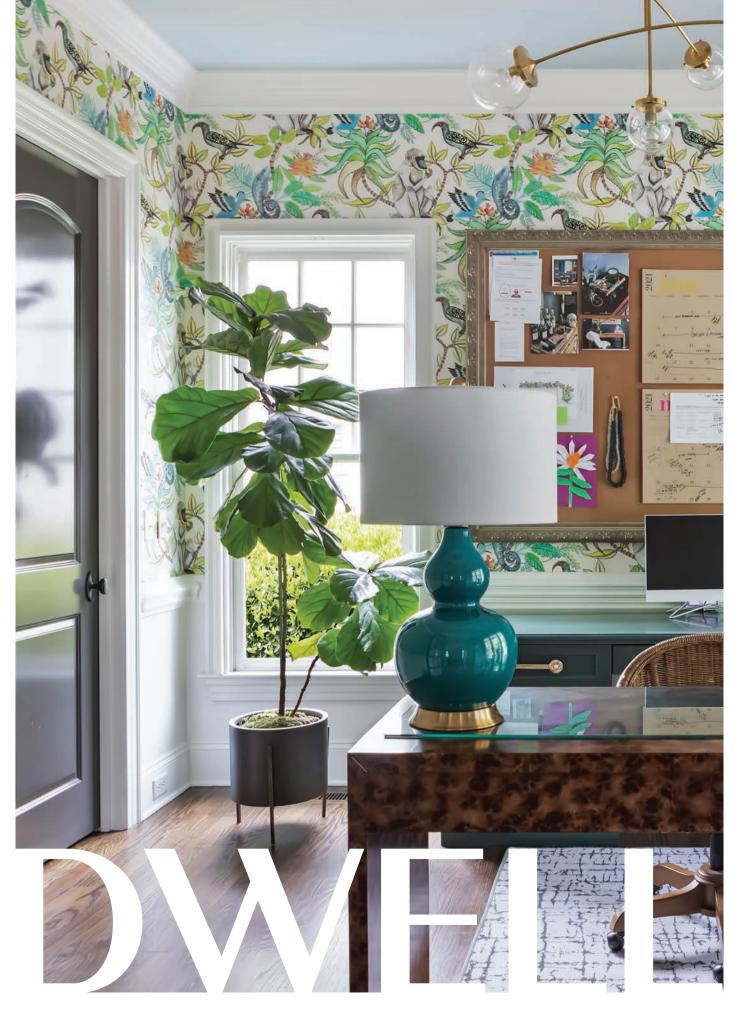
LUXURY HOME MARKETING GROUP



AMERICA'S BEST

REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS

TOP 1.5% OF AGENTS AND TEAMS IN THE US



HOME GROWN

INSPIRED BY THE CAROLINAS, THESE TALENTED DESIGNERS AWAKEN INTENTIONAL LIVING WITH THOUGHTFULLY CURATED DEBUT COLLECTIONS

WRITTEN BY CHRISTINA SPRATT SPENCER | PRODUCED BY ANNE MARIE ASHLEY



PAPER PUSHER

Collaboratively created with Mitchell Black, the unmistakably bold and eclectic style of nationally known and locally loved Charlotte designer Natalie Papier, left, of Home Ec. infuses adventurously art-forward and cheeky patterns with vibrantly punchy palettes in this spirited signature collection. Each expressive design and colorway imbues a daring vivacity into any space. mitchellblack.com

KARMIC CLEANSE

Asheville-based perfume house Adoratherapy has launched a brand-new Room Boost Candles line, featuring five captivating scents aiming to ground specific intentions. The intentional scents include Blissful, Clear Away, Abundance, Serene, and Passion, all of which are made from the purest soy wax and essential oils, and are vegan, organic, and cruelty-free. Adoratherapy's biodynamic and wildcrafted arowing methods, along with their harvesting and distillation techniques, allow each plant to produce its most natural and abundant functionalities, which are combined with wax to create the most effective scent experience. adoratherapy.com







Featuring Artwork by James LaMantia
Visit James at LaMantia Gallery & Studio

SUPPORTING

2409 CRABTREE BOULEVARD, RALEIGH, NC 27604 919-900-8453 LAMANTIAGALLERY.COM

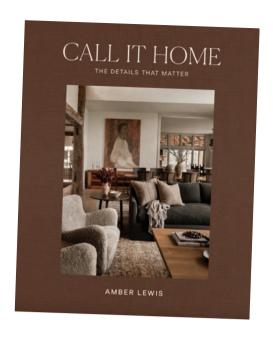
CALL IT HOME

In her newest book set to release in October, designer Amber Lewis showcases her most treasured design projects from coast to coast, including a North Carolina mountain home that also graces the cover. Cozy, layered, and stunning all over, Call It Home reminds us that it's all in the details, randomhouse.com



BUILDING *BLOCS*

Bloc Baas, founded by a mother-daughter duo living on the same "block" in Charlotte, was born from a strong desire to help youths in foster care. When co-founder Carrie Tucker learned that most kids in foster care carry their belongings in garbage bags, she and her mother Poppy got to work creating fun and functional handbags and toiletry bags with interchangeable straps and custom patches, all with a one-for-one goal: each bag sold puts a bag in a foster closet. This family business recently teamed up with luxury department store giant Nordstrom to release their newest collection. In addition to their full line of bags available on nordstrom.com, Bloc Bags will be available in fourteen stores nationwide beginning in early fall. blocbags.com



BROKEN IS BEAUTIFUL

Los Angeles-based artist Leslie Nix was filled with creativity after visiting her sister in a small North Carolina town years ago. "[There was] an area with old shacks being used as shops with hand-painted signs that said 'gemstones,'" she says. "The shops used wine barrels to display slag glass, and the vessels filled with shiny glass rocks filled me with delight and inspiration." She began collecting slag glass, which

are the discarded pieces from the glass manufacturing process, and used them to create original lighting and art. To forge her lighting designs, she often hand-sculpts the bases and casts them in brass or bronze before adding in everything from carved wood elements to etched markings, nickel accents, and, of course, a slag glass top. She debuted her newest pieces this year at the Coup D'Etat gallery in San Francisco, several of which are available for sale. coupdetatsf.com







ALL-AMERICAN

Renowned designer Mark Sikes has teamed up with North Carolina favorite Modern Matter to release an exclusive collaboration fit for every room in the home. Each collection is specially designed to fulfill the needs of different aspects of a house, from formal spaces to everyday areas to functional rooms like mudrooms. The launch includes three sophisticated hardware collections—each available in an assortment of handapplied finishes and adorned in motifs that recall classic Americana: the rosette-clad Valencia, the ball-shaped Clementine, and the industrial-style Pixie. modern-matter.com





THE BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL

Brand-new Charlotte design shop Elliston House debuted their inaugural collection of vibrant textiles and wallpaper with the aim to make high-end design accessible for all savvy spaces. A uniquely and intentionally curated boutique presentation of hand-drawn artisan patterns on high-quality ground cloths focuses on traditional nods, palatable price points, whimsical floral inspiration, and cheerful color stories. ellistonhouse.com



COLEY HOME

MADE IN NORTH CAROLINA

VISIT OUR CHARLOTTE SHOWROOM • 2132 THRIFT ROAD, SUITE C
VISIT US ONLINE • COLEYHOME.COM



SHELL SHOCKED

CLASSIC AND STYLISH, TEXTURAL AND INTERESTING, TORTOISESHELL CAN BRING AN UNASSUMING DEPTH TO DESIGN.

WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY ANNE MARIE ASHLEY

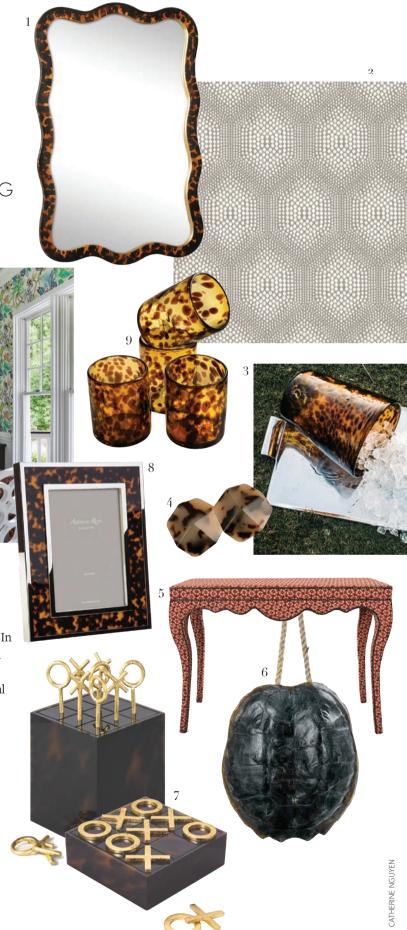


This home office designed by Zandy Gammons of Miretta Interiors showcases a tortoiseshell-finish desk as the showstopping piece.

Rich in history as purveyors of protection, good fortune, and happiness, tortoises are hallowed creatures. Their organic shell patterns found their way into interior design as early as the 1600s. In fact, André-Charles Boulle, cabinetmaker to Louis XIV, introduced and perfected marquetry, a technique in which thin inlays of tortoiseshell backed with metal are combined with wood and metal materials to create a one-of-a-kind finish.

True tortoiseshell traditionally comes from hawksbill turtles, though, thankfully, harvesting has been banned to protect those creatures. Fortunately, the faux tortoiseshell technique has been perfected by artisans and boasts endless applications, from accessories to textiles to walls and ceilings. Versatile, profound, intricate, and organic, tortoiseshell embraces all and expresses all.

- 1. Melody Mirror / \$2,650 / scullyandscully.com
- 2. Connect the Dots Tortoise Fabric / to the trade / bassettmcnab.com
- 3. Handle-less Ice Bucket / \$115 / halfpastsevenhome.com
- 4. Blonde Tortoiseshell Stud Earrings / \$60 / shopmachete.com
- 5. Nyala Table in Thanda Tortoise Fabric / \$3,550 / ngalatrading.com
- Tortoise Shell Wall Hanging / \$187 / reginaandrew.com
- Tic Tac Toe Cubes / \$187 ea. / reginaandrew.com
- Picture Frame / \$100 / addisonrossusa.com
- Rocks Glass Set / \$128 for a set of four / halfpastsevenhome.com







TOP: Art in her home office is from Burke Decor and a brass and glass table from Crate & Barrel offers a place to meet. BOTTOM: A custom table from Ruff Sawn takes center stage in the open dining room. Mustard yellow leather recliners from Room & Board pop as soft seating in the living room, and swivel chairs from Bassett create easy conversation. A custom bookcase is lined with wallpaper from Spoonflower and the chandelier is from Bramble.

After eight years in Chapel Hill, designer Allison Sloan Polish was growing restless. "I wanted a larger lot, a driveway for the kids to play in, and a big garden," she says. "Really, I wanted a forever home that I could put my stamp on." The problem was that no one else in her family wanted to leave. Eventually, after promising this would be their last move, Sloan Polish got everyone on board.

They put in a bid on a Meadowmont home that she was sure was perfect, but she couldn't stop thinking of a house she hadn't even seen yet. "I rejected a home my Realtor sent us early on because of price and it had an indoor pool," explains Sloan Polish. "But for some reason, after the Meadowmont home bid, I couldn't get this other mystery house out of my head. I called my Realtor and asked to see it. The minute we walked in this Greenwood home, I felt like it was meant to be. I loved how it sat in the landscape, and there was potential out of every window." The rest, as they say, is history.

The project list was long, but the family began tackling it immediately, starting with a three-month renovation that included reconfiguring a bonus room into a bedroom for their oldest son, moving the laundry room upstairs, and turning another bedroom into a primary closet. They also drained the indoor pool and added a floor over top to create a rec room with an art area, a ping pong table, and workout space.

"What was really new for me was the scale of the spaces," admits Sloan Polish. "It really required me to rethink my designs. Our furniture for the dining room space was off scale, not to mention too formal." Sloan Polish worked with Ruff Sawn to design a fifteen-foot expandable farmhouse table. Salvaged flooring pulled from Liggett & Meyer's tobacco plant was sourced from Baba Antique Wooden Floors for their fireplace and installed in a herringbone pattern to pack a design punch in the living area.

The family's pandemic project was the addition of a rooftop deck and sauna. "When the old rooftop began leaking, we knew it was time to design a better use for the space," says Sloan Polish. "After attending a health talk about the virtues of saunas, we were convinced





DESIGN



ABOVE: The geometric Spoonflower wallpaper in the bonus room pairs well with stripes. **TOP RIGHT:** Spoonflower bedding and draperies adorn the primary bedroom, with a leather bed from Anthropologie anchoring the space. **RIGHT:** The rooftop spa features a sauna, an outdoor shower, and loungers from RH. **BELOW:** Sloan Polish converted the bonus room into her oldest son's bedroom and created a homework station with a modular desktop, storage columns, and a desktop organizer from Pottery Barn.







that a space centered around an outdoor sauna and shower was the perfect fit." The space was upfitted with floating tile wood flooring, black-and-white curtains for privacy, and a new outdoor shower. A modern aluminum pergola mitigates the sun.

"The good news about being a designer is that I scratch my design itch working on projects for clients. It gives me a creative outlet. But it also means that I always have a list going in my mind of ways to refresh my spaces," says Sloan Polish. As the former president of Spoonflower in Durham, she knows the quickest way to refresh a space can be with wallpaper. In fact, seven of the rooms in her home have wallcoverings from Spoonflower, which keeps her feeling inspired and in love with her designs. "I love color and pattern—my time working in fashion and at Spoonflower helped me hone my skills in layering both," she says.

Sloan Polish has put that long-awaited stamp onto her family's forever home, but she's already motivated to tackle her next personal project—a new home on Lake Lure. "I am super excited to stretch myself with a modern Scandinavian style in this lakefront home," she says. Spoken like a true designer. •





Shannon CASSELL

Designer Shannon Cassell loves a great dining room moment, and her own is no exception. "A dining room can be one of the most important rooms in the home," says Cassell. "Not only can it provide the first 'wow' moment in your home, but it also plays host to some of the most special occasions for families."

In her first home, Cassell designed this bright and bold dining room for her own family. "I am a huge advocate for designing a super functional dining room—beautiful, but also hard-wearing and livable," she says. Wanting to highlight the natural light, Cassell lightened up the traditional millwork with wallcoverings in a sophisticated blue pattern that played well with colors from adjacent rooms.

"I brought in a punch of color with chartreuse green performance velvet on the chairs to speak to our verdant backyard views, and mixed woods on the chairs and table for added interest," she explains. An oversized crewel rug in a chocolate brown zebra pattern lends personality to the otherwise stately pedestal table, layered on top of a custom-cut sisal rug from Eatmans underneath—"a great trick to the eye that fills the space," as Cassell puts it. The brass finish on the chandelier warms up the blue and green tones, and custom shades were the opportunity to bring in a touch of black, which the designer says "every room needs." A linen skirted table from Schumacher with custom tape acts as a sideboard and rounds out the space.

- 1. Schumacher Tape / to the trade / schumacher.com
- 2. Mykonos Chandelier / \$2,529 / visualcomfort.com
- 3. Sanders Dining Table / \$4,318 / ethanallen.com
- 4. Exeter Side Chair / \$1,595 / onekingslane.com
- 5. Island Ikat Wallcovering / to the trade / thibautdesign.com
- Similar Brown Zebra Print Rug / \$1,219 / burkedecor.com
- Blue Ginger Jars / \$89 / williams-sonoma.com







Second Life

AFTER PERMANENTLY CLOSING ITS DOORS ON SEPTEMBER 1, A LANDMARK HOME STORE IN THE TRIANGLE GEARS UP FOR ITS NEXT PHASE OF LIFE.

WRITTEN BY ANNE MARIE ASHLEY

This may appear to be a story about a very successful family-run Persian rug business, but it's actually a love story, the layers of which began to develop in the unlikeliest of scenarios. Professor Doug Lay was pursuing a doctorate in Anatomy at the University of Chicago in 1962, shortly after marrying the love of his life, Nelda. A true lover of science and biology, Doug was trained in the studies of invertebrate mammals and The Field Museum had recently chosen him to participate in a mammal-collecting expedition in Iran that would result in a published journal. While there, Doug came across the third love of his life: Persian rugs.

"They gripped me," he says. "They are truly beautiful and wonderful things, and every single one of them is different."

Over the next two decades, Doug would make another eighteen trips to Iran in pursuit of his second love, zoological research. But each time, he also gathered research on the rug-making process and weaving techniques in different regions, and began returning home with rugs to add to his and Nelda's collection. Soon, he began bringing rugs home for friends too. Finally, a dealer and friend urged Doug to start his own business in Chapel Hill and supplied him with a small stack of twenty-five rugs to get started.

Doug and Nelda rented a small corner of Country Squire Antiques Center and dared to share their passion with the Triangle. "I sold one rug in our first month," recalls Nelda,







TOP RIGHT: The Lays with their daughter, Cynthia. The Persian Carpet will close its doors after nearly fifty years in the Triangle. The new venture, The Persian Carpet Curated, will be a to-the-trade showroom, and the store closing sale will be held on September 15.



"and that was just enough money to stay open for another month." Within five years they had purchased the whole building and opened The Persian Rug.

It's easy to slip into the minutia of the Lays' life, which is filled with all the markers of a great adventure story: love, science, far-flung locations, desert nights, camel rides, exotic foods, and risks. But the true success story lies in the business that has brought so much joy to their customers, and to their own little family.

Their daughter Cynthia, also a scientist, joined the business in 2003 is now heading up the massive undertaking of their closing sale, taking place on September 15 and only lasting as long as their inventory does.

Once permanently closed, the store will reemerge as a to-the-trade business called The Persian Carpet Curated, with a stunning showroom open by appointment only to designers. They will have samples of many of the lines they carry now, alongside new lines and designs they expect to add.

With no plans to retire, the Lays will stay immersed in the process, with Doug continuing to concept new designs and maintain relationships. "It's been so incredible to see my parents evolve over the years," says Cynthia. "My dad emerged as this amazing artist who draws, colors, cuts, tapes, and translates designs onto rugs, from things as intricate as a church ceiling or Spanish tiles. And my mother has trained herself to fully run a business; she's so informed and diligent in the field."

"We don't have to make this change, which makes this more a labor of love and long-term planning," says Cynthia. "And that's a wonderful position to be in."◆













Christian Faur

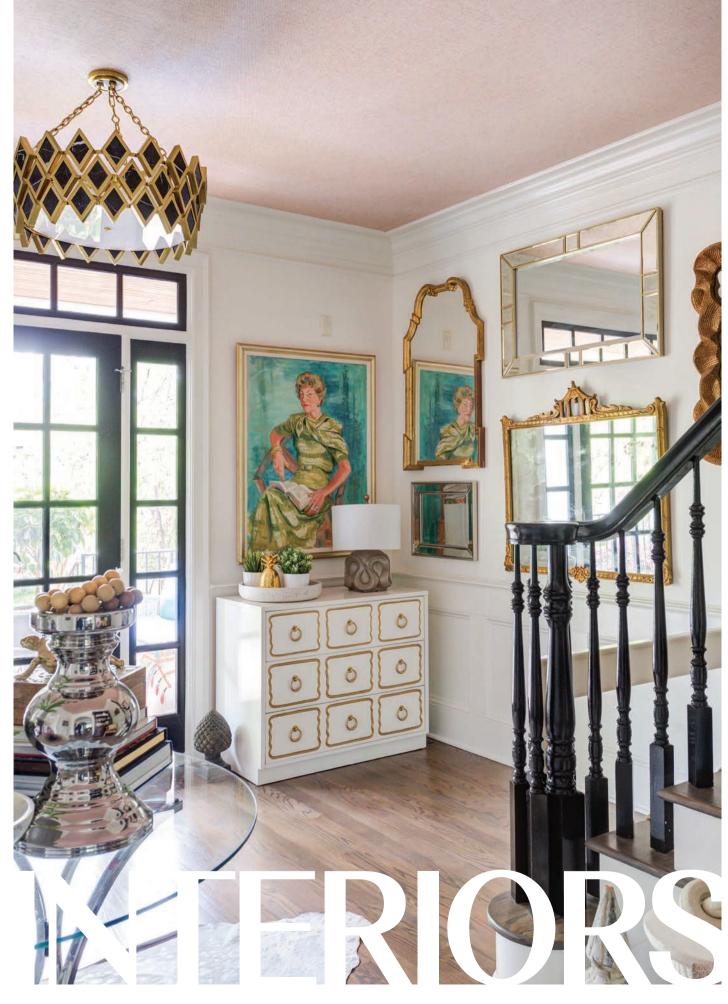
Paintings | Sculpture | Original Prints | Studio Furniture

MOMENTUM GALLERY offers a curated collection of museum quality works that celebrate material-based traditions rich in this area and reflect a contemporary aesthetic in harmony with our natural surroundings.

52 Broadway | 828.505.8550 | momentumgallery.com

momentumgalleryasheville @momentumgallery









THIS BRIGHT AND CHEERFUL CHAPEL HILL HOME WAS DESIGNED WITH BOTH LOOKS AND LIVING IN MIND.

TEXT BY SARAH CROSLAND | PHOTOGRAPHY BY CAT WILBORNE PHOTOGRAPHY

WHEN KRISTIE McGowan and her husband purchased their home in 2015, they had two young children and she was in the middle of completing a PhD in Textile Technology Management at NC State. The couple had just finished renovating their previous home, so when they decided to buy again, they agreed to make major changes after she finished her dissertation.

"We painted the walls white and the interior windows black, just to have a fresh start," says McGowan. "The only other thing we did was paint the ceiling in our bedroom. It's Palladian Blue by Benjamin Moore, which was a color we'd used in our last house. I just wanted that color somewhere. I love it so much."

McGowan, whose PhD led to a career in textiles and fashion, is passionate about color. When her degree was complete, she quickly jumped into transforming the home for their family. They started with small touches, like custom stain on the hardwood floors and gradually changing lighting to fit their style, but soon began to add bolder creative flourishes.

"I had the idea for the ceiling in our dining room as soon as we moved into the house," says McGowan, who designed the star-shaped coffered ceiling and worked with their trim carpenter to bring the look to life.







ABOVE: This powder room was McGowan's first taste of wallpaper in her home. It was designed by an American-born artist living in the Netherlands. She paired it with a mirror she found in a consignment shop and a custom-designed sink and backsplash.

TOP RIGHT: The family collected an eclectic mix of vintage and new mirrors to hang along the walls of the foyer and up the stairs all the way to the second-floor landing.



"That ceiling is so striking that it still makes my heart pitter-patter."

Creative thinking and selecting based on what she's innately drawn to was McGowan's method for designing the entire space. "Nothing in my house has been selected with a plan; it's evolved organically and authentically," she says, noting how much she's drawn to color, patterns, and textures. "I just buy what I love and it all works."

This philosophy is perhaps most evident in the wallpaper selections throughout the home. The dark floral paper in the home's powder room was her first installation. Designed by an American-born artist living in the Netherlands, the paper choice was a nod to McGowan's own experience, having spent a year in high school as an exchange student in the country. "That was the first wallpaper I'd ever had installed in a house. It obviously snowballed from there," she says with a laugh.

Now, the many gorgeous wallpapers found throughout the home are one of its numerous notable characteristics. A cloud paper by Cole & Son adds a sense of movement to the kitchen walls, a bright blue-and-white hydrangea paper by Schumacher brightens the mudroom ceiling, and a metallic gold paper called Daydream by Hygge & West adds sparkle

McGowan converted the unfinished attic above the home's garage into a family room/game room. She added the vinyl chinoiserie wallpaper from Anthropologie to the bathroom and spray painted the vanity in a bold orange gloss from Farrow & Ball. The faux bamboo wallpaper is from Serena & Lily and the artwork was purchased from Chairity, which supports The Green Chair Project.











ABOVE: Before the Cole & Son wallpaper was added, McGowan thought the kitchen was so white it felt sterile. "It's a bit glamorous and it adds just a little more personality," she says of the wallpaper. "I love the clouds."

LEFT: McGowan used a large, round, glass vintage pedestal table to anchor the foyer space and provide a focal point without obstructing any views.

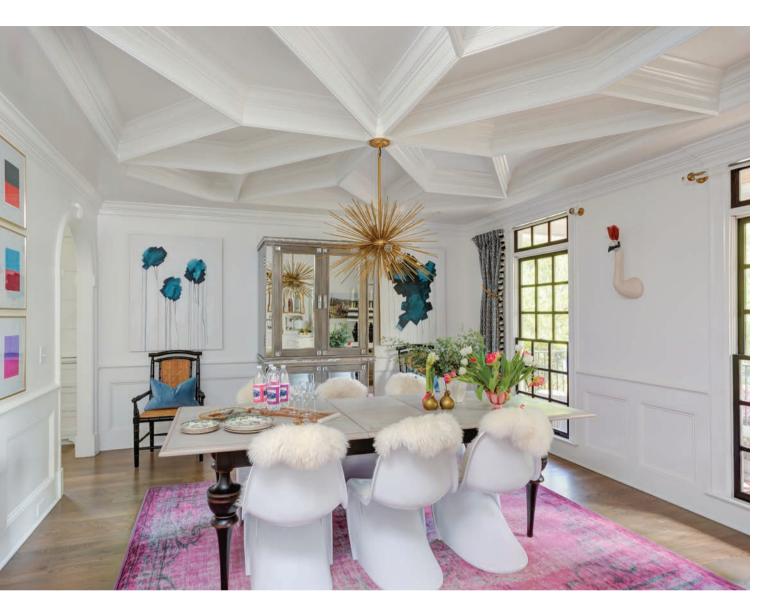
in her daughter's room. "I feel like wallpaper is one of those things that, even if there's nothing else in the room, can make it feel complete—and it gives such a vibe of the family and people who live there," says McGowan.

While she loves to create spaces that reflect the personalities of the individuals living in them, McGowan has also worked to build a home that is functional. "I really believe that beauty and function should coexist," she says. "It was important to me that we have spaces for everyone in the house—and not just the people."

With that in mind, the family built a permanent crate and built-in food-and-water station for their dog, Ruby, in the mudroom. McGowan also worked with her trim carpenter to design a stylish dog gate featuring acrylic panels at the bottom of the stairs, keeping the then-puppy off the steps while still allowing for the antelope runner to be visible from the front door.

These kind of custom design touches stand out in the home, but the most personalized feature may be the art collection. In addition to several noteworthy pieces, like the colorful Pop Art by Nashville artist Gina Julian hanging over the living room fireplace and the flying elephants by artist Elizabeth Foster in the primary bedroom, the home includes many original works by McGowan herself.

"It's just because I can be a little bit impatient when I want something on the walls and don't want to commit to too much



ABOVE: McGowan's artistic talent shines in the dining room, where she painted all of the art herself and worked with her trim carpenter to design the star shape of the ceiling.

OPPOSITE: This cozy guest room features Jenny Lind spindle twin beds bought from Habitat for Humanity and Schumacher's Birds & Butterflies print wallpaper.

money," she says. To create the gallery wall in the dining room, for example, McGowan spread out papers on her back porch with her children, now ages fourteen and eleven, and, together, they painted them before framing them on the wall. "They're bright and colorful, and I just needed something that could fill that wall. I get so many inquiries about them, though, that I'm making prints of them to sell."

Her favorite pieces, however, are the two amusing dog portraits by Canadian artist Kari Serrao that hang in the kitchen. McGowan first came across the artist's charming woodland creature portraits on Instagram and reached out about creating similar ones of their family dogs. They turned out to be thoughtful statement pieces that draw the eye and tell the story of a playful family.

"Everything in our home has been done thoughtfully," says McGowan, who loves how every room in the space has come together. "I want it to be a place where my kids feel love and warmth, and guests feel comforted. I've tried to create a feeling of solace and creativity for the whole house." •









Designer Lauren Branch sits in her dining room, replete with midcentury-modern vibes that speak to the home's roots. "We stuck to pieces that were casual, streamlined, and with a nod to our midcentury vibe while still feeling modern and current," she says.

SPAGHETTI FRIDAYS, Christmas mornings, sleepovers with cousins—these are just a few of the things that swirl around in the childhood memories of designer Lauren Branch. And they all took place in her grandmother's home, which she has lovingly restored for her family of five. The Branches moved into the midcenturymodern home in Country Club Hills before Christmas of 2017, giving them just enough time to set up a tree and some beds before spending yet another holiday morning in the home.

"This home is part of my fabric," says Branch, primary designer and founder of Kefi Designs. "When my grandmother passed, the house went to my parents, but they weren't really in a position to buy it and take care of it, so my husband and I moved back to Raleigh from Charlotte and purchased the home for ourselves."

Branch's grandmother worked for decades in a popular home store in Raleigh, owned by her sister, called National Art Interiors. "I can remember running through the store as a little girl and pretending the vignettes were my own house," recalls the designer, who frequently "hosted guests and played house" in each of the rooms. Many of the furnishings from the store ended up in her grandmother's home, and Branch's love of interior design was ignited.









The home was built as a spec around 1954, when Branch's grandparents purchased it. A few years later, they built a small addition to add square footage, but it's remained relatively the same since then. "She took pride in her home, so it's always been in top-notch shape," says Branch. "But she was always adding things and styling. I remember when my grandmother showed me this new European faucet she got for the bathroom, and she was so excited about it. I kept the faucet when we moved in and searched for months and months to find a match (which I did!), and now I have two in a double vanity. Things like this make me feel like she would be so happy about what we have done."

The faucet is among a myriad of things that Branch preserved, reused, or tried to match and update. Wood paneling in the living room was covered with plastic during the renovation so that it could be preserved, but also so it wasn't mistakenly removed. "I think when many people see wood paneling, they assume it needs to be torn out," says Branch. "But it's because they can't see how it can live in harmony with a modern home."

To help with the renovation and architectural details, Branch called on her friend and neighbor Manny Aretakis, a talented architect in Raleigh who lived in a Matsumoto home just down the street. Incidentally, that house was also in Branch's family, once owned by her grandmother's nephew. "Manny was key in



In the owner's bedroom, Branch took advantage of the space the new addition afforded and had shelving built on the opposite side of the room. Here, she went full Anthropologie with their brass and Lucite bed covered in Anthropologie linens. The pink-and-white color-block midcentury dresser from Etsy keeps things interesting, while the vintage bench at the foot of the bed was bought at auction.







LEFT: Daydream wallpaper from Hygge & West sends the powder room soaring, with a brass mirror from Slate Interiors and a sputnik light fixture purchased off Etsy.

OPPOSITE: In her daughter's bedroom—formerly her mother's bedroom—Branch swathed the walls with Kate Zaremba wallpaper and added neutrals like the birch-andcream dresser from Ikea to "keep a tight color story." The paper mâché mirror is from West Elm and the rug is by The Novogratz.

cursing the skylight above her, saying, 'This damn skylight is so damn hot!" Branch laughs. "And now it brings us so much joy in the breakfast room."

The walls between the main living areas were left open at eight feet high, even after vaulting the ceilings, to create a sense of air and openness while still dividing the rooms into distinct areas. All new HVAC and electrical were installed, along with new windows and more skylights, and Branch painted her grandmother's yellow walls white. The sunroom is now the playroom, her mother's old room is now her daughter's room, and her grandmother's bedroom is now Branch's office. Layers of beautiful, funky wallpaper were uncovered, some scraps saved and framed for her mother and aunts. Tiles from her grandmother's bathroom were reused in her daughter's bathroom. "In every change I made, I tried to keep something of my grandmother's too," says Branch. "I feel like my family was watching me. This home was sentimental to all of us, and I wanted to keep that in mind. In fact, I had my husband do all the demo because I just couldn't stand the thought of strangers doing it."

In her own home, Lauren expertly mixes the old and the new, the high-end and the low-end, juxtaposing expensive vintage pieces with affordable Ikea items. "There is something comforting about midcentury-modern style," says Lauren. "And with kids, nothing can be too precious, but it still has to look good."

When each room carries a piece of the past, it's easy to be comforted, regardless of style. When a light flickers in her daughter's bedroom just before bed, they like to think it's just grandma and grandpa saying goodnight. Nothing more, nothing less. ◆

helping us figure out how to preserve what we have but bring it up to date," says Branch. They kept the fireplace and the wood-paneled walls, but for a family of five, the ranch home really needed a front and a back addition. These additions created hallways that ran through bedrooms, so Branch shifted those rooms into an office and a laundry room instead.

They also vaulted the ceiling in the great room, and swapped the kitchen and dining room, where a beautiful skylight lets in morning light. "I can remember my grandmother standing over the sink doing dishes when that room was the kitchen,

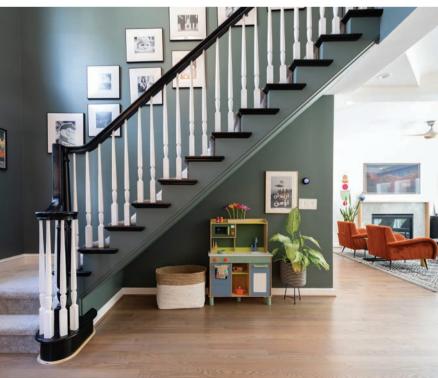








TOP: Designer and homeowner Rima Nasser basks in the serenity of bath. Concrete sinks by Native Trails and fixtures by Hansgrohe give a guiet elegance to the space. BOTTOM: The black-and-white artwork mirrors the staircase design and creates a personalized showcase of the family's travels and Nasser's Palestinian heritage. The colorful toy kitchen from Anthropologie gives her kids a perfect—and stylish—play nook.



VIBRANT POPS of color. An easy, flowing layout. Unexpected elements that make it simultaneously approachable and elevated. Designer Rima Nasser's home is a seamless marriage of transitional bones and modern interior tastes.

But it didn't start out that way. In fact, one might've called this a proverbial diamond in the rough.

Nasser, owner and principal designer of TEW Design Studio, and her husband began their home search with a comprehensive list of must-haves for their growing family: welcoming guest spaces for out-of-town visitors; a family-friendly kitchen; ample natural light; adequate storage; accessibility to nature; and a luxurious primary bath.

Looking for a home in the height of the real estate flux in 2021 proved difficult, and they were quickly outbid on the first four houses they liked. Nasser began searching for homes with remodeling potential, but when they came across this Raleigh home, she remained cautious.

"It was bland and gray. The kitchen was not functional, and the primary bedroom lacked in many ways," says Nasser. "But while the home posed some interesting design challenges-awkward layout, a small owner's





Inspired by a Parisienne apartment aesthetic, the owner's bedroom's sleek pendant lighting contrasts the decorative wall panels and ceiling medallion in a perfect marriage of modern-meets-traditional. The Bordeaux-hued ceiling and crown molding creates visual height and showcases the contemporary fan by Fanimation.

suite, and DIY projects throughout—the positive aspects proved its potential." Sitting on two acres of private land in a great neighborhood, the house had good bones—ones that Nasser could work with.

"My vision included expanding the kitchen, redoing the fireplace surround, improving flow and functionality, and creating a retreat-like owner's suite with freestanding tub," says Nasser. "When I showed my husband some rough plans, he was sold."

Nature is revealed as an inspirational force in the comprehensive design. The redesigned oak and quartzite mantle in the family room exudes a sleek, modern feel while also reflecting the same natural elements used in the kitchen's countertops, hood, and open shelving. Nasser

enlarged and reconfigured previous windows to embrace natural light and capitalize on backyard views. Walls of windows and glass doors in the family room and owner's suite allow unencumbered light to flow into the space while providing easy access to the outdoors. The frosted glass surrounding the freestanding tub supplies ample light, privacy, and a bird's-eye view to a Zen garden. In the kitchen, a large pass-through window provides access to the patio and outdoor kitchen for seamless entertaining.

Nasser stepped boldly into color in the home design, from the lush green kitchen to the Bordeaux-hued owner's suite ceiling to the citron-colored floor-to-ceiling curtains in her toddler's bedroom, then balanced it with shades of earthy mushroom, classic black and white, and oak accents.





ABOVE: The vision was to create a nursery space that was clean, light, and reminiscent of the outdoors. Nasser commissioned an artist friend to create the custom mural, which echoes many of the same color palettes used throughout the home.

RIGHT: A fully functional island with a Blanco prep sink, an undercounter fridge, and a mixer shelf makes this kitchen a chef's dream. Lush green frameless cabinets from Bernier add elevated simplicity to the space, and the textured white backsplash from Wow Kitchen Designs reflects the ample natural light from the pass-through window.

To improve flow, an awkward first-floor guest space and office were reconfigured into an expansive owner's suite along with custom built-ins in the family room, providing significant storage space for family coats, dog gear, and the family's record collection.

Because of her love of unexpected elements in design, Nasser's home is filled with creative gems such as a custom three-hued color-block shower in the owner's bathroom, a whimsical peeland-stick tangerine wall in the kids' bathroom, brass monkey lamps in the guest bedroom and nursery, and a modern-meetstraditional primary bedroom design with a Parisienne flair.

Nasser and TEW Design Studio have received several awards for the home's design, including the 2023 Chrysalis National Award for a residential interior. And if those accolades aren't enough to remind Nasser of her hard work and good fortune with this home, her daily family routine in the home always will. "I love waking up and starting my day from a place of inspiration. From bland and boring to fun and colorful, we now live in our dream home because we molded it into our dream home." ◆





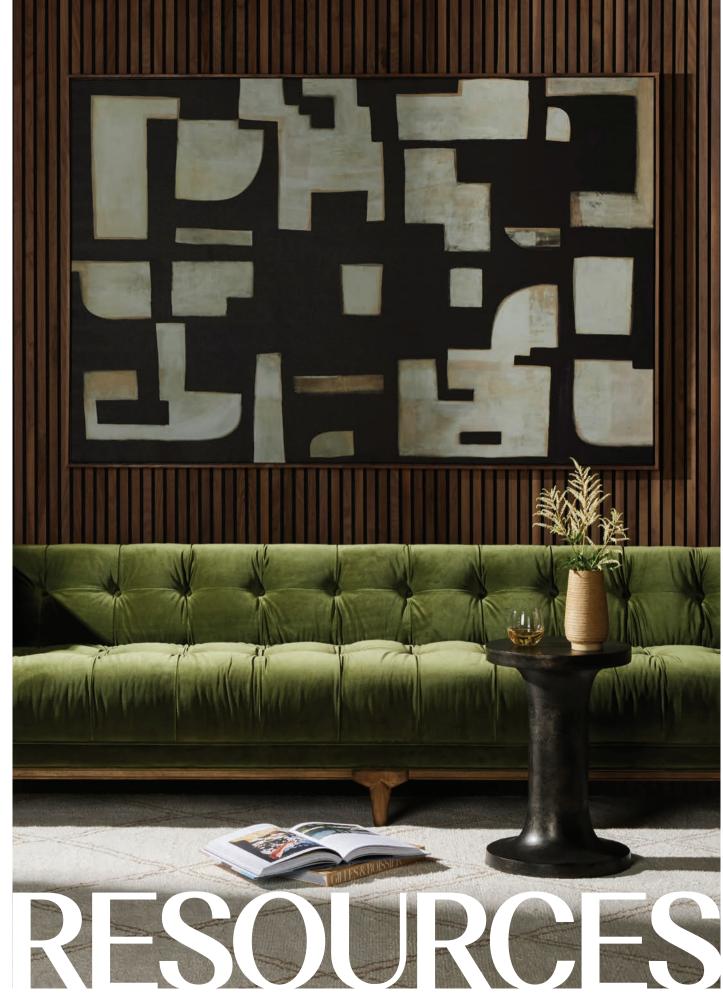


We also carry Hickory White, Sherrill, Temple, Taylor King, Wesley Hall and more!!



SINCE 1939 • INTERIOR DESIGN SERVICES AVAILABLE

North Raleigh: 5640 Capital Boulevard • 919-954-0025 • Monday through Saturday 10 - 5 • Closed Sunday waysidefurniturehouse.com



LOVE +INTERIORS

THE GREEN CHAIR PROJECT HOSTS THEIR ANNUAL CHAIRITY EVENT.

WRITTEN BY LEE RHODES





Imagine a showcase where stunning furnishings, fabrics, and accessories add panache to curated living spaces; bright colors and striking artwork create character on the walls; and dramatic light fixtures twinkle upon it all. Now imagine strolling through these designer spaces, feeling inspired and shopping for treasured pieces, sipping bubbly and chatting with expert interior designers, artists, and authors. And the best part of this scenario? This event happens in Raleigh, and your participation will further the mission of a tremendous local organization that furnishes homes for families in need.

The event is hosted by The Green Chair Project, a locally founded nonprofit that provides quality donated furniture and household items to families emerging from homelessness, crisis, or disaster. Their mission is "Furnishings Homes. Changing Lives," and their annual fundraising event, Chairity, is a multi-day Designer Showcase with furnishings and decor available to the public for purchase. The event takes place September 20–23 at 1853 Capital Blvd. More than forty local interior designers have curated thirteen unique living spaces within The Green Chair Project showroom, with all furnishings and decor available for purchase. Additionally, twelve designers have creatively reimagined bespoke chairs, all of which are available through an online auction. The entire event is an opportunity to 'Shop for Good.'

"This year's Chairity event will be bigger and better than any previous Green Chair event," says CEO Jackie Craig. "It is fitting that our theme this year is Celebrating Home, as every single dollar of the proceeds raised will go to providing all the comforts of home for more than two thousand children and their families in 2023. The Green Chair Project is the only nonprofit in our community whose mission is to provide beds for school-aged children, cribs for infants, and furnishings for families, giving them well-equipped homes," adds Craig.





"THIS YEAR'S CHAIRITY EVENT WILL BE BIGGER AND BETTER THAN ANY PREVIOUS GREEN CHAIR EVENT."

—JACKIE CRAIG

More than a decade ago, Craig and her friend Beth Smoot realized that thousands of families attempting to move out of homelessness could not afford furniture and basic household items without assistance, so they founded The Green Chair Project.

The nonprofit has expanded to serve individuals and families transitioning from homelessness, domestic violence, incarceration, refugee status, recovery programs, and foster care, and even several natural disasters. Notably, the organization partners with nearly one-hundred nonprofits, social service agencies, and schools to connect need with resources and channel donations to their greatest usefulness within the community. Over

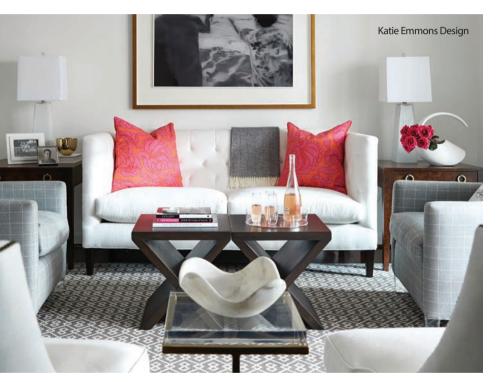
six-thousand Wake County school children don't have a bed of their own and live in households that lack basic furnishings to help sustain them. In addition to accepting furnishing and financial donations from the community, The Green Chair Project also curates an online retail shop and a space at Pigfish Lane Antiques & Interiors, giving opportunity year-round to 'Shop for Good.'

As the rate of homelessness and poverty continues to rise throughout the community, the need for the services Green Chair provides is critical to help children and families sustain their health and homes. Furnishings in good, usable condition are placed directly into the homes of families that need them the most. •

THE SECRET WEAPON

A. HOKE LTD.'S COMMITMENT TO THE DESIGN COMMUNITY IS NOT JUST FOR SHOW.

WRITTEN BY BRANDY WOODS SNOW





Interior designers are known for their vision. But behind every designer's vision is a logistical, well-oiled machine required to bring that concept to fruition. Selecting the perfect fabrics and colors, accessing the best product lines in a timely manner, and coordinating delivery can be daunting tasks for designers looking to fulfill their clients' dream spaces on a tight timeline.

A. Hoke Ltd.'s knowledgeable staff makes it a designer's secret weapon. Highly trained and up-to-date on all industry trends, they partner with designers to source the best product lines and offer valuable insights for every project.

Melissa Godwin, owner and interior designer of Crown Design Group of North Carolina, has relied on A. Hoke Ltd. for more than three decades and has watched them grow from a small boutique showroom to the premier one-stop-shop they are today.

"A. Hoke Ltd.'s products encompass different design styles, making them a useful tool for all of our projects. Their staff is wonderful at what they do, and their knowledge and professionalism make our job easier," says Godwin. "Time is a huge commodity for myself and my team, so using them cuts down on trips to multiple vendors and allows us to work more efficiently."

Katie Emmons, owner of Katie Emmons Design, has collaborated with A. Hoke Ltd. for more than fifteen years and relies on their skilled staff and quality product selection to ensure her clients' designs are not only beautiful but also handled with the utmost care.





"THEY GENUINELY CARE ABOUT DESIGNERS."

—KATIE EMMONS

"It's convenient and easy to work with one vendor that you trust completely with your orders," says Emmons. "We know and love the staff. They also carry the best lines in the industry, which means I can sell furniture with the comfort of knowing that they have a strong commitment to quality."

Now, with product and delivery lead times extended across an industry where time is of the essence and deadlines are always looming, A. Hoke Ltd. has stepped up to help designers with showrooms stocked with floor samples and loaded with lamps, wall art, and project finishers that can all be purchased on-site.

"Their expansive showroom gives our clients a good feel for how things will look—even custom orders—since they are able to see, touch, and sit on products from multiple vendors," says Godwin. "In this age of instant gratification, anything we can get more quickly for our clients is a big advantage. The amount of furniture inventory they carry on their showroom floor has been a huge benefit in helping us educate our customers on different brands and ultimately make sales."

Godwin's recent client purchased a second home in Charlotte and was on a tight timeline to get it furnished. A. Hoke Ltd.'s vast inventory enabled them to spend less than two hours in the showroom picking out upholstery, and the items were ready and delivered three days later.

It's this kind of service and dedication to the design community that keeps clients coming back for more.

"A. Hoke Ltd. is a company of great integrity," says Emmons. "In my experience, they always do the best thing, not only for me as a designer but also for my clients. They genuinely care about designers." ◆

THE FALL EXHIBITION

MOMENTUM GALLERY INTRODUCES THE WORK OF FIVE DIVERSE ARTISTS IN ITS FALL EXHIBITION SEASON.

WRITTEN BY DANA W. TODD

Every two months, there is a fresh group of exhibitions at Momentum Gallery in downtown Asheville. The fall shows, which open August 31 and run through November 11, feature five artists who work from their studios either in North Carolina or the Pacific Northwest. Themes of rhythmic mark-making and landscape inspiration are a perfect accompaniment to the breathtaking colors of fall in the Blue

Ridge mountains that surround the gallery. "This collection highlights the diversity found in the gallery and showcases the breadth of fine craft and handwork by world-class makers," says owner and curator Jordan Ahlers.

Durham, North Carolina, oil painter Rachel Campbell takes liberties with the punchy colors she uses to paint landscapes, home interiors, and "view from a window" scenes that



"THE HIGHLY CURATED SPACE FEATURES A DIVERSE COLLECTION OF MUSEUMQUALITY WORK IN A VARIETY OF MEDIA AND PRICE POINTS."

—JORDAN AHLERS



incorporate loose brushwork and a tropical feel. "Her work is light, bright, and cheery, taking inspiration from her surroundings," says Ahlers. Originally from New Zealand, Campbell's artwork is found in private and public collections internationally.

Momentum Gallery discovered emerging artist Samantha Bates fresh from graduate school. Her third solo show at Momentum, Bates's exhibition features paintings, textile work, and mixed media compositions. Her artistic practice is defined by repetitive markings, using dots, dashes, loops, stitches, coils, and punched holes to create representations of her experiences in the wilderness. Her labor-intensive technique results in contemporary art with an unexpected use of color. "Samantha gets engrossed in the interwoven pattern of branches and roots," says Ahlers. "The layering of embroidery and painting is a fresh approach."

Retired architect Vicki Grant is a ceramic and mixed media artist whose artwork series, including *Windows to the Earth*, incorporates beads, precious stones, fossils, minerals, crystals,



and found objects into carved and painted porcelain. Color and texture prevail in this series as well as in her newest collection, *Celestial Landscapes*, debuting this fall. This collection's circular compositions can be combined into unique displays on walls or placed on tabletops in plate stands. Inspired by a recent trip to New Zealand, the Botanical series shows her interpretations of tree forms and hand-built flowers with a nod to her background as an architect.

Renowned sculptors Christian Burchard and Kristy Kún round out Momentum's fall exhibitions, showcasing Burchard's work in wood and Kún's dramatic hand-felted textiles. Burchard uses Pacific madrone wood, which twists and buckles as it cures to form unique shapes with a sense of movement. Kún occasionally collaborates with Burchard by nesting felt pieces inside a wooden form, and most of her textile artwork conveys a sense of current and flow, echoing natural formations of water, earth, and sky. Their exhibition features individual works as well as a selection of collaborative pieces.

"We love working with both designers and individuals," says Ahlers. "It all starts with a visit to our gallery or our website. The highly curated space features a diverse collection of museum-quality work in a variety of media and price points." ◆

















Experience the Extraordinary (877) 784-4663

Raleigh 10200 Little Brier Creek Rd (919) 973-5913



INSTANT SCREENING AND PRIVACY SPECIALISTS

CREATIVE LANDSCAPE DESIGN & INSTALLATION • PRIVACY SCREENING SPECIALISTS • BACKYARD OASES & RETREATS

LANDSCAPE RENOVATIONS & RESTORATIONS • PATIOS, WALKWAYS, FIRE PITS & OUTDOOR LIVING AREAS

SWIMMING POOL LANDSCAPES & PRIVACY ENHANCEMENTS • MATURE JAPANESE MAPLES, SHADE & ORNAMENTAL TREES

BLOOMS & COLOR FOR ALL FOUR SEASONS



COLOR CUES

BY KELLY SCHUPP

THE COOL SHIMMER OF TURQUOISE TROPICAL WATERS . . . THE CRUNCH UNDERFOOT OF CRIMSON AUTUMN LEAVES . . . THE COMFORT OF A STEAMING CUP OF SATISFYINGLY INKY ESPRESSO.

Our surroundings influence our state of mind. Color, in particular, personalizes a space, but people often find color selection challenging. There is hesitancy to commit when painting furniture. Will it be the correct tint? Will the result create the right impression and blend with other room elements? There are several details to consider when selecting color to apply to furniture.

Whether a bright blue or a modern white, colors present themselves differently when applied to furniture compared to small paint swatches. Shades vary depending on light exposure and paint sheen. We lacquer our customers' chosen furniture in either gloss, satin, or dull-rubbed finishes. Gloss makes the paint color appear illuminated since it reflects more light. Satin is a little more light-reflecting than the matte finish of dull-rubbed lacquer. If a customer can't decide between two colors but wants a glossier finish, we recommend choosing the darker shade for a pleasing result.

Rail & Stile customers have the freedom to choose any color they wish. They can even match a fabric swatch or a wall





CHOOSING FURNITURE COLOR IS A FUN AND CREATIVE ART FORM.





color painted in a specific Benjamin Moore, Sherwin-Williams, or Farrow & Ball color. We carry twenty of the most-requested colors in the shop, which we offer as an option without an upcharge. They are tried-and-true shades that mix beautifully with popular fabrics and wallcoverings.

If you're trying to match a certain shade, we customize or replicate all the major paint manufacturers' products. Farrow & Ball colors are sensual and lush, echoing the colors of historic England. Benjamin Moore and Sherwin-Williams have a variety of collections—from historic to coastal to urban chic—and we can make appropriate recommendations for choosing sheen and saturation for each of them.

Choosing furniture color is a fun and creative art form. Rail & Stile takes the overwhelm out of the process by making color recommendations. If customers need more assistance, we connect them with our design partners who advise them about the best color options that blend with their homes' architectural and design styles. A one-hour consultation with a professional designer at a nominal fee of \$125 is all our customers need to confidently select the right color for their projects. Rail & Stile's professionals take it from there and lacquer the piece with a forever finish in the perfect shade, ready for its new home. \spadesuit



DESIGN, WELL DESERVED

BY MICHELLE HARDY

AS A FURNITURE STORE OWNER AND DESIGNER, I HEAR THE SAME QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS REPEATEDLY FROM CUSTOMERS.

As a result, I'd like to share some thoughts and insights that may help homeowners make informed design decisions.

After seeing luxury custom homes featured on the pages of design magazines or as the subject of HGTV shows,

homeowners believe they need expendable cash to afford interior design services. Not so! At Furnish, we take time to understand all the needs of our customers, and that includes their budgets. There are always ways to maximize financial resources. Choosing a particular grade of fabric, cushion construction, or species of wood could make the price more or less expensive. It's possible to achieve the same look at different price points, and Furnish designers are well versed







WE WANT TO HELP YOU FALL IN LOVE WITH YOUR HOME.

in helping clients understand how selections impact their budgets. As an added bonus, Furnish's in-store design services are completely complimentary.

It's easy for us to assume a space will look immediately dated if we paint the walls in a color other than the latest trend, but it's important to pay attention to what makes us happy. We often have a visceral reaction to certain colors, so if the ubiquitous gray or Pantone Color of the Year doesn't



do it for us, we should stay true to ourselves. We all want our homes to be a personal sanctuary, and using a color that is a personal favorite is always the way to go. We love it when clients come to us with inspirational photos or Pinterest boards. It allows our designers to get a sense of their style and color preferences and helps them choose furniture and create designs that speak to their particular aesthetic.

Speaking of color, some may prefer a modern look that uses lots of white and cream, but they're too scared to have a light-colored sofa with a house full of children. The fabric industry has come a long way in the development of specialty performance fabrics, which are specifically designed to withstand wear and tear while being simple to clean. That's their whole purpose. Plus, they're resistant to color fading. Now that performance fabrics are softer than ever, they are suitable for both indoor and outdoor use. They are so popular, in fact, that we have an entire section on Furnish's wall of fabrics dedicated to this category.

I want everyone to think of Furnish as a design center with the vision and expertise to help homeowners create the best version of their homes, because we all deserve a personalized living space we absolutely love. Furnish is much more than a furniture retailer—we want to help you fall in love with your home.

MICHELLE HARDY is the owner of FURNISH. Learn more at FURNISHNC.COM or visit the store at 8724 GLENWOOD AVENUE in Raleigh.



BLURRING BOUNDARIES

BY CHRIS JONES

YOU'RE ENJOYING YOUR MORNING CUP OF COFFEE WHILE YOUR THOUGHTS ARE WHISKED AWAY TO A LOS CABOS-LEVEL LANDSCAPE AND RESORT POOL WITH THE GENTLE SOUND OF A WATERFALL RHYTHMICALLY POURING INTO TURQUOISE WATERS.

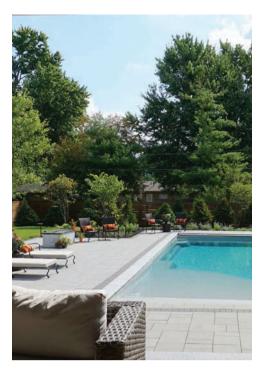
Sounds like a daydream, but I've got great news for you: this scenario can exist outside your back door and can meld perfectly with your indoor design if you know how to plan accordingly.

Designing an outdoor pool with landscaping that seamlessly integrates with your home is an art form that requires careful consideration. By striking the right balance between indoor and outdoor spaces, you can create a harmonious environment.

First, it's crucial to consider the views from inside your home. Identify key focal points, such as windows and glass doors, that provide a glimpse of the outdoor living area. How do visitors experience your home when they walk through the entrance? Is there a wow moment or is the outdoor design hidden from view? By strategically positioning the pool and incorporating eye-catching elements like water features and lush greenery, you can create an inviting visual connection that tempts you and your guests to venture outside.

Designing an outdoor space that can be enjoyed even when you're inside is a testament to the successful integration of pool and landscaping. Consider installing large windows or sliding glass doors that open up to your pool area, blurring the boundaries between in and out. Comfortable seating in a







ACHIEVING A BALANCED FLOW BETWEEN INDOOR AND OUTDOOR SPACES RELIES ON THOUGHTFUL SELECTION AND COORDINATION OF COLORS, MATERIALS, AND LANDSCAPING ELEMENTS.

cozy lounge area adjacent to these access points encourages relaxation and provides a sense of continuity, allowing you to appreciate the beauty of an outdoor space from the comfort of your home.

Achieving a balanced flow between indoor and outdoor spaces relies on thoughtful selection and coordination of colors, materials, and landscaping elements. While it's not necessary to mimic the exact color palette or materials used inside your home, it's essential to choose complementary elements to create a cohesive design. For example, if your interior embraces warm earth tones, incorporate similar hues in your pool tiles and outdoor furniture. Additionally, use landscaping plants that complement your home's architectural style and color scheme, ensuring a unified visual experience.

Color theory plays a crucial role in design, and the outdoor living area is no exception. Understanding how different colors interact with each other can help you achieve balance and harmony. Complementary colors, which are those that are opposite on the color wheel, vibrantly contrast, while analogous colors subtly blend. Color evokes specific moods to create a cohesive design narrative flowing between indoor and outdoor rooms.

Creating a perfect balance between your outdoor pool, landscaping, and home requires thoughtful planning and attention to detail. With an extensive knowledge of available materials, colors, and construction options, Godfrey & Jones will help you with these choices. The key to success is viewing your outdoor space as an extension of your home, coordinating it with your interior design, and creating a welcoming and cohesive environment that reflects your personal style. •





BEAUTIFY YOUR YARD

BY DAVID PAYNE

REMEMBER 2020 AND 2021 WHEN WE SAT AROUND AT HOME AND WISHED WE HAD NICER OUTDOOR LIVING AMENITIES IN WHICH TO STAYCATION?

Pandemic-induced lifestyle changes forced us to reconsider the outdoor appeal and functionality of our landscapes. It was the shelter-in-place mandates that awakened the desire to improve our landscaping and hardscaping so we could enjoy spending time with our family and close friends away from large public gatherings, but outside the home.

According to a recent survey by the National Association of Homebuilders, outdoor living has jumped to the top of homeowners' wish lists and almost half of surveyed

respondents say outdoor entertaining will receive increased design attention in their homes in the next five years. While many newly constructed homes routinely include outdoor living amenities and a landscaped yard, chances are, your home is in an established neighborhood and may have been built at least twenty years ago. Whether you live in a new home or in an older one, landscaping is an important part of beautifying our yards, helping us live comfortably outside and creating privacy from neighbors.

If the landscaping is as old as your home, it's time for a refreshing renovation. An established home may require a fresh look at the yard, and homeowners will want to set a budget for a facelift. While a landscape professional can help





IF THE LANDSCAPING IS AS OLD AS YOUR HOME, IT'S TIME FOR A REFRESHING RENOVATION.

you set a realistic budget, you'll want to consider a few points that work well for my clients:

- Decide an annual amount you want to spend on your landscape.
- Involve a professional in that decision-making process so the budget is feasible for what you want to achieve.
- Allocate all of your annual budget to just one part of your landscape. Layering your spending in one area over the course of the year maximizes the impact of the space that's getting the attention. Landscape contractors are well versed in scheduling and determining how to break the project into manageable chunks over the course of the year.
- Plan to collaborate during the installation process.
 Remaining on site while the project is implemented ensures you are there to make the decisions and last-minute changes necessary to achieve the best results for how your family will live in the new space.

You may choose to stay in your current home either because you love the neighborhood or the home's layout or because you want to avoid escalated mortgage rates. Landscape renovation enables you to make the most of your home's entertaining potential while adding value to the place where you feel most comfortable. •



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



GRACE YOUR SPACE

BY SUNNY SURANA

NECESSITY IS NOT THE MOTHER OF INVENTION—NATURE IS.

After all, Mother Nature has an imagination like no other, and she's invented many options for making our homes vibrant and beautiful: granite, quartz, marble, soapstone, and more. As founder of CRS Marble & Granite, I have used my imagination—and my thirty years of expertise to transform my local family-owned business into the multi-location (including two overseas) franchise it is today while never losing sight of my Raleigh roots.

Homeowners who partner with CRS Marble & Granite, whether on new builds or remodeling projects, will realize the following advantages:

- Meticulous sourcing. I enjoy traveling to quarries in secluded mountainous regions around the world to find my company's rare, exquisite stones, which are never dyed or altered.
- Expansive palette. CRS has more than five-hundred colors of natural stone, quartz, quartzite, soapstone,





and porcelain to select from—the largest collection on the East Coast.

- In-house design team. Our knowledgeable salespeople walk you through every step with personal, unparalleled service. Schedule a design consultation with us or just drop by to let the team demystify the process and showcase options that will work best in your living space.
- Hands-on experience. The CRS experience is an immersive one, because seeing and touching stone slabs in person helps them come alive in a way samples won't. Not only that, but seeing the slabs in person helps simplify the process, ensuring you'll choose the perfect stone.
- A showroom like no other. You can meander down our wide aisles and browse comfortably in our naturally lit, 65,000-square foot showroom.

One of the newest and most luxurious materials on display in our showroom is Zucchi's Matterhorn, a stunningly beautiful and especially durable marble that can only be found on display and in stock at CRS. This exotic marble is sustainably extracted from a Brazilian quarry and has an effect that is subtle yet dramatic. Its serene white background is characterized by gray and blue veins with absolutely no pink, creating elegant ambience within any room. While sometimes beauty and functionality are mutually exclusive in the stone world,



NECESSITY IS NOT THE MOTHER OF INVENTION—NATURE IS.

that's not the case with Matterhorn. This marble is resistant to scratches and stains and thus an ideal option for high-traffic areas as well as any room that needs a wow factor.

Whether you're a homeowner looking to outfit your kitchen, bathroom, or living space, or you're a designer, builder, architect, or even a fabricator, CRS Marble & Granite has the Triangle's oldest and most expansive collection—and we have the expertise to help you select what's best for your lifestyle and budget. ◆

SPOTLIGHT



LEADING BY DESIGN: CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF THE COLLEGE OF DESIGN

GREGG MUSEUM OF ART & DESIGN September 7-April 13, 2024 gregg.arts.ncsu.edu

NC State's School of Design, now College of Design, became a reality in September 1948, and rapidly gained a reputation as one of the top design schools in the nation. The most progressive school of architecture and allied arts in the South, it served as a hub of modernist creativity for the entire region and greatly influenced the landscape and architecture throughout the Triangle Area today. Leading by Design celebrates the design school's legacy by showcasing artworks from the Grega Museum's permanent collection created by professors and instructors associated with it in its formative years along with an audiovisual element that marks its ongoing impact in the twenty-first century.



TRIPLE THREAT: CLARENCE HEYWARD, WILLIAM PAUL THOMAS. AND CHARLES EDWARD WILLIAMS

CRAVEN ALLEN GALLERY September 9-October 28 cravenallengallery.com

To call Clarence Heyward, William Paul Thomas, and Charles Edward Williams emerging artists would be disingenuous. The three artists have seen tremendous success over the last several years—each has had museum shows, and their works are in significant public and private collections—but they are young and at the forefront of a new generation of Black painters in North Carolina, following in

the footsteps of luminaries like Ernie Barnes and Beverly McIver. In fact, McIver, who strives to, as she says, "reach out to help bring others to the table," is quest curator for this exhibition. Opening reception September 9 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

ANNE HEARTT GREGORY: 5 POINTS GALLERY FEATURED ARTIST

5 POINTS GALLERY September 14-October 14 5pointsgallery.com

What do monarch butterflies, mandalas, and migrants have in common? In the vision of Durham artist Anne Heartt Gregory, it's movement. Her exhibit of new works at 5 Points Gallery includes an assortment of paintings that explore this theme. Among them, Rising suggests the lilting flight of monarch butterflies. The centrifugal patterns of her Mandala Series generate an outward radiance. Detailed



patterns seem to ebb and flow in Darien Gap, and are both turbulent and triumphant. If the dynamic forces that dictate movement could be captured in two dimensions, perhaps they would resemble some of the works in this energetic exhibit. Reception and meet the artist during Durham's Third Friday Art Walk, September 15 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.





The Persian Carpet is Closing! It's the End of an Era!

Come to our \$4,000,000 Retail Store Closing Sale Starts Friday, September 15 and lasts until inventory is gone.

Every item in our inventory will be marked down for immediate sale.

After the sale is completed, our retail store will be closed permanently – **It's Now or Never!**





A family owned luxury design-build firm,
Old North State Landscape Development, Inc., crafts
creative high-end outdoor living spaces that elevate
everyday life in your own private resort.





Transform the exterior landscape of your home with our team of highly skilled designers, project managers, craftsmen, and builders. We are a custom general contractor in the Triangle area specializing in turn-key services from design to installation of pools, cabanas, hardscapes, and landscapes. You can expect exceptional service with a focus on quality, attention to detail, superior standards, and customer satisfaction throughout the entire experience of your project. Once completely built, we can even transition your property to our landscape maintenance department to care for your investment.

Contact Old North State today and partner with us to join the family and begin the journey!

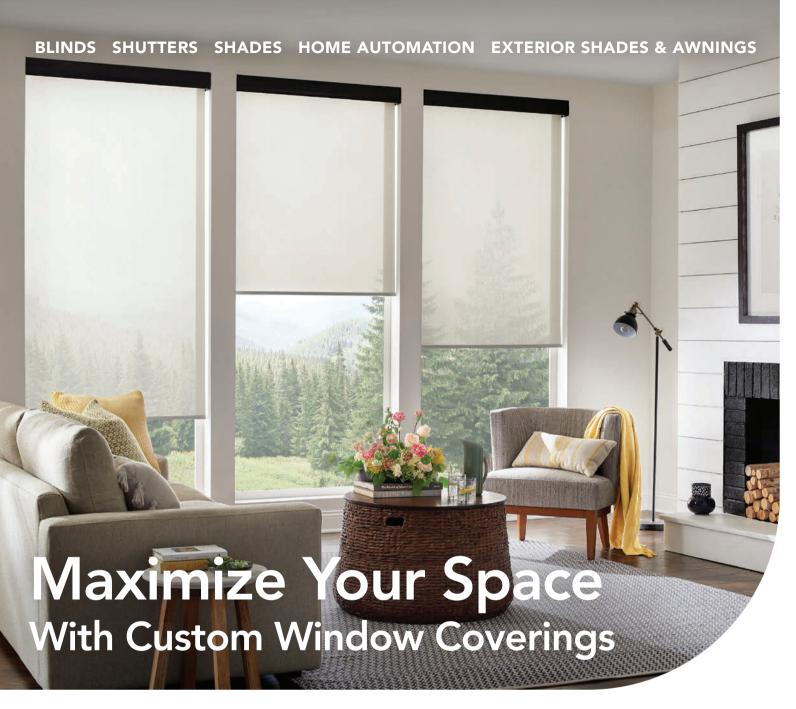
CUSTOM POOLS | FIBERGLASS POOLS | POOL HOUSES & CABANAS | STONEWORK | FIREPLACES | WATER FEATURES | LANDSCAPING | OUTDOOR KITCHENS | LIGHTING | IRRIGATION

Bringing
DREAMS
—— to ——
REALITY
FOR OVER 30 YEARS



Turn- Key Projects Landscape Design Landscape Construction General Contracting

onslandscape.com (919) 384 - 1800 info@onslandscape.com





Style and service for every budget.*

15% OFF WINDOW COVERINGS*

Visit Our Showroom | Weekdays 9AM - 5PM

5131 NC Hwy. 55, Suite 104, Durham, NC 27713 919.883.5065 | budgetblinds.com/durham

Call or Text for Your Free In-Home Consultation



WOODY'S

FURNITURE



NORTH CAROLINA'S LARGEST SELECTION OF AMISH CRAFTED CUSTOM FURNITURE

FEATURING AMISH CRAFTED QUALITY OUTDOOR POLY FURNITURE

AMISH CRAFTED, POLY-RESIN and STAINLESS STEEL CONSTRUCTION. CUSTOM ORDER OR SELECT FROM STOCK.

20 YEAR UNCONDITIONAL WARRANTY.

835 Hwy 64 W | Apex, NC | 984-229-7566

woodysfurniturestores.com M-Sat 10-6 Sun 1-5

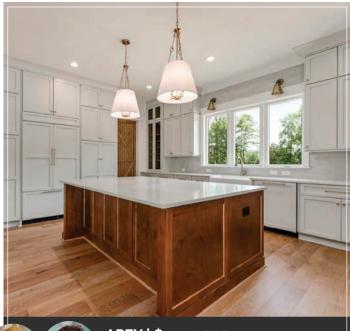






Experience the next level in luxury real estate when you partner with us.

#1 privately owned real estate company in the country. Founding member of Leading Real Estate Companies of the World and Luxury Portfolio International.

















Home is where the **grandeur** of life unfolds. Build your legacy with us.

A Deeply Connected, Legacy-Focused & Humbly Grand Approach to Universal Design.







At Paragon Building Group, we craft tailored homes that anticipate your lifestyle, needs, and dreams for years, and generations, to come. Specializing in Universal Design, Inclusive Design, Aging-in-Place, & Multigenerational Living, our homes embrace every stage of your life. Because if home is where our lives unfold, every person deserves a space to create daily magic with the people they love as their family grows, and they transition from one chapter to the next. A **destination** for all of life's moments.









BESPOKE

SUSTAINABLE

TIMELESS