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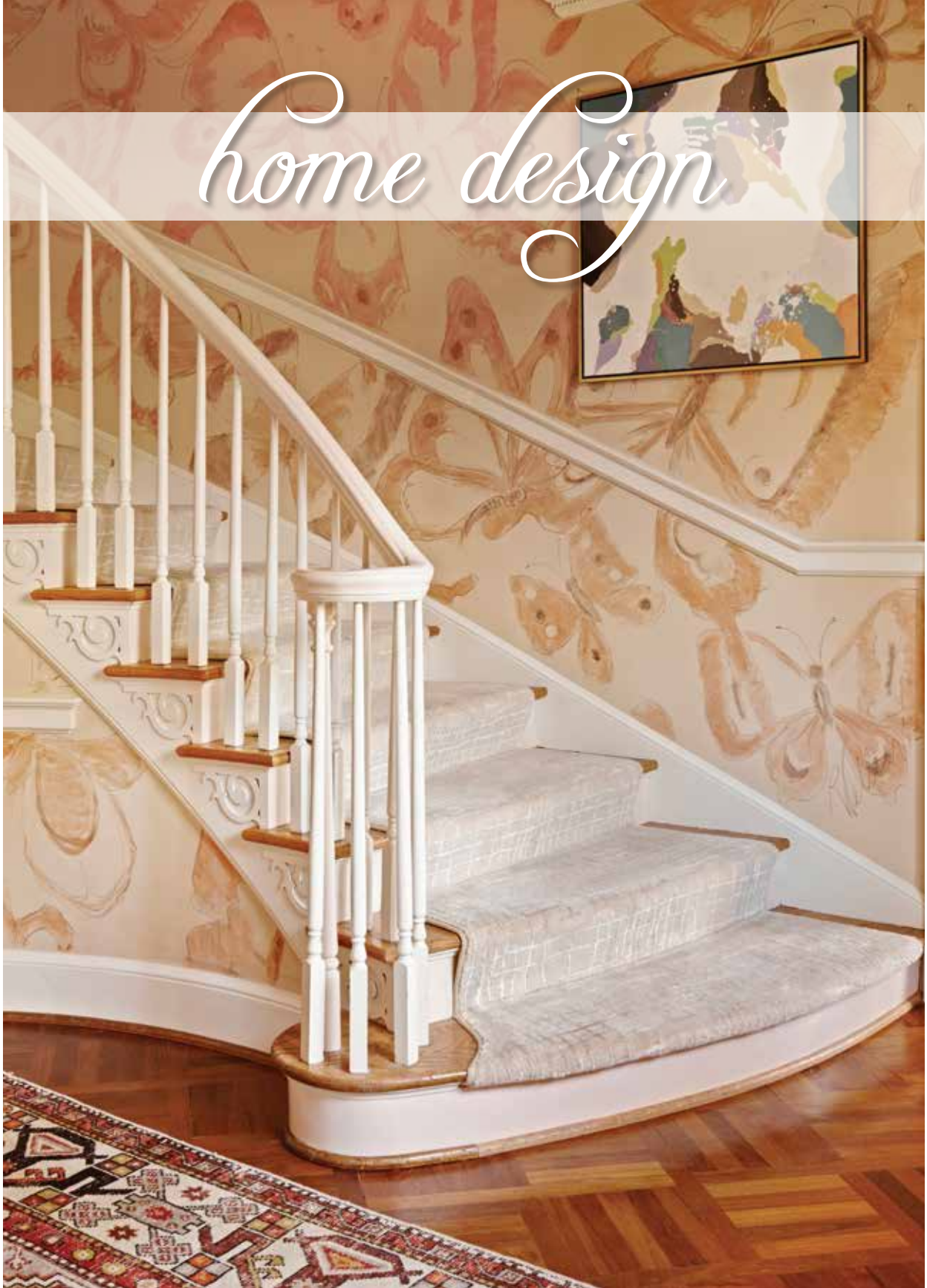
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home design



Sensibly Sylish

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I TRY
TO
BEHAVE

sensibly Stylish

By Dana W. Todd
Photography by Erik Johnson

Overgrown weeds and untrimmed trees were just beginning when it came to the “fixer-upper” aesthetic of this old home in the Historic Glenwood-Brooklyn Neighborhood.





THE RUNDOWN HOUSE, WHILE AUTHENTIC in its 1908 charm, needed homeowners that could see beyond the disarray to its potential. Those homeowners were Chad and Catherine Harrell, who purchased the home when they moved back to North Carolina from London.

“The house was barely inhabitable and had a bad odor,” says Chad. “I guess you can say we weren’t afraid to kiss the frog.”

Besides the practical matter of turning the quadruplex back into a single family home while abiding by North Carolina historic code, the Harrells had two goals. First, they wished to honor the traditional architectural elements while infusing the home with their love of travel. And second, Chad, who builds energy efficient housing on military bases, wished to demonstrate that historic preservation and sustainability could walk hand in hand. He repurposed materials such as brick from an inoperable chimney, which became a wood-burning fireplace

When you look at the interior, however, you quickly forget that sustainability was not the only driving force in this renovation.





on a screened porch, and he gave new life to 200-year-old wooden floor joists as part of a second staircase.

Going beyond repurposing materials, Chad closely followed LEED Platinum sustainability requirements. Now the family's Energy Star rated *historic* home is 78 percent more energy efficient than existing homes in the neighborhood and 48 percent more energy efficient than today's average new construction. It includes a geothermal heat pump, spray foam insulation, sealed attic and crawl space, and energy efficient windows.

When you look at the interior, however, you quickly forget that sustainability was not the only driving force in this renovation. Interior designer and family friend, Lindsay Hair of Lindsay Hair Interiors, incorporated clean, modern lines using enthusiastic, vibrant colors that suit a young family living in a historically preserved home. Since Hair is also a travel aficionado, she enjoyed working in the European elements from the Harrells' previous London flat and even included the Union Jack rug to accessorize their son's bedroom.







“My love of travel keeps my eye scoping a variety of styles, materials and products, but a good home is a home that reflects the people who live there,” says Hair.







“My love of travel keeps my eye scoping a variety of styles, materials and products, but a good home is a home that reflects the people who live there,” says Hair. “My job is to tap into their preferences and combine them with their functional needs to design a home that has interest, fluidity, and most of all the homeowners’ personality.”

She let nothing stand in the way of achieving the Herrells aesthetic wishes, purchasing products from a range of sources. Catherine’s grandmother’s traditional dining table combines easily with the modern resin chairs to make it kid-friendly. Mid-Century mod-inspired side tables and owl lamps, both from Target, make a statement in the playroom. Textiles and fabrics from Maharam, Kravet, Cowtan and Tout, Romo Fabrics, and Samuel and Sons add vibrancy. Even an old gun barrel from Chad’s fighter jet makes a personalized statement as the kitchen island’s footrest.

Hair recommends bringing in a team early in the process for a major renovation project like this one. In addition to using Chad’s real estate expertise, she worked with Greg Paul Builders and architect Meg McLaurin to balance design and sustainability. Together, they earned an Anthemion Award from Capital Area Preservation for historic preservation. ♦



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Family-Centric Design

When Tyler and Amanda Covington bought their sprawling ranch home in High Point, they planned to make it their own with artwork, paint, new flooring and a few minor renovations. They hired interior designer Christi Barbour of Barbour Spangle Design to help.

By Nancy Atkinson
David Clark Photography

CHIRSTI FIRST MET THE COUPLE IN THEIR current home. “In order to do my job well I needed to know a lot about the family – how they live together and what they love,” says Christi. “Homeowners are not always comfortable being completely open and honest, but the more they are, the better the results.”

“At our first meeting, I told Christi I love to cook,” said Amanda. “I am always feeding someone. She also asked if she could look inside my closet.”

But when Christi toured the couple’s new home she quickly discovered that it was not laid out to meet their needs. She knew the narrow galley kitchen and separate den would not work for the family-centric way they wanted to live.

“I told them we could take the home they’d bought as it was now and put their stamp on it with their look and their things,” she said. “Or we could completely renovate the home and create what they’d asked for.”

Having decided this would be their forever home, the couple agreed to renovate. “We only wanted to do this once,” says Amanda. “And we wanted to get it right.”

Design is a Labor of Love

Christi’s vision included moving the kitchen to the much larger den area, and re-envisioning the entire first floor. She collaborated with John Vaughan of B.E. Vaughan and Sons on all the details.

“The driving force was configuring a family-centric home that was easy to entertain in, a wonderful circular living space that is









The driving force was configuring a family-centric home that was easy to entertain in, a wonderful circular living space that is comfortable and reflects their colorful personalities.

Happily Ever After

The home is the result of a successful collaboration between a couple who knows what they like and a designer who invests time in getting to know her clients.

“It takes more time to design a home around its owners, personality and lifestyle – it is more of an investment,” says Christi. “But in the end it is much more rewarding for everyone. When people come into the home they say, ‘This is so Amanda,’ and that is the highest compliment I could receive.”❖







THE WOW FACTOR

Amanda loves details, so Christi incorporated extra attention to detail throughout.

1. Brown on brown. On brown. The sophisticated rich brown study was once the dining room. "Tyler trusted us with his study. And he loves it," says Amanda. Luxe details like the brass coffee table created a masculine meets glam look and offset the dark walls. The built-in cabinets were designed around the antique gun - willed to Tyler by an elderly man he once helped on an elk hunt and framed as a gift by Amanda.

2. The banquette. This family-centric cozy space was inspired by a dinner Christi had with her children, sitting close in a restaurant booth. "I wanted to give Tyler and Amanda opportunity to snuggle with their boys at dinner."

3. The console. "Home is being surrounded by the things you love," says Christi. "Amanda saw this console by Mr. Brown London and fell in love with it, so we placed it in the foyer. Now it brings her joy every day when she walks into her home."

5. The island lamps. "These happened because the eight and a half foot ceilings had me so bummed," says Amanda. "I couldn't put a chandelier in the kitchen and wasn't happy with anything flush mounted. Christi came in with this solution and it was genius. It makes the area cozy but also gives it grandeur."

6. The arches. "All of the design pictures Amanda showed me included arched hallways and doors," says Christi. "We couldn't get all the arches she was asking for, so we framed the dining room with architectural arches and rounded the ceilings in the master bedroom hallway to give her room for the chandeliers she loves."

The photos from this home are from a filming of an episode of the critically acclaimed PBS show, *A Chef's Life*. To see all the photos of this home, the dinner party, plus behind the scenes photos of the filming, please visit www.urbanhomemagazine.com.

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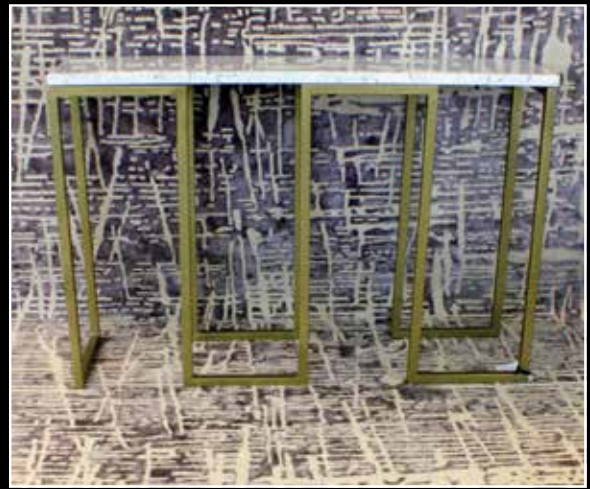


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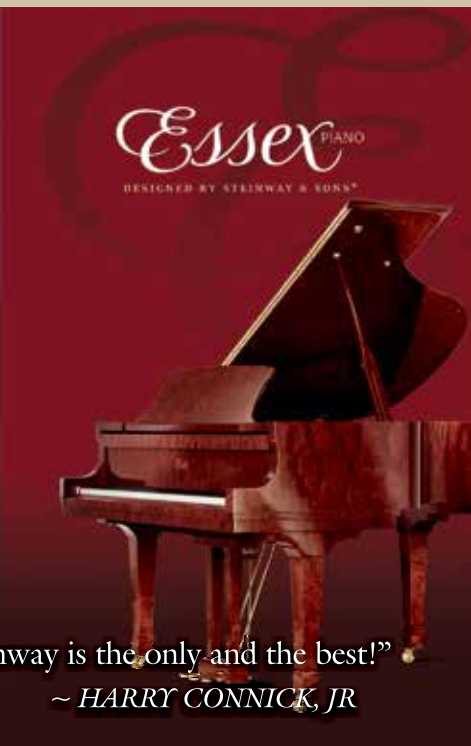
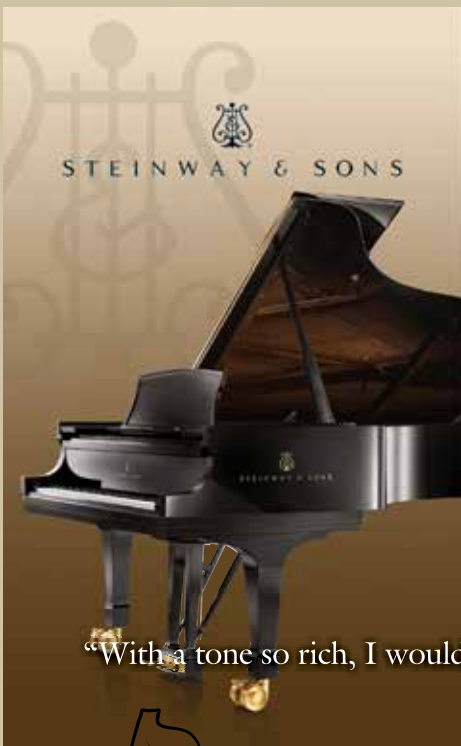
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southern GRACE

By Nancy Atkinson
Photography by Dustin Peck

*“I believe that to be
really modern, you have
to know your history.
It’s authentic. It’s personal.
It’s original.”*

INSPIRED BY HER SOUTHERN ROOTS, INTERIOR designer Gray Walker leans toward tradition but has an eye for many styles. She mixes old and new with confidence, incorporating inherited antiques with bold art and classic glamour for a look that is sophisticated, fresh and far from stuffy.

Gray’s Georgian-style home in Charlotte’s Myers Park neighborhood is a perfect example of her masterful mix. When she found the home – built state-of-the-art in 1967 and in still great condition – she knew her art and antiques were a perfect fit for its rooms.

Her first bold move was commissioning local artist Robin Wellner to create a whimsical oversized butterfly garden in the foyer; Gray’s modern take on a classic motif. “It makes me

happy every day,” she says.

In the master bedroom she covered the walls in an old school floral but softened the room with neutrals and shades of lavender, throwing in mirrored accents and a Lucite and leopard bench.

A touch of leopard in every room is one of Gray’s signature touches to lighten the stuffiness, and in her words, “gives an edge.”

“My bedroom is my favorite room,” she says. “It’s feminine and glamorous. I feel all dressed up even when I’m not.”

Gray describes her design process as “falling in love with one object and decorating around it.” In the master bedroom, it was the Osborne & Little wallpaper she fell for, creating her uplifting lavender room around it.



“I love lavender,” she says, “Which is something I didn’t realize until I moved into this house!”

Though the house was pristine, the kitchen, with its heavy wood paneling, needed an update. Working with kitchen designer Susan Dudley and builder David Brown and his team at Craftsmen Construction, renovated the kitchen with a cleaner, more contemporary look. Mark Bennett of Morgan Landscaping designed a new porch for the back of the house as well as a beautiful new landscape.

Gray’s new kitchen features white cabinets, soapstone and Calcutta marble surfaces and a white leather breakfast banquette. The star of the kitchen is the leather-upholstered waitstaff-style door, an architectural element Gray loves to use in her clients’ homes as well.

“Upholstered doors give a room lots of character,” she says. “The kitchen has a lot of hard surfaces and the door softens things a bit and adds a pop of color. It’s a nice complement to all that stone.”

A touch of leopard in every room is one of Gray’s signature touches to lighten the stuffiness.









“There is lots of promoting, demoting, painting and decorating going on in my house most of the time,” she laughs.

Whether in her own home or her clients’ homes, Gray sees design as an ongoing process. She likes to shake things up so they never seem stale and says maintaining the perfect mix is a balancing act.

“There is lots of promoting, demoting, painting and decorating going on in my house most of the time,” she laughs. “It may only be happening in my brain right now, but it will get done when the mood hits me!”◆

Gray’s Anatomy of Design

- Fall in love with one thing and decorate the room around it.
- Keep your rooms fresh by moving things around. Bring new items in, demote some things and promote others.
- Gray’s definition of good design is not over-decorating a house. Edit and stay on subject.
- Don’t over-accessorize and go for some serious juxtaposition.
- Keep a style notebook. Fill it with images you love and jot down your thoughts on why you like them.
- Add mirrors to the backs of bookshelves in an older house. It’s an unexpected touch that makes the room feel lighter.

