

CHARLOTTE URBAN

HOME

CELEBRATING INSPIRATIONAL DESIGN AND PERSONAL STYLE

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THE DESIGNER'S *den*

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Dustin Peck Photography

IT TAKES REALLY LIVING IN A HOME BEFORE you can understand how it works and doesn't work for your family. Once you've discovered the ways it doesn't work, you can make changes accordingly. Sometimes, too, the ceiling collapses, and it paves the way for you to make the changes you've been considering anyway. Such was the case for Molly and Michael Painter when they came home to find the living room ceiling in pieces on the floor. "After living in the home for five years and sharing a bathroom with our daughter, we decided we needed our own space," explains Molly. "The ceiling collapse was just the impetus to make the changes we'd been considering for a while."

The Painters were drawn to their Georgian Revival home because they love classic architecture and the charming neighborhood with its walk-able streets was idyllic. "We really love the gracious common spaces a Georgian Revival offers when you walk in the front door," says Molly. The couple wanted the first priority to be maintaining the integrity of the architecture while also making it more livable for their active family of five.

Though the project would be challenging, trying to merge the original home with a new addition, not to mention matching the original brick exterior with the new wing, Molly says the 18-month process was seamless. "Larry Irwin was our superintendent," explains Molly, "and he did a fabulous job on the day to day management." While the ceilings were being replaced with sheetrock, the HVAC and plumbing was



replaced as well, and landscape designer Frank Liggett moved the rose garden from the back yard, which was in the way of the addition. “I was thrilled that Frank was able to create an inviting rose garden in the new space,” says Molly. “It’s our refuge in the spring, summer and fall when the roses are in bloom.”

A designer herself, Molly took to completing the look of their home, calling on her background in fashion (she worked at Ralph Lauren in New York City), as well as her own family. “My three girls are all extremely creative and individual,” she offers. “They provide a lot of inspiration.” Molly continues, saying that she also took inspiration from her favorite designer Kelly Wearstler and fashion designer Lela Rose. “Her style is feminine, yet edgy and cool.” She keeps her textile background close with etches taken right from the Ralph Lauren draft tables, framed and hung as art in various places around the home.

We asked Molly what her go-to fabric and wallpaper lines were and she quickly replied with Osbourn and Little, Cowtan and Tout, Quadrille, Celerie Kemble and Travers. She adds that her favorite way to add a wow factor lies in lighting fixtures, spending a lot of time searching for the perfect unique piece. And though every space has different appeal to her, Molly’s favorite room in the home is the navy lacquered den with the orange couch. “I love to curl







White glass-front upper cabinets with a grid pattern, containing glassware. The cabinets are set against a wall with a light-colored, textured backsplash.

A white-framed window with a view of greenery outside. The window is positioned above the kitchen counter and is flanked by white cabinetry.

A single glass pendant light hanging from the ceiling. The light is spherical and made of clear glass, with a black cord. It is positioned above the island.

A second glass pendant light hanging from the ceiling, identical to the first one. It is positioned to the right of the first light, also above the island.

A white kitchen island with a wooden countertop on top and a marble countertop on the bottom. The island has a built-in bookshelf with colorful books and magazines. The island is positioned in the center of the kitchen.

A clear acrylic bar stool with a chrome metal frame. The stool is positioned at the island, facing the camera.

A second clear acrylic bar stool with a chrome metal frame, identical to the first one. It is positioned at the island, facing the camera.

A stainless steel range hood mounted above the stove. The hood is rectangular and has a brushed metal finish.

A stainless steel kitchen sink with a high-arc faucet. The sink is located on the marble countertop of the island.



A chrome kitchen faucet with a high-arc spout, located on the marble countertop of the island.

A small framed picture and a wooden bowl on the marble countertop of the island, near the sink.

A wooden bowl on the marble countertop of the island, near the sink.

A small decorative object, possibly a teapot or a small figurine, on the marble countertop of the island.

A white door or doorway leading to another room. The door is partially open, and a glimpse of another room is visible.

A small decorative object, possibly a vase or a small figurine, on a surface to the left of the door.

A small decorative object, possibly a vase or a small figurine, on a surface to the left of the door.

A dark wood floor with a polished finish. The floor is visible in the foreground and to the left of the island.







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up on the couch under a blanket and read a book.” Their family of five spends most of their time in the large kitchen, cooking, doing homework and entertaining. “It’s the hub of the house and the grey and white palette provides a soothing appeal amidst the chaos,” shares Molly.

“My advice to anyone decorating their home,” she says, “would be to live in the home before you make any major changes. See how you live, move and feel in the space. Trust your instincts and go for it.” ❖

