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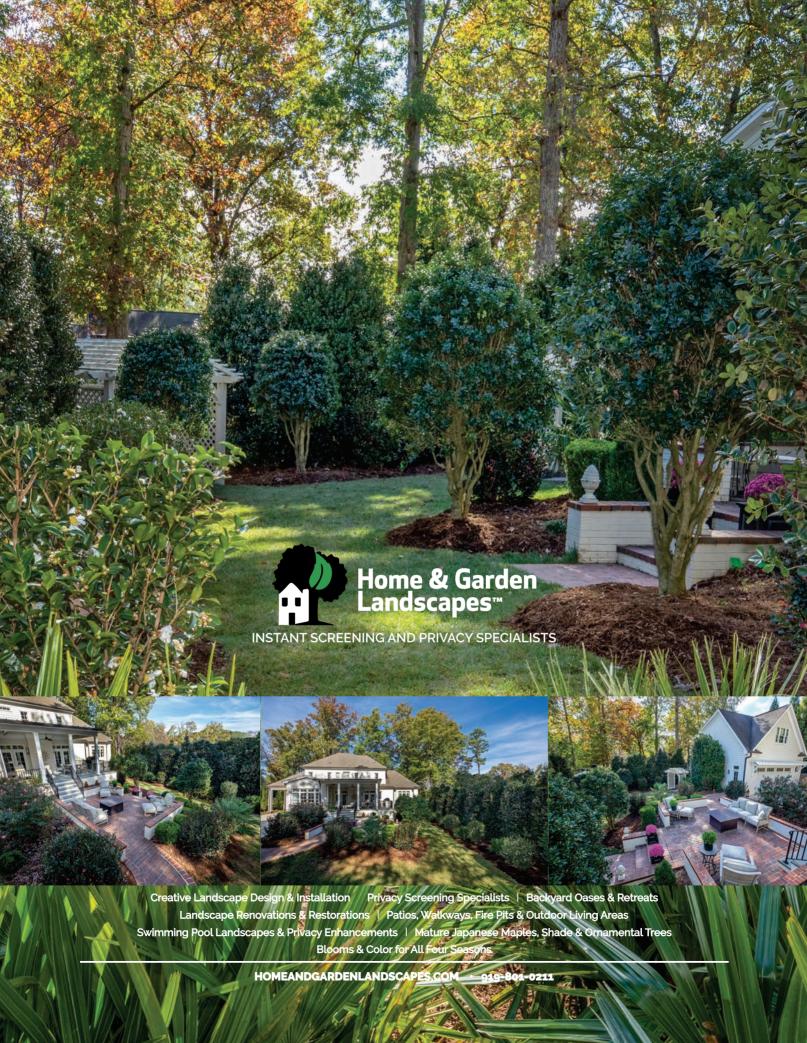
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It's hard to believe that January marks eighteen months that Blake and I have been co-editors-inchief of Home Design & Decor. We were cautiously optimistic about sharing the chief responsibility of creating content—an unorthodox approach, perhaps—but we knew we made a great team and, most of the time, shared the same brain. We are grateful to the Triangle design community that has embraced us and supported us while we've poured our hearts into these pages. Your feedback has been invaluable.

As we enter 2024, we are excited about the year ahead and confident that we can showcase the collaborative and talented community through our curated lens. We promise to keep expanding our circle of inclusion to deliver the very best interior design we can get our hands on. Pushing our definition of design has served us well thus far, and we have no plans to slow down.

We're bursting through the gates this year with a dizzying mix of art-forward homes and architecturally stunning visuals, flanked by stunning new products, far-flung destinations, and notable Triangle artisans.

We hope you're equally as excited about this journey as we are, and will help us celebrate an exciting new year at HDD.

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







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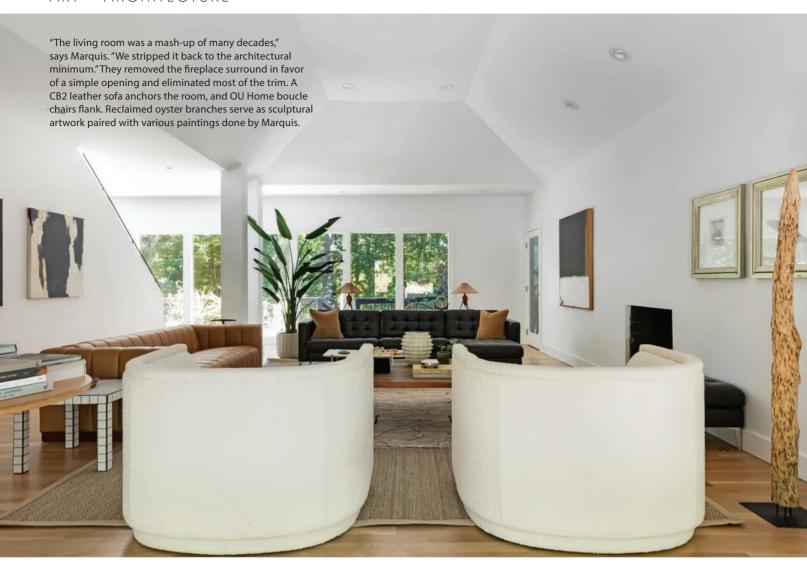
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Artful Origins

ONE COUPLE USES THEIR EXPERTISE TO BRING AN 80s CONTEMPORARY HOME BACK TO ITS TRUE SELF.

TEXT BY ANNE MARIE ASHLEY | PHOTOGRAPHY BY CATHERINE NGUYEN

KELLEY AND PHILLIP Marquis have the home market in Cary cornered. Not only do they own a real estate brokerage firm, Marquis Realty, but with Kelley's business, K. Marquis, they also expertly dabble in interior design. An 80s contemporary home had been sitting on the market during the pandemic, and the couple began to explore its potential.

"We buy, renovate, and sell homes every few years," admits Kelley. "It's the occupational hazard of having a brokerage and design firm. When we spotted this house, it had been listed for a while but needed so much work." The home had "the weirdest" pool the couple had ever seen. The interiors were spacious, and the home sat on a shaded five acres in Cary, giving it "unicorn vibes." "We felt if we could strip it back to its origins, it would be a stunner," she adds.

They embarked on a massive exterior and interior renovation of the 5,200-square-foot home that included

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Mount Pleasant, SC 640 Coleman Blvd. 843.216.3900 @stevenshellliving | stevenshellliving.com raising the sunken living room and a total owner's suite remodel. Aguilar Home Solutions, Greystone Remodeling, and Four Seasons Landscaping and Maintenance worked with the Marquises to bring it all together. The process took years, but today, the home is a study in contemporary design with artful surroundings.

"I spend a lot of time in art museums," says Marquis. "We are lucky to live in a city with such phenomenal museums, and NCMA is particularly thoughtful at pairing and displaying contemporary art alongside the classical master works. That inspired me to pair

pressed flowers with classical oil reproductions—modern abstracts with carved wood trays in which I screwed hooks and hung on the walls." Simple but dominant architectural lines made an ideal backdrop for the couple's collected and created artwork.

White walls and minimal trim give way to a gallery feel, and the open floor plan allows all the artwork to be viewed on the same plane, creating cohesion and balance. "I never wanted to live in a home that felt fussy or precious. We live in our homes hard, and that truly drives my design choices. Will this look good with patina? Will the table still work





ABOVE: Marquis's favorite room is the dining room. "Approaching the space like a gallery helped drive the design-minimal, functional furnishings with space to circulate." An RH farmhouse table is surrounded by curved wicker chairs from Safavieh. A Jayson Home linen pendant hangs above, and Marguis's artwork dots the walls.

LEFT: The original dark and cramped kitchen was traded for an ultra-modern design. Marquis opted for a high-low mix in the kitchen blending IKEA cabinetry with quartzite counters and appliances from Ferguson. CB2 counter stools are balanced with dining chairs from Target for a lovely mix of texture and elegance. The singular original antique portrait was purchased at Hunt & Gather.



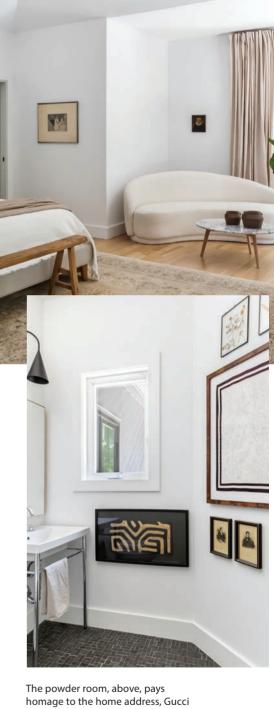
with a chipped corner? If yes, then yes," says Marquis.

Though art and architecture are, to Marquis, "foundational to a home," her philosophy on what makes it great goes a little deeper. "It's never stuff that people want, it's what the stuff is used for," she suggests. "What will take place in a space is what we are all after. For me, it's dinners with my husband and my girls and their friends, small church groups, Thanksgiving meals, homework, and art projects that I enjoy. I like the way it looks when it's empty, but I love it infinitely more when it's full." ◆

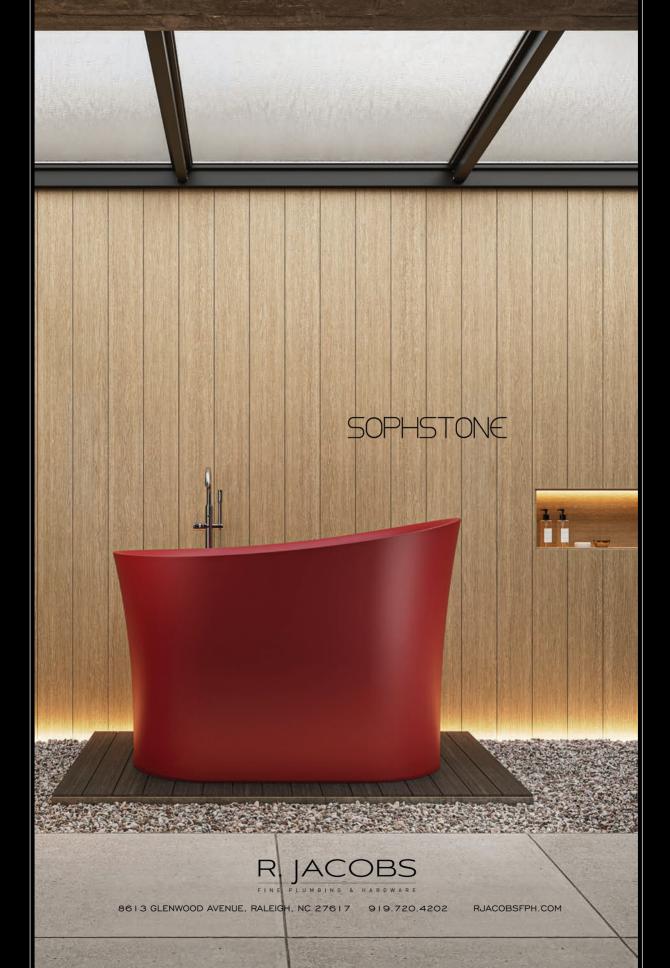
RIGHT: The main objective in the owner's suite was to lighten, soften, and open the space. "Wall-to-wall blue carpet had to go," says Marquis. "Instead, I focused on neutral textiles, furnishings, and art." The curved sofa from Kardiel is paired with a vintage leather chair. Bedding from Zara Home keeps things high-low, and burlwood side



"The family room feels like you're in a tree house," says Marquis of the space above. "It's dreamy." The trim and walls are Urbane Bronze by Sherwin-Williams, highlighting the view. "I also wanted to keep a little 70s vibe here, layering the browns and keeping the stonework," she adds. The leather sofa is from COCOCO Home, and the upholstered pieces are from IKEA, covered in custom slip covers from Bemz.



Drive. "Oof," quips Marquis about the street name. "I embraced it by framing some vintage Gucci scarves." CB2 lighting pairs with Signature Hardware fixtures.



DIVINE ARTISTRY

MODERN MUSES BREAK TRADITIONAL MOLDS WITH AN ARTEUL EXPLORATION OF THE ARCHITECTURE AND LANDSCAPE AROUND AND WITHIN.

TEXT BY CHRISTINA SPRATT SPENCER | PRODUCED BY ANNE MARIE ASHLEY



A BEAUTIFUL MIND

Inspired by her own intrapersonal relationship and journey, Xilesia Dwyer Henry curates a visually stunning collection of artworks that boldly questions and openly analyzes the sociological and psychological lens of mental health and trauma through an intimate exploration of art therapy as it relates to both body and mind. artbyxrdh.com



BLANKET *STATEMENT*

With a timeless philosophy, Hazel Park seeks to curate a warm and sophisticated home with their simple yet elegant line of throw blankets, woven right here in North Carolina. A niche focus on centuries-old textile traditions in their small and sustainable production pushes the artistry of fine craftsmanship to the forefront, cultivating luxurious, meant-to-last-a-lifetime, no-two-alike, woven wonders. hazelparkhome.com



HIDE

Maintaining an emphasis on ethical sustainability and artisanal craftsmanship techniques, Art Hide presents Vivid Nature, a highly luxurious and customizable new collection of specially dipped cowhide rugs. This sumptuously textured display of fine patterns and abstract shapes focuses on the play of light and shadow in artwork with palettes of oceanic notes and earth-inspired tones. arthide.co





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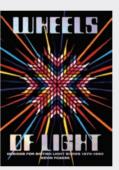
Together with designer Caroline Beaupère, New Ravenna introduces Ville Lumière, a collection of nine artfully laid natural stone and jewel glass mosaics with 24k gold accents. Inspired by a promenade through the most enchantingly eclectic neighborhoods and powerfully iconic architecture of Paris, this delicately detailed compilation weds traditional stories with modern translations to create handcrafted statements that embody the spirit of the City of Light. newravenna.com





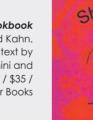
ROMAN EMPIRE

An intricately hand-painted wallpaper collaboration between Fine & Dandy and artist Hazel Lee Santino marries nature with neoclassical inspiration in multiple colorways, four distinct patterns, and two borders. The Fantasticheria collection reimagines romantic frescos and mystic motifs that favor the grandeur of gracefully aged stucco on the texturally inspired substrate. The results are a fantastical presentation that's architecturally forward and bold. fineanddandycompany.com



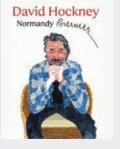
BOOK CLUB

Wheels of Light: Designs for British Light Shows 1970-1990 Text by Kevin Foakes / \$28 / Four Corners Books



Shelter Cookbook Text by Lloyd Kahn. Edited with text by

Leopold Banchini and Lukas Feireiss / \$35 / Spector Books



David Hockney: **Normandy Portraits** National Portrait Gallery / \$29.95



The Alchemical Feminine: Women, Gender and Sexuality in Alchemical Images Text by M.E. Warlick / \$95 / Fulgar Press





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FRENCH Bleue

ONE TRIANGLE RESIDENT CURATES HER PASSION INTO A NEW RETAIL STORE.

TEXT BY ANNE MARIE ASHLEY

When Libby Padula thought about the life she wanted to create for herself and her family, her goal was always to "live beautifully." And she was successful at it, building a home that at last had every ounce of her love and style in it. Even her Frenchinspired kitchen was feature-worthy, running in Home Design & Decor's pages in 2022. That motto has dripped into her passion project, French Bleue—a retail store that opened in November 2023 in historic downtown Apex.

Valuing quality, creativity, and tradition, Padula has built an incredible inventory of one-of-a-kind pieces hand-selected from Paris and the South of France, some of which date back to the early 1600s. Heirloom-quality fixtures mingle with old-world furniture, and accessories from all over Europe dot the store. "I know that creative passion inspires designers to incorporate

authentic, unique antiques and beautiful objects into their design," says Padula. "I opened French Bleue to be that source for our local community."

Padula adds that she remembers the exact day she decided to take the leap into opening her antique and design store. "I jumped ALL the way in," she says, "and was in France shopping a few months later. I found a wonderful company that mentors individuals who want to curate and ship antiques, and I learned an enormous amount about each piece I was bringing into the French Bleue collection." The name French Bleue comes from Padula's favorite shade of blue, which has adorned all her home ceilings. "My local paint shop called this shade 'Libby Blue' just for me," she adds.

The collection is filled with history, quirky finds, and truly unique pieces that can't be found anywhere else—a police department desk from 1800s Paris stamped with the department logo, just for example. "When you hand-select every item in your store, everything is your favorite," Padula gushes. "I could not be happier with the collection I created; we really do have something for everyone." ◆



French Bleue owner Libby Padula hand-selects every piece in her store, including these French antique doors, making multiple scouting and buying trips to Paris and the South of France for her inventory.





DESIGN FOR THE TRADE

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 $A\ H\ O\ K\ E\ L\ I\ M\ I\ T\ E\ D\ .\ C\ O\ M$



GROWING UP IN FOSTER CARE, there are many roads Travis Hyatt could have traveled. But with some very key loved ones following through on the spark they observed, Hyatt's path was paved for success as an artisan who makes unique and stunning furniture pieces, each with its own story.

Removed from his mother at age three and his father at ten, Hyatt tried his best to learn what he could with the time he had with his father. He helped with industrial engineering projects his father had taken on, including ripping plywood, making cuts, and applying finishes. After briefly bouncing around foster care, he settled in a home where he could see his grandmother on weekends. Supporting his interests, she'd bring him puzzles or engineering crafts to work on. And his foster father

encouraged his passion, too, letting him learn and use new tools along the way.

"Having a creative outlet to express myself made it easier to get through a difficult time," admits Hyatt. "It led me to woodworking." After several years in the army working in aviation machinery, he knew he had to follow his weekend warrior passion of woodworking.

While in art school, Hyatt applied for and received a grant, giving him the capital he needed to start his business. For the grant, he crafted a few furniture pieces drawing from his time in the military: the Woobie Sideboard, which employs a soldier's security blanket as the facade, and the Battle Buddy chair and ottoman, recalling the army's buddy system to keep soldiers safe.





Hyatt uses his past as prologue to create thoughtfully designed, hand-crafted furniture.







ABOVE: Hyatt used the military-issued "woobie" blanket to create a quilted front to his Woobie Sideboard. "It's a comfort piece," Hyatt says.

LEFT: Likewise, his Battle Buddy chair and ottoman go together like two soldiers paired up for military exercises.

BOTTOM LEFT: The Ruffle Table and coaster is one of Hyatt's current favorite pieces, and has gone through iterations of a tray, then a mirror, and now a table.

"You can see my story in the subtle details," says Hyatt. "I can't be too on the nose with it, but each piece still carries a piece of my story." The Foster Sideboard, for example, features handles in the middle that create the shape of a house when closed, which is a weighty subject for the foster child but can easily go unnoted to a new customer. "It's definitely the piece that's nearest to my heart," he admits. Regardless, sentiment is the driving force behind his work. "My foster dad always said that if you work hard and do your best, people will see you and opportunities will arise. I've seen the truth in his words at every turn," says Hyatt.

After just one year in the Triangle, Hyatt finds opportunities opening left and right, from work featured in The Centerpiece gallery earlier this year to a long list of commissions from interior designers. His pieces are inspired by Scandinavian design, which he deems rich and timeless, but they also hold a certain ingenuity missing in some of the latest trends. "Heirloom qualities are kind of ingrained into well-crafted furniture," he says. "I want my story to be ingrained into my work—my past, present, and future. And once it's passed on, it builds on someone else's heirloom story." ◆





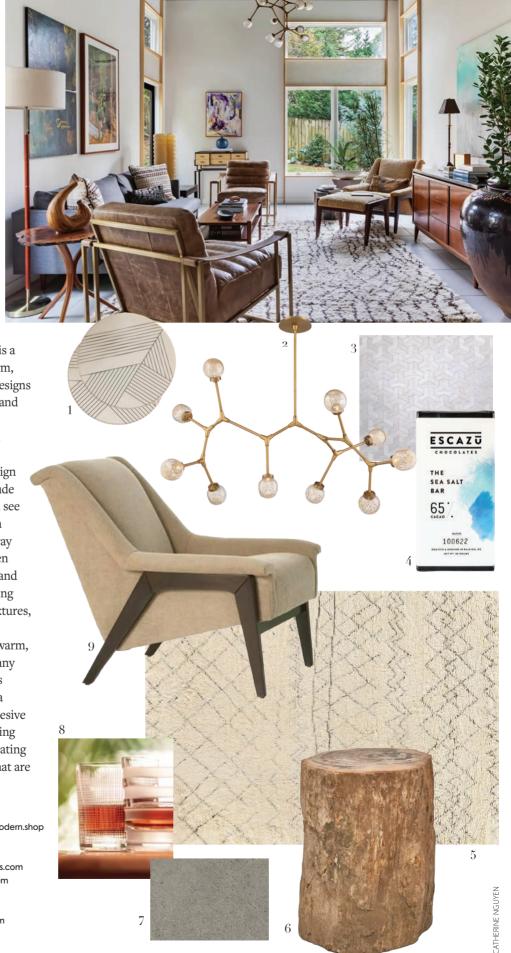
Barnett **ADLER**

Builder and interior designer Barnett Adler is a rare breed of design combinations. At his firm, Barnett Adler, he creates the architectural designs for homes and can also design the interiors and furniture for clients. Although his personal home is always evolving, his living room is a particular favorite.

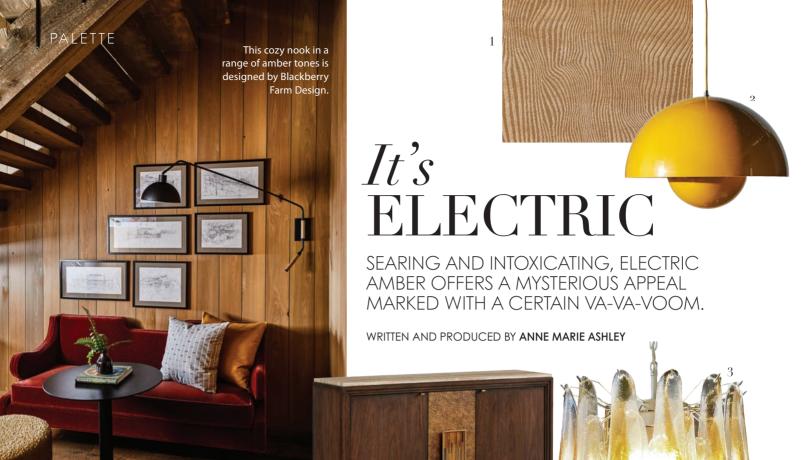
"Often, projects begin with the actual design and drafting of the space itself and can include details such as the custom window trim you see in my living room," he explains. "The design work is sometimes carried through all the way to the surfaces, finishes, and products chosen to make the space come to life functionally and aesthetically." His home is a mix of interesting architectural details, varied artwork, and textures, all blended with a midcentury-modern vibe.

Adler enjoys his focus on softly modern, warm, and inviting spaces but is happy to work in any client's aesthetic space. He feels strongly it's the collective of the items in the room, not a particular piece, that makes a space feel cohesive and inviting. "It doesn't matter if I am working on an existing house, or a renovation, or creating from nothing, I just want to create spaces that are nothing short of exceptional," he says.

- 1. Tramake Deco Coasters / \$36 for a set of four / retromodern.shop
- 2. Catalyst Chandelier / \$1,699 / perigold.com
- 3. Gotham Wallpaper / to the trade / cowtan.com
- 4. Escazú Sea Salt Chocolates / \$9.50 / escazuchocolates.com
- Moroccan Wool Geometric Rug / \$2,073 / perigold.com
- Dinant Natural Side Table / to the trade / kravet.com
- 7. Link Tiles in Hook / inquire for price / besttile.com
- 8. Salviati Nove Tumblers / \$53 for a set of six / salviati.com
- Windham Chair / to the trade / kravet.com







Radiant in sunlight, the ancient resin, amber, seems to glow from within. Named after its mysterious luminosity, Russia's eighteenth-century Amber Room was often referred to as the Eighth Wonder of the World, encrusted with several tons of the gemstone. A gift to Peter the Great from Prussia in 1716, it was looted by Nazis during World War II, right down to the amber panels, which have since disappeared. This orangey-brown-yellow hue seems powerful yet peaceful, ancient yet fresh—cast-aside visions of disco-era decor in favor of a modern beauty with fire behind her eyes. Consider it the light that dances between the trees of its origin, casting shadows while simultaneously illuminating the grounding where it lands. It's calm, it's fiery, it's deep, it's brightly shallow. It's an enigma eager to be solved.

- 1. Cut Velvet Fabric in Gunta / to the trade / pattersonflynn.com
- 2. Flowerpot Pendant Lamp / \$805 / anthropologie.com
- 3. Vintage Murano Petals Chandelier / \$2,274.57 / 1stdibs.com
- 4. Floral Throw / \$56.99 / www2.hm.com
- 5. Cheetah Kings Velvet Fabric / \$235 / ngalatrading.com
- 6. Stoneware Vase / \$31.99 / www2.hm.com
- 7. Untitled (Yellow Head) Sculpture, by Amber Lelli / \$19,000 / 1stdibs.com
- Beolab 8 Speakers / \$6,598 for a set / bang-olufsen.com
- 9. Santa Clara Hall Chest / \$3,761 / lexingtonfurniture.com







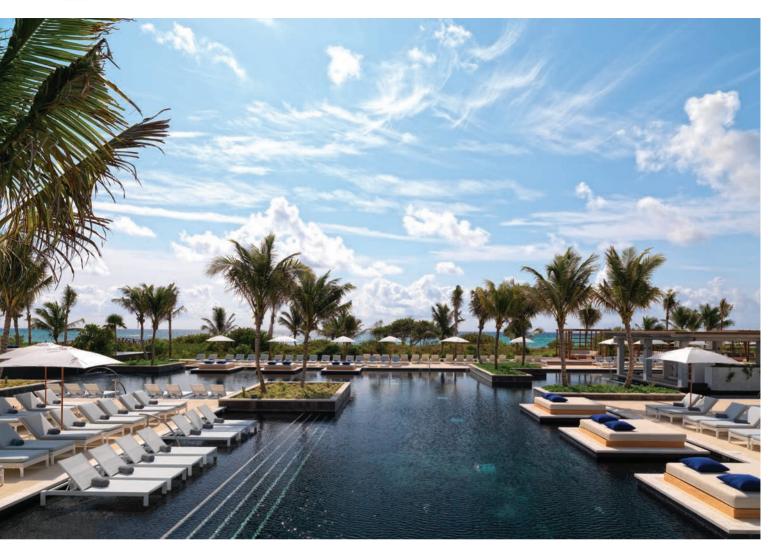
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TEXT BY ANNE MARIE ASHLEY

Finding accommodations in Riviera Maya that check all the boxes for an adults-only, all-inclusive luxury getaway that requires zero management from the moment you drop your bags is a little like finding a needle in a haystack.

Enter boutique resort Unico 20° 87°—a stylish, luxe property just thirty minutes north of Tulum with a focus on pampering.

STYLE

Unico's latitude (20°) and longitude (87°) are a key piece of the brand. It speaks to the mission of immersing guests in the region's beauty and culture through location, style, and service. With exteriors designed by Artigas and interiors conceptualized by AvroKO, the hotel's design combines the

appeal of historic haciendas with a discerning contemporary style. Rustic-meets-modern decor draws on warm mahogany woods, sleek tiled floors, textural light fixtures, and antique Mexican art, sculptures, and displays, all contained within clean lines and carefully spaced architecture and landscape.

All rooms are outfitted with outdoor lounging tubs, luxury linens, custom robes, spa-quality toiletries, local art, and the kind of rustic elegance that assures you you're in another country getting pampered.

DINING

Unico 20° 87° boasts five restaurants and bars, each proving that fine dining and all-inclusive resorts are not mutually



Bar Balam

exclusive. Named for the seven origin caves of Mayan mythos, Cueva Siete—or Cave Seven—is a standout in the offerings. Inspired by the Yucatecan, this regionally focused cuisine aims to harness the mysticism and reverence of Mayan culture, serving dishes deeply rooted in Mexican flavors and traditions. Alternatively, Mi Carisa is a love letter to the romantic coastlines and flavors of the Mediterranean and is considered Unico's most elevated dining experience. While the buffet is a quick and easy way to get on with sunning, foodies will sayor an à la carte breakfast here.

SERVICES

Adopting a "no-itinerary-necessary" attitude, culturally inspired experiences like mixology classes, cooking classes with local ingredients, and live artistic demonstrations are all included. A personal host is assigned to each guest to take care of everything from reservations and excursions to ironing and packing. Black-bottomed pools keep the water pleasant yearround, with an abundance of loungers positioned in an architecturally complementary way. Guests are serviced throughout the day by waiters eager to cater to their every need. Restaurants refer to their guests by name and offer suggestions to enhance the experience. And, of course, the Esencia Spa, though services aren't included, is located in the back of the resort for the most quiet and relaxing opportunity to escape on the property. unicohotelrivieramaya.com ◆





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TEXT BY BRANDY WOODS SNOW | PHOTOGRAPHY BY KEITH ISAACS

A DURHAM HOME BALANCES MODERN EDGE WITH COZY SERENITY.





The kitchen repeats the materials of the living room to embrace continuity between the open concept spaces. Clean-lined pendants and high wood stools fabricated by Earl Home with Edelman Leather's Dream Cow leather give the kitchen a modern edge.

OPPOSITE: The linear pool overlooks beautiful natural areas. The aluminum arm chairs and chaises, both from RH, feature Perennials Performance Classic Linen Weave fabric. The outdoor furnishings continue the home's work, providing comfort while reinforcing the aesthetic of the architecture.

envisioned for their future home. They also brought in Alabama-based designer Betsy Brown of Betsy Brown, Inc. after falling in love with the work displayed on her website's portfolio.

"Both Phil and Betsy were a dream to work with," says Toms. "Phil has a strong presence but always took time to listen to us. Betsy embraced our desire for a modern yet warm aesthetic and created a place that feels open and cozy at the same time."

Szostak analyzed the homesite, ideally located at the intersection of two fairways, ascertaining the best sight lines and sun angles to consider in the plans. "This site was as integral to the overall design as the architecture and the interior," Szostak says. "We wanted to bring the house to ground level with multiple access doors and expansive windows so the outdoors and indoors flowed together cohesively."

The entry gallery displays the client's curated art collection, and the open kitchen and living and dining rooms offer expansive ceilings and beautiful views while serving as the hub around which the other spaces circulate. The main terrace along the southern facade features a linear pool, an outdoor fireplace, and a cooking area for enjoying outdoor living under the native pines.

Brown, Szostak, and the Tomses collaborated on several iterations of the comprehensive design. "Phil Szostak designs houses that basically tell you what to do," Brown says. "We wanted to complement the architecture while also making the space extremely comfortable.

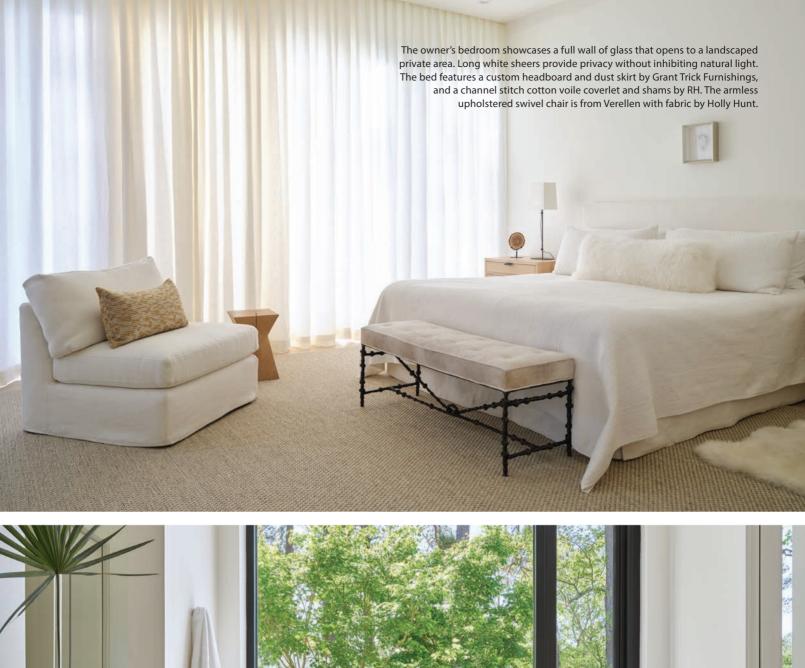
HAVING GROWN UP in a modern home, Lynn Toms knew she'd eventually trade her traditional house for one reminiscent of her youth. The open concepts and abundant natural light of modern design were key options she and her husband, Logan, wanted for their emptynester home. When an attractive property in the Hope Valley Country Club became available, they put their plan into action.

They hired architect Philip Szostak of Szostak Design after seeing many other homes he'd designed in the neighborhood. His command of the modern aesthetic and reputation for melding architecture into fine art was what they

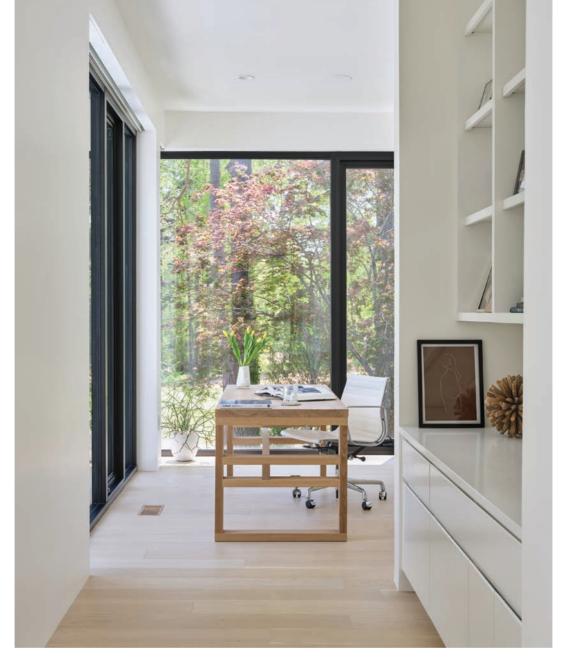












The glass-box office is an extension of the main house and offers expansive views of the pool, the golf course, and the homeowner's cherished Japanese red maple. The custom oak desk by Robert Bristow and the long, linear bookshelves provide ample workspace.

Having the finished home look as if it were created by one hand was critical to its authenticity."

The home is a study in balance—of light and dark, of open and private, of sleek and soft. A simple palette of timber flooring, white paint, and marble allows the furniture and artwork to truly become expressed. The furnishings in the living area extend the architecture, creating a comfortable place for the Tomses to relax with friends, family, and their dogs. A sectional sofa, movable chairs, a banquette, and barstools create a malleable living/dining vignette for entertaining and conversation. Simple, clean-lined pendants above the bar and banquette embrace the continuity of horizontal lines, which is echoed in linear bookcases, cabinetry, and furniture throughout the home. Several commissioned

pieces of artwork, including a Robert Bristow desk and a fourpanel painting by Marco Lorenzetto, add interest and function.

Natural oak accents soften the black-and-white interior. Sheer linen draperies in recessed ceiling pockets and a walled courtyard off the main bedroom suite offer privacy from the nearby walking path and golf course without encumbering natural light or views of the outdoor living areas. One of Toms's favorite angles in the home—the hallway between the living area and the "glass box" office—provides a panoramic view of the golf course, the magnolias, and her beloved Japanese maple.

"Our home is a product of a shared vision," Toms says. "The team's seamless collaboration resulted in a home where we can enjoy indoor-outdoor living in a comfortable modern setting." •







THE COLLECTOR'S HOLLECTOR'S

A HOME BY ARCHITECT TONY FRAZIER UNFOLDS INTO A BREATHTAKING GALLERY OF ART THE MOMENT YOU WALK THROUGH THE UNASSUMING FRONT DOOR.

TEXT BY BLAKE MILLER
PHOTOGRAPHY BY DUSTIN AND SUSIE PECK
STYLING BY KENDRA SURFACE

WITHIN TEN MINUTES of being on the phone with Tony Frazier, owner of Frazier Home Design, the homeowners knew it was a match. The Charlotte-based couple had seen Frazier's architectural portfolio. And although he was based in Raleigh, the couple's intuition said that the architect was "the one" to bring their new build to fruition. "You know what you like, and my husband and I very much appreciate autonomy and individuality," the homeowner says. "We wanted our home to be slightly different than what we saw around town, and Tony brought that individuality to the table." The home was Frazier's first foray into the Charlotte area.

Within minutes of carefully listening to his potential clients, Frazier had drawn up a sketch of what he imagined the home would look like. "It was perfect," says the homeowner. "We wanted guests to walk into the home expecting one thing but then get a completely different experience once inside. It was like the unfolding of a tiny jewel box. Tony picked up on all of these tiny architectural intricacies we loved and implemented them into the design."

A traditional white-washed brick facade with sloping rooflines accompanied traditional millwork in the home. The







The accent wall in the stairway features wallpaper by Timorous Beasties. "The sheep have been something we as a family are drawn to," explains the homeowner. "They have many different representations, but they serve as a reminder to show kindness to others, remain peaceful and gentle with ourselves and others, and continue to encourage fellowship within our family and in our community."

interiors, though, are decidedly modern, with the couple's art collection guiding the design. "In our previous home, it didn't really feel like the art fit," says the homeowner of their traditional Colonial. "And we felt like everything had to be white. With this house, we flipped it. This home calls for an art-centered design whereas in our previous home, art was the complement to the interiors."

With a background in fashion, the homeowner and her husband, also a creative, have a passion for art and interior design. Collaborating closely with a designer in New York City on some of the interior choices, the homeowner led the design efforts, opting for bright, colorful patterns and hues over a neutral color palette,





The couple's daughter's bedroom is an example of how art can be accessible and thought-provoking, even for a child. The butterfly installation above the bed, a whimsical addition to the bedroom, is by Stephen Wilson. "The butterflies are flying out of the handpainted Nantucket basket on her wall," explains the homeowner. "Nantucket is a very special place to us."

all of which complemented the couple's artwork. "We started collecting when we got married fifteen years ago," she says. "And it's become a sort of obsession. I can't draw my way out of a paper bag, but it's amazing when someone else can. Many of the pieces were purchased while traveling together and serve as great memories of our adventures together."

The couple also supports Charlotte's arts community by purchasing artwork from local artists and galleries. "That's the one thing I love about Charlotte: it's such an approachable arts city," she explains. "I have a strong admiration of art in all forms, and it's such a welcoming place to learn about art and our community. Between the Mint, the Belk, the McColl Center, the Goodyear Arts residency program, and more, art is so accessible here. Art used to be so intimidating, but once I understood what I liked, it rippled from there."

The interior design mirrors that growth from novice to passionate collector, as the couple's collection features







Even the smallest details can have the biggest impact. Architect Tony Frazier suggested painting the powder room's plumbing fixtures brass as well as intertwining them for an interesting detail. The wallpaper is by Hermès and the sconce is by Kelly Wearstler.

OPPOSITE: In the mudroom, the hand-painted mural by Kimberly Falls features "the spirit animals" that represent the four family members in the home. The family's crest is painted on the backside of the door.

a variety of mediums, from acrylics and textured art to sculptures and furniture design. The quartet of wooden counter stools in the kitchen, for example, were handcarved by Anna Karlin. "The counter stools were too high, though, and we wanted custom stains, so we worked with McSwain's Handmade Furniture to customize them," says the homeowner. "It feels good walking around your house when you love the artwork you've chosen," she says.

The home is ever-evolving as the couple continues to collect. But one thing remains: the home itself was the perfect vessel to display their collection. "This home really highlights our collection in a way that our previous home could not," she says. "We move our pieces around our home and it gives them a new personality every time. This home allows us to do that in a way that makes it seamless and beautiful every time." ◆



Artfully Framed

THIS RALEIGH HOME IS PART ART GALLERY, PART RESIDENCE, AND ALL MODERN.

TEXT BY BRANDY WOODS SNOW | PHOTOGRAPHY BY KEITH ISAACS



The private courtyard features a rectangular pool with bluestone surround. Loungers, outside sofas, chairs, and a dining set are all Aegean from Harrison and Nicholas Condos. A framed view of a Jason Craighead painting can be seen in the family wing, along with a John Dodd foyer table.





ABOVE: Matt McConnell sculptures are displayed on the walnut panel hiding the television above the fireplace. Blue low-profile sofas by Vladimir Kagan flank the seating area, alongside two white Maras swivel chairs from Jiun Ho Furniture.

OPPOSITE: The gallery-inspired guest wing hallway features pottery by Hitomi Shibata, benches by Matthew Smith, and other works of art from Rigoberto Mena, Ben Knight, Samantha Bates, Bob Rankin, and Sarah Powers. Expansive windows trimmed in rich mahogany frame the artwork for outdoor viewing.

AFTER THEIR FOUR KIDS left home, Larry and Debbie Robbins found themselves empty nesters with too much stuff-too much furniture, too many rugs, and too much house. Their 7,000-square-foot brick colonial with its huge footprint, traditional decor, and tedious staircases no longer made sense for their lifestyle.

"I kept telling my husband that we needed to downsize, and he agreed, so long as it was modern," Debbie says. "Having received interior design training at UNCG, I'd only done modern projects, so it came naturally to me."

Once the decision to downsize was made, the couple embarked on a series of trips to study examples of modern design, but it was in Wilmington where they immediately and unanimously fell in love with the work of Kersting Architecture. When they secured the perfect lot on a quiet street in Raleigh's Country Club Hills, only seven blocks from their previous home, they called on architects Michael Ross Kersting and Toby Keeton to lead the project.

"The Robbinses' new home was not only a chance to downsize and streamline, but also an opportunity to focus on their long-held passion for art," Keeton says. "They needed a home that could be lived in comfortably with friends, family, and their dog, Buddy, but also be a welcoming gallery in which to display their art collection and host events. From the paintings collected in early travels to their relentless advocacy for the local North Carolina arts community, the couple has amassed an impressive collection through the years. We needed a balanced design conducive to both objectives."











The Skylon chandelier by Hersh Design features ribbons of molten glass while pottery by Ben Owen adds a pop of color to the neutral palette. The view demonstrates the Frame House moniker, as the mahogany wood and expansive glass windows afford beautiful views of the front courtyard and the stunning Mark Hewitt pottery that greets guests at entry.

Stepping away from previous traditional aesthetics, the Robbinses embraced organic modernism, opting for a clean aesthetic of white walls and white oak floors that embrace natural light and an unencumbered flow between inside and out. The home's unique U-shaped structure includes a central main living area flanked by two wings, one for the family and one for guests. Nestled in between, a courtyard with a pool provides the family a private place to enjoy the outdoors while also affording spectacular views of the artwork lining the glass-winged hallways.

Because Debbie preferred an open concept that still retained some visual breaks between rooms, the design hinges on "scale"—breaking down the main living space into smaller, more intimate rooms without inhibiting the flow of light and movement. To accomplish this, the ceilings in the central area are higher than the rest of the home and feature expansive windows that pull in loads of natural light. Pocket sliding doors in the living room can be completely opened, creating a seamless merger with the courtyard, effectively doubling the livable square footage. A freestanding wall separates the dining area while also offering

valuable storage and camouflaging an HVAC return. A scullery with full appliances sits just off the kitchen, allowing food prep and cleanup to remain hidden from guests while keeping the kitchen's countertops and island uncluttered and pristine.

The clean lines, neutral colors, and ample glass create the perfect backdrop to showcase the Robbinses' extensive art collection. From the Thomas Sayre sculpture greeting guests at the front entrance to the Jason Craighead canvas in the hallway, and in every room in between, the home is a carefully curated experience for all who enter.

"No matter where you are, inside the home or outside in the courtyard, every viewpoint frames the artwork with mahogany portals and walls of glass," Keeton says. "This is why we dubbed it the Frame House. From every angle, the house displays the house itself."

Whether spending time with family or hosting an event, the Robbinses' home is always full of light and life. "Everything works," Debbie says. "I don't think I'll ever consider changing a thing."

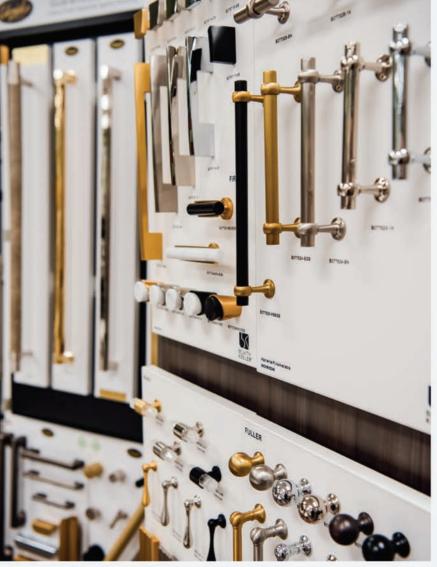




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For the very best in Kitchen & Bath fixtures, accessories, and cabinet hardware, visit Splash Galleries. Our quality brands, obsessive attention to detail, and expert product knowledge are just the beginning. Stop by and experience our tailored approach to Kitchen & Bath fixture selections.









SHOWCASE YOUR SPACE

CLOSETS BY DESIGN TURNS HO-HUM BEDROOM CLOSETS INTO STORAGE SUPERSTARS.

TEXT BY DANA W. TODD

Owner's suites are getting a lot of love in homes, and builders are adding larger bedroom closets as part of the mix. But, as it turns out, bigger doesn't always get the job done.

"Just because the closet is large doesn't mean you have lots of storage," says Chantale Persinger of Closets by Design. "While builders have increased the size of walk-in closets, they are almost always shelf-poor with underutilized space. Closets by Design helps homeowners maximize their wardrobe space, using every inch to good purpose."

Boutique-style shelving showcases special items, such as a Louis Vuitton handbag or cherished Christian Louboutin heels. Specialized drawers organize and display jewelry. Lights, mirrors, glass doors, vanities, and islands make this room as functional as it is beautiful. "You can spotlight signature items to bring showroom energy or incorporate task lighting into an in-closet vanity for applying makeup," says Persinger. "Closets by Design provides the individual elements that together create a personalized space for getting ready to face the day."





"CLOSETS BY DESIGN PROVIDES THE INDIVIDUAL ELEMENTS THAT TOGETHER CREATE A PERSONALIZED SPACE FOR GETTING READY TO FACE THE DAY."

—CHANTALE PERSINGER

As lifestyles change, Closets by Design's adjustable shelving continues to work with evolving needs. Its products offer a supreme level of flexibility, with components that adapt to an ever-changing inventory. For example, if there is demand for shorter hanging space and more room for shirts and pants, it's easy to adjust shelving and shorten the vertical space between hanging rods to better suit shifting requirements.

"Industrial-grade melamine never needs painting, and when the day comes to sell your house, it looks as good as it did when it was installed," says Persinger. "Our shelving never swells with humidity or splinters because it isn't made of wood, and it is always fully adjustable and customizable."

The closets come in a wide range of colors and styles. Whether a homeowner's color preference leans toward trendy blues, grays, and greens, the look and feel of natural wood, or classic white, there is a Closets by Design product to fit every aesthetic. The closets are further customizable through choice of door style and hardware, and features such as glass-front display drawers, cubbies, pull-out trays,

hanging-rod style, belt and tie racks, molding, shoe racks, and Lucite components.

Whether you want to organize your closet by outfit, color, season, or category, Closets by Design is the partner to help uncover the possibilities. It's time to move beyond a buildergrade closet to realize the full potential of one personalized for your clothing and keepsakes. •



Shop CLOSETS BY DESIGN at RALEIGH.CLOSETSBYDESIGN.COM or call 919-850-9030.

GATHERING WITH GABBY

STYLE, COMFORT, AND VERSATILITY ARE THE FOUNDATION OF THE LAB CUSTOM UPHOLSTERY PROGRAM.

TEXT BY BRANDY WOODS SNOW

In the cozy season of hearth and home, homeowners find their focus shifting to hunkering down as the waning daylight and chilly temperatures prevail. Whether cuddling by a warm fire, enjoying lively conversation with friends and family, or taking in an exciting playoff game for a favorite sports team, there's no substitute for a comfortable and stylish space for family and guests to gather. From spurring memories of happy days gone by to creating new ones, a well-crafted retreat beckons with comfort and familiarity. Well-built, durable, and beautiful furniture can make all the difference.

In a family of brands including Summer Classics and Wendy Jane, Gabby has been a premier manufacturer of luxury furniture and pillows for over a decade. The company focuses on a transitional philosophy, blending modern and traditional styles in an expansive collection created to elevate home interiors. In 2022, they launched their semi-custom Leg, Arm, and Back program (LAB). The LAB series allows customers to design their perfect sofa, loveseat, or chair from carefully curated selections, which can be customized to fit their style and maximize flow and efficiency in their space. The upholstery, crafted by hand in North Carolina, is thoughtfully selected to be both durable and beautiful.

"Created with the design community in mind, LAB allows for mixing and matching configurations and options with endless possibilities in customization," says Keri Caune, who is executive vice president of business development. "The LAB Custom Upholstery program by Gabby will help create a completely unique presence in any home."





"LAB PRODUCTS ARE CRAFTED FOR EXTREME COMFORT AND LIFETIME LONGEVITY FOR THE FAMILY."—KERI CAUNE



| For more information, visit GABBY.COM.

Some of these exciting configurations and options include:

- Two seat depths, standard and relaxed.
- Sixteen frame configurations.
- Six arm styles.
- Three back pillow options, including boxed, knife-edge, and flared.
- Four trim styles, with twelve color thread options available on double needle and topstitch selections.
- Seven base options.
- Multiple cushion configurations with three cushion fills.
- Twelve finishes.
- Choice of trim, including seven nailhead options.

The Gabby Tailored LAB Program offers all the versatility, style, and hand-crafted comfort expected from a luxury brand. And with more than 250 base fabrics to choose from, there's sure to be a match for every homeowner's individual needs. "Homeowners can rest assured the LAB products are crafted for extreme comfort and lifetime longevity for the family," says Caune. "The Gabby LAB series is built by teams with generational experience with the expectation that each item will not only stand the test of function but will also be enjoyed by generations to come." \spadesuit

BUILDING ALEGACY

DON DUFFY ARCHITECTURE CELEBRATES NEW LEADERSHIP.

TEXT BY BRANDY WOODS SNOW

One of the smartest decisions for any business owner is to plan for the future—future growth, future projects, and future leadership. Since the establishment of his company in 1995, Don Duffy of Don Duffy Architecture has built an incredible portfolio of work throughout the Carolinas, Virginia, and West Virginia. His highly skilled and dedicated team has served first- and second-generation clients, earning them the moniker "the family architects."

This is the tradition of excellence Duffy wants to safeguard for generations to come.

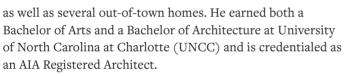
"I have lost friends to unfortunate circumstances when they were much younger than I am now, and I witnessed firsthand the chaos their businesses went through as a result," Duffy says. "They are still mentoring from the grave when they remind me to 'do a better job than we did. Love your work family and make sure they are taken care of."

It is with this mindset that Duffy has named Kraig Magas as a full partner and owner in the company, which will now be rebranded as Duffy-Magas + Associates (DM+A).

Magas has been with the company for more than two decades, responsible for contracts and business operations through the years. As a talented architect/designer, Magas leads many of the most important projects, personally overseeing three of their most complex homes in Charlotte







Duffy's decision was directed by two major factors. First, he desired to keep the office up and running and to retain his skilled staff under any eventuality. With many close client relationships and contracts spanning years, if not decades, it was important to ensure they were well taken care of in the event of any emergency. Second, Duffy wanted to reward Magas for his dedication and excellent service during his tenure with the company thus far.

The wisdom also came from a client, Mr. Jim, who informed Duffy of the humorously pithy P6 rule: Proper planning prevents piss-poor performance. This transition in the company is his way of doing just that.

"The person in this new role has to be able to relate well with all people, from day labor to our wonderful clients. Kraig has the skill sets to take on the challenge without missing a beat, proving time and again his abilities to build trusted relationships with clients as well as the building community," Duffy says.

Duffy reiterates that he plans to continue working for the foreseeable future and that the changes in company structure are in no way indicative of a retirement announcement. "This is a new energy story. After twenty-seven years of sitting at the





"THIS IS A NEW ENERGY STORY."

—DON DUFFY

sharp point of the pyramid, I'm ecstatic to share the point with someone like Kraig, who has proven that he is more than capable of leading our company into our next twenty years."

When asked if he expects any significant changes in the company's day-to-day operations going forward, he says, "I do not foresee any, but maybe now I'll get home before 8:30 p.m. some nights." ◆



WINTER PLANNING

BY **DAVID PAYNE**

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY ARE OPTIMAL MONTHS TO DEVELOP A LANDSCAPING PLAN WITH THE HELP OF A PROFESSIONAL SO YOUR BACKYARD IS PRIMED FOR OUTDOOR ENTERTAINING DURING THE WARMER DAYS AROUND THE CORNER.

When the backyard is ready for hosting fabulous parties, you don't have to worry about decor. Nature, and a few carefully planned landscaping elements, serve as decorations. Here are a few components to consider in a full-yard landscaping plan:

Hardscaping. Pathways connect sitting and gathering areas scattered throughout the yard. They are particularly useful when entertaining outdoors, as they allow people to mingle in separate sections of the yard while remaining a part of the larger party. They also help integrate outbuildings into the overall plan. Other hardscaping features such as retaining walls are aesthetically pleasing and can also be functional, creating a barrier or preventing soil erosion on a hillside.

Architectural Elements and Structures. Special elements provide architectural significance to an outdoor space and set the tone for a particular aesthetic. In my backyard, for instance, a repurposed barn cupola from Maine serves as a garden shed topped with a vintage weathervane. It is connected to other areas of the landscape like the patio with a firepit, the pool, and an extra-large birdhouse with a colorful roof I had built to mingle with evergreen trees and shrubs. A nearby pergola provides shade and defines yet another entertainment space a few steps from the pool deck.





PLANNING YOUR OUTDOOR SPACE NOW WILL REAP BIG REWARDS IN A FEW SHORT MONTHS WHEN IT'S TIME TO MOVE THE PARTY OUTDOORS.

Water Features. From small additions like a traditional fountain or a bubbler to large elements like a pool or a small pond, water features contribute a pleasing visual and auditory effect to the yard. A waterfall spilling over strategically placed boulders draws interest and drowns out nearby sounds. I find great enjoyment in a koi pond placed inside my Japanese-themed garden.

Plants. Plants fill the voids between architectural elements, integrate water features into the full landscape, and provide privacy. I often use them to instill a garden theme; my Japanese garden incorporates bonsai Austrian pines and Hinoki cypress trees, Japanese maples, Norway spruce, and Weeping Alaskan cedars.

There is a natural process for implementing a successful plan. We first include large items like hardscaping and water features, then incorporate smaller architectural elements



to provide the desired look and feel. Next, we add plants to support the design theme and fill in the gaps.

All of these items can be handled by your landscape professional, of course, but it's nice to understand the process. Planning your outdoor space now will reap big rewards in a few short months when it's time to move the party outdoors. •

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



WINTERTIME ENTERTAINING

BY MEGAN BRADLEY AND JACKIE SERANY

AMID THE SHORT, DARK DAYS OF THE WINTER SOLSTICE WITH THE RUSH OF HOLIDAY PARTIES PASSED, IT'S NICE TO ENTERTAIN FRIENDS IN AN INTIMATELY COZY ATMOSPHERE TUCKED AWAY IN A SNUG SPACE IN YOUR HOME.

How about a small, casual dinner party for six in your own dining room? Here are a few ideas to ensure your event is low-stress and enjoyable for everyone.



Every party should address the five senses. Have a nice scent to set the stage for the gathering—think cookies baking in the oven or a pot of chili bubbling on the stove. Scent is inherently intertwined with taste. What food and drink are you going to serve, and how do the flavors complement each other? Sound is equally important; create a special playlist customized for the tone of the event and the particular participants. Meanwhile, the touch of soft cloth napkins and heavy silverware mingles with the sight of colorful foliage and fabrics throughout the room.

We recommend shopping your home first, and then supplementing with any necessary purchased items to create a warm and comfortable ambience. Strive to mix old and new, such as vintage cups and saucers from your grandmother's fine china collection combined with casual stoneware plates from your everyday dishes. Tie together mix-and-match tableware with placemats layered over a mahogany wood table peeking through to warm the space. Always include something live, like fresh







THE POST-HOLIDAY WINTER MONTHS ARE A PRIME TIME TO DELIGHT IN A SMALL GATHERING OF YOUR BEST FRIENDS.

flowers, greenery, fruits, or vegetables. Add lighting at different levels—try an overhead chandelier on a dimmer, candles, and LED lamps—so you can adjust the amount of light for pleasing effect.

We love to help homeowners who need entertaining ideas through the Home for Entertaining retail market, where we stock one-of-a-kind products that are handcrafted by artisans in North Carolina and beyond. Try hand-dipped candles from Mexico or North Carolina highlands, or blown glasses from Brooklyn. We'll help you find the right vintage items to layer into your design, like an antique compotier for the table. Need even more help? Bring the items from home you want to use in your event, and we can enhance them with complementary goods and tableware.

We regularly teach classes where you can learn anything from making pasta to creating a table centerpiece. Signup is on our website, where you also will find information about creating bridal and other celebratory registries and securing rental space for hosting a private or corporate event.

Home for Entertaining is a family-owned company located in the heart of the historic district of downtown Cary. The graciously sized, multi-level house features a retail market, a design studio, and a rental space with a demonstration kitchen for those who prefer to host their event off-site. We draw on the experience of our sister company, Southern Studio, whose designers have been helping clients create beautiful homes for more than twenty years. Our best advice is to enjoy your party and host more of them!

The post-holiday winter months are a prime time to delight in a small gathering of your best friends, sitting around the table filled with good food and relishing a long conversation. ◆



FROM CONCEPT TO COMPLETION

BY MICHELLE HARDY

IT MAY FEEL LIKE WE'RE ALWAYS AT WORK, BUT WE SPEND THE VAST MAJORITY OF OUR LIVES AT HOME, MAKING IT SO IMPORTANT FOR OUR HOMES TO REFLECT OUR TASTE AND ALSO MIRROR HOW WE WANT TO LIVE.

Many of us struggle to make the leap from Pinterest saves and tear sheets to a fully designed room. Furnish's design center staffed with professional interior designers—has a primary goal of taking homeowners from wishful thinking to wowworthy homes. Our designers put beautiful design in reach for homeowners at every price point.

You may not know how to articulate what you want in design terms, and that's where our team comes in. Sometimes homeowners can communicate what they don't like better than what they do like—and that's fine! An appointed designer will work directly with you to develop your ideas and select upholstery fabric and wood finishes from the hundreds of samples we stock in our design center. They will take your thoughts, ideas, and photos, and create a furnishings and accessories list and space layout plan that allow you to update your rooms with ease.

No matter if your taste leans traditional, modern, or somewhere in between, our store has a deep inventory of





OUR DESIGNERS PUT BEAUTIFUL DESIGN IN REACH FOR HOMEOWNERS AT EVERY PRICE POINT.

American-made furniture from a variety of manufacturers to match your preference. By removing the burden of being the solo decisionmaker about furniture placement, fabric selection, finish specification, and scale, our designers narrow the options and guide you effortlessly through all the choices. The best part is that our design services are 100 percent complimentary! We get to do what we love—create rooms that speak to our customers—and you get the ease of a well-designed home without the burden of sorting through hundreds of samples and ordering furniture that you later find doesn't work.

There's nothing better than walking through the design center and seeing yes/no/maybe piles as designers curate the options for homeowners. The designers introduce concepts like color choice, texture, print, balance, and scale in such a way that homeowners hardly know they've had a lesson in design.

At Furnish, it's not just about selling furniture, it's about helping homeowners create the lifestyle they want, whether that's a formal home for entertaining or a casual residence with toddlers and pets underfoot. We want our customers to use the complimentary services of our design center, and we want to help them create a better home for themselves. ◆



SPOTLIGHT

LIGHTNING BOLT: *PHOTOGRAPHS* 1968-2024

> **CRAVEN ALLEN GALLERY** January 27-March 9 cravenallengallery.com

From the fields of Woodstock to the graveside of Martin Luther King Jr., photographer Burk Uzzle has witnessed



some of the most important events in recent American history, always with his camera in hand. This exhibition showcases some of his best photographs taken over six decades. Highlights include Congregation Ladies, a studio portrait of African American women in their Sunday finery; Desert Prada, a guintessential Uzzle landscape depicting the Elmgreen & Dragset sculptural installation in Marfa, Texas; a selection of Uzzle's iconic Woodstock photographs; and an important historic suite of twenty gelatin silver prints of the funeral of Martin Luther Kina, Jr., printed by the artist.



THE NATURE **OF THINGS**

CAM RALEIGH Through March 24 camraleigh.org

Featuring paintings and ceramics by artist Anna Valdez, The Nature of Thinas depicts maximalist compositions of large still-life arrangements that explore how objects form culture and make meaning. Many of Valdez's works feature landscapes in the form of paintings or photographs from national parks or botanical gardens, with

bouquets, houseplants, rocks, and animals offering additional segues to the natural world within hybrid spaces. Valdez uses taxidermized birds as avatars for the human figure, full of symbolism and subjectivity. In this exhibition, Valdez offers multiple perspectives as the natural world is woven into the rich tapestry of art and cultural history, encouraging viewers to contemplate the interconnectedness of life and the depths of human experience.



DANA BROWN, WINTER SOLÓ

THE CENTERPIECE

Through February 29 thecenterpiece.com

North Carolina-based studio painter Dana Brown works with encaustic, using beeswax and resin to convey elaborate depictions of botanical scenes, farm equipment, urban backdrops, and other mechanically complex machinery. Utilizing tools designed for ceramists, Brown carves, fills, layers, and fuses the wax, creating areas to be filled with pigment. Her industrial scenes evoke a sense of wonder, guiding the eye through geometrically complex landscapes teeming with rich detail.

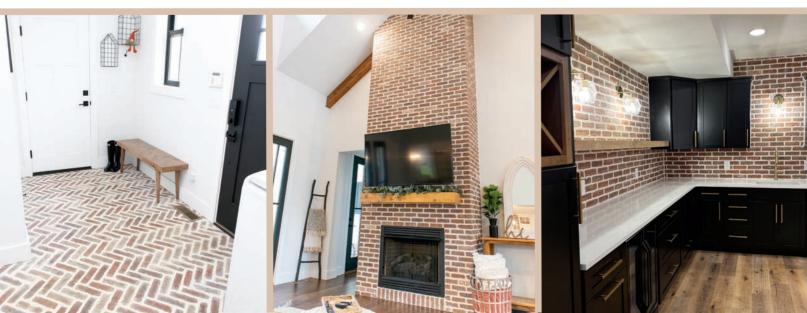


Scan to find out more about @keeverfarmhouse

Katie and Iravis are back with another thin brick expansion. This time, they brought "Peppermill" down their stainwell and into their newly remodeled basement.

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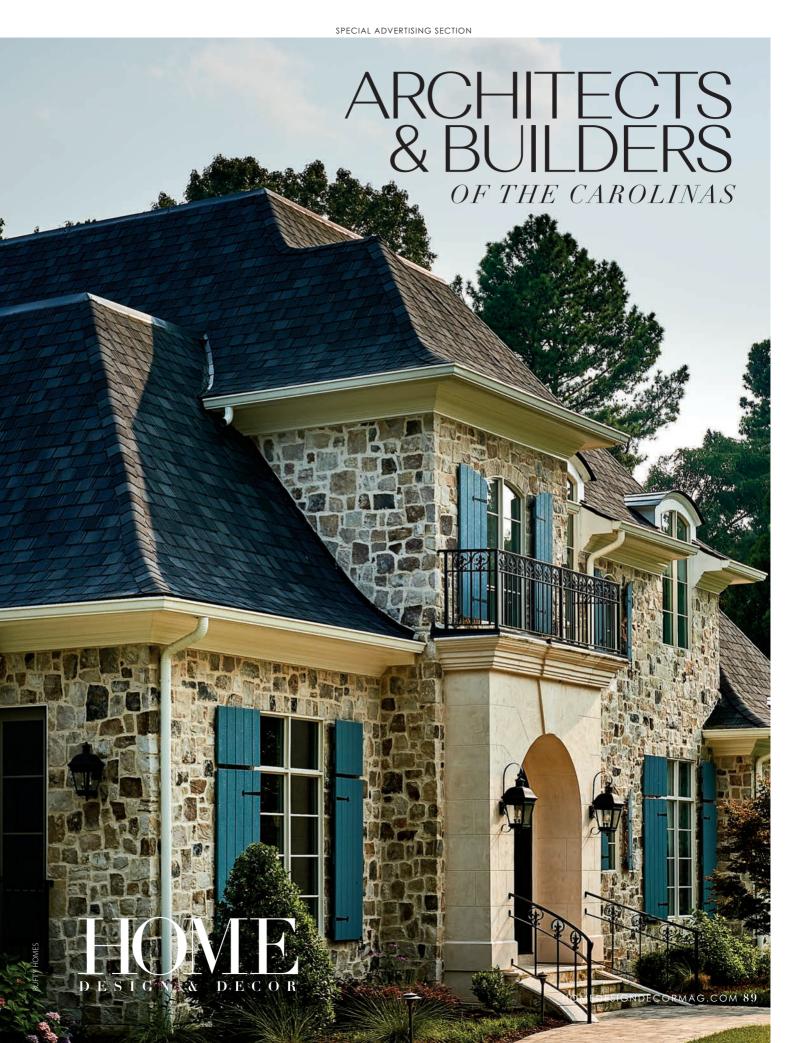


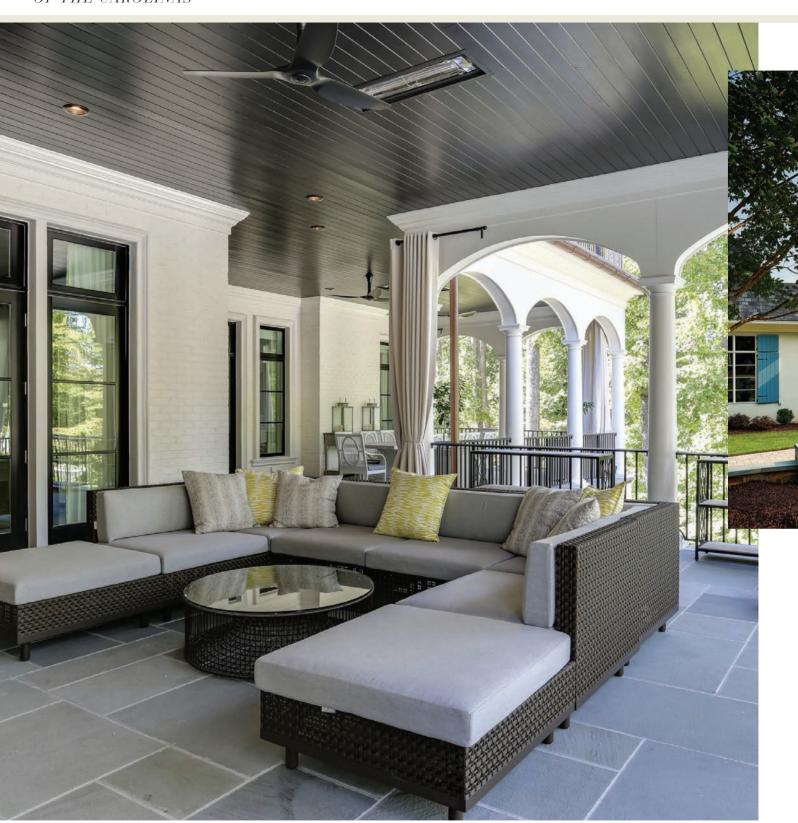
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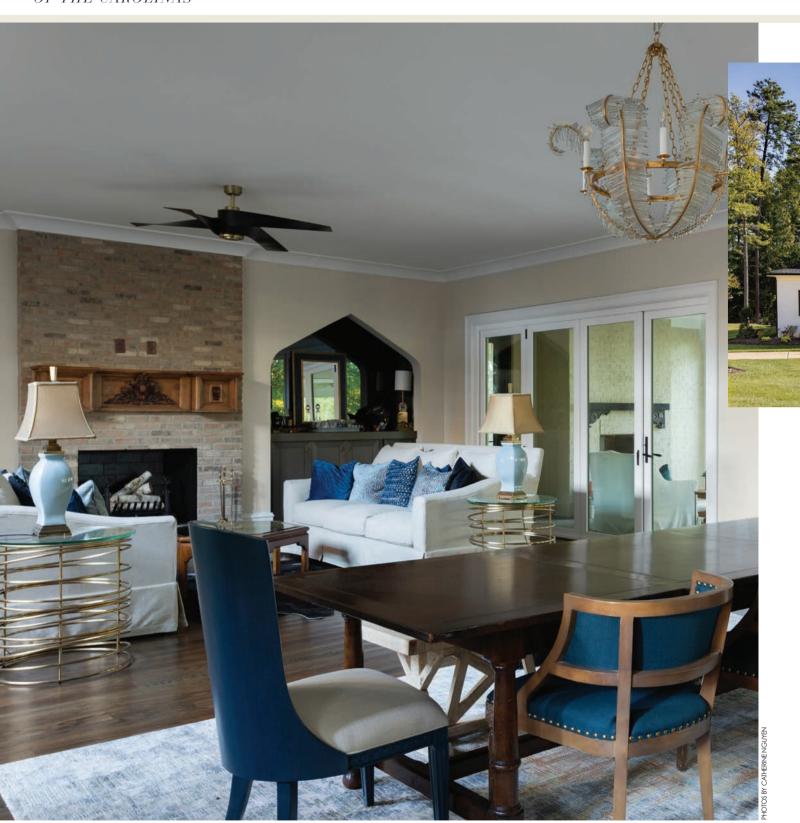
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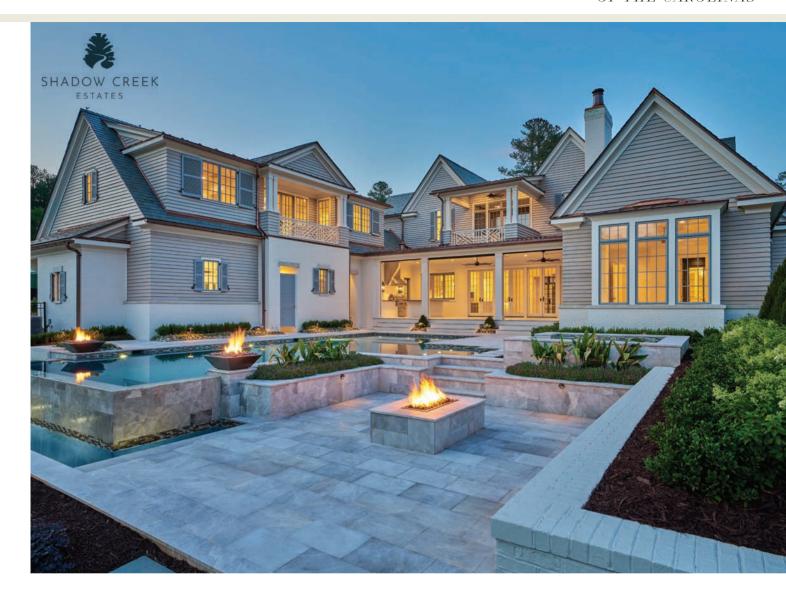
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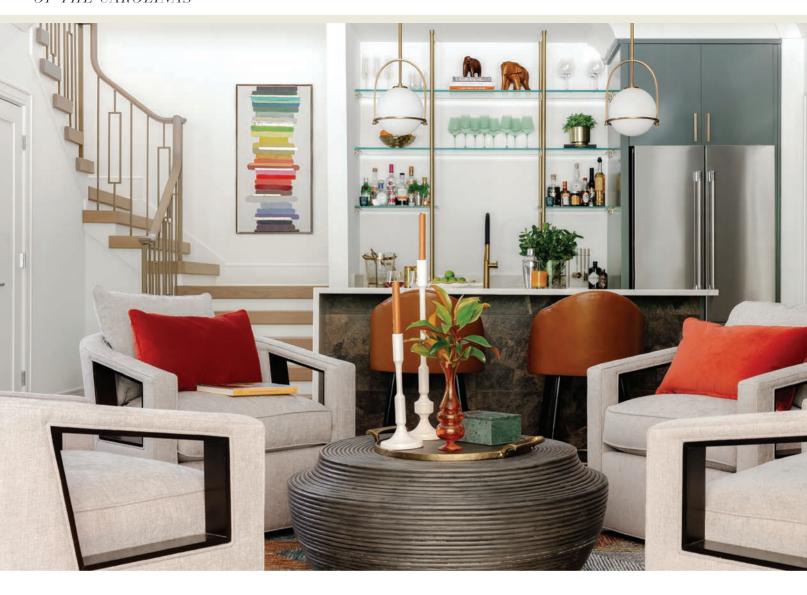
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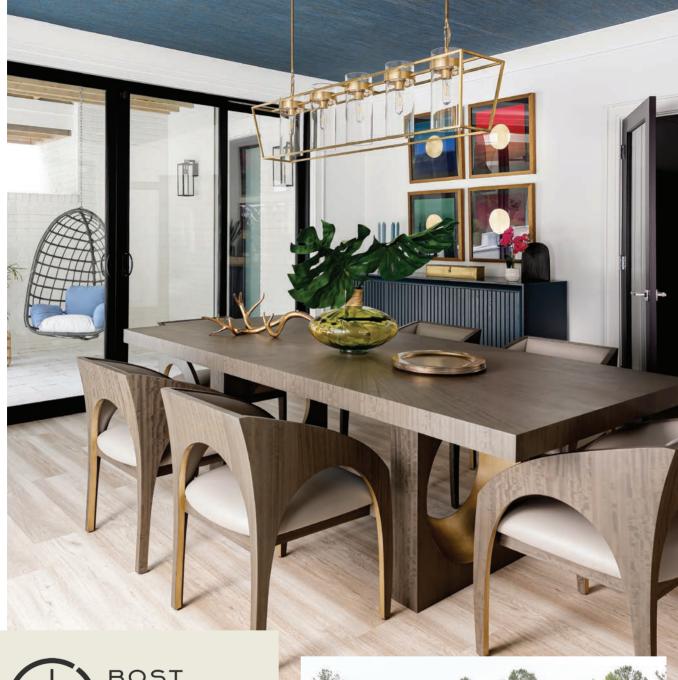
SINCE 1987 BOST CUSTOM HOMES has pursued innovation, authenticity, and calculated execution in custom home design, construction, and client service. As a second-generation family business, our success stems from the long-standing relationships we've had the privilege of forming with clients, subcontractors, and community partners while designing and delivering some of the most unique, award-winning homes in the Raleigh-Durham metro.

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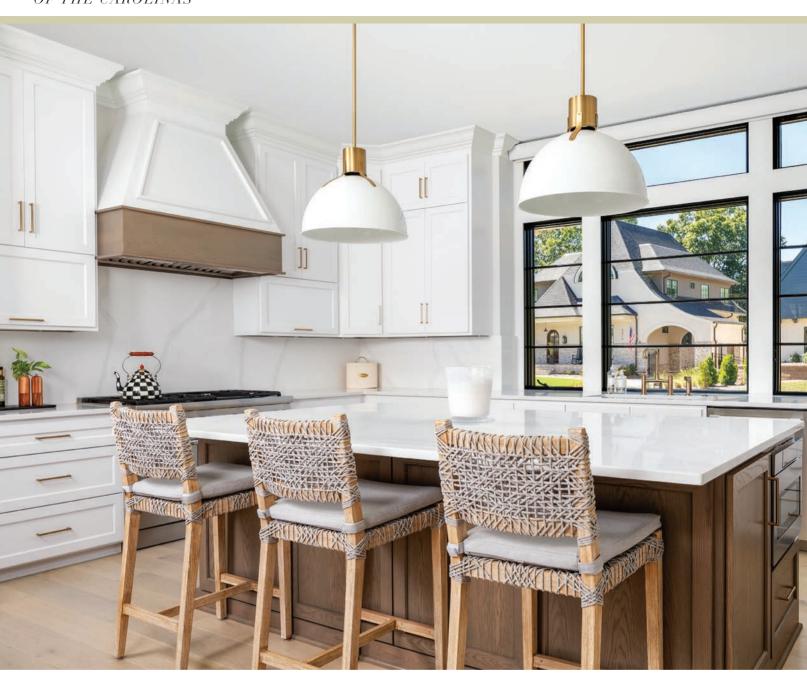
Our goals run parallel with our mission: build the life you want to live, through excellence.



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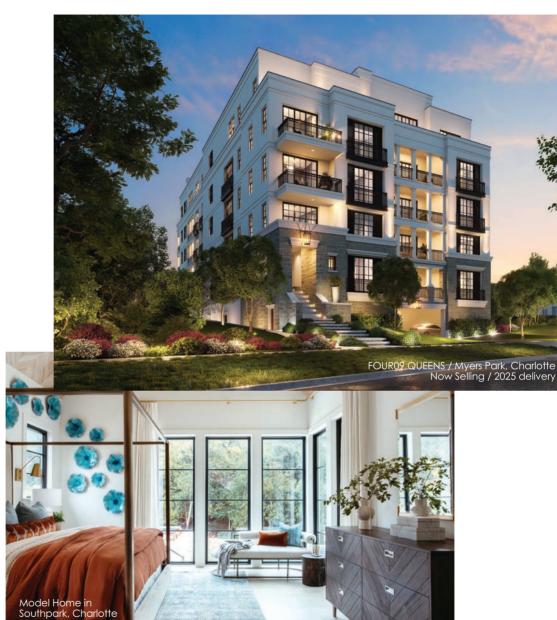
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