

Charlotte

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HOME

DESIGN & DECOR®

*Kitchen
& Bath*



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MOUNTAIN
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WHAT'S
COOKING:
DESIGNERS'
GO-TO TRENDS

TIMELESS APPEAL

TWO DESIGNING WOMEN
TRANSFORM A SHOWHOUSE INTO A
FORT MILL SHOWSTOPPER.

Top-of-the-line kitchen appliances keep the look sleek and tailored. The Dura Supreme Silverton cabinets in a lovely shade of latte are by Walker Woodworking. Antique brass fixtures are by Newport Brass with cabinet hardware by Restoration Hardware.





Working at home might be preferred in this handsome study. Custom-built cabinetry painted Outerspace by Sherwin-Williams creates a large focal point. The Homer desk is by Vanguard Furniture.

Opposite: Crisp white wainscoting adds a welcoming touch and is the perfect way to style the expansive walls of a two-story foyer. A plush, low-profile upholstered bench from Lee Industries wows in Botswana Onyx animal print fabric.



Who doesn't love when a chance meeting leads to an amazing creative collaboration? In this case, it was a festive street party less than two years ago at the *Southern Living* Home Summit in New Orleans that brought together Cary, North Carolina-based designer Vicky Serany, founder and principal of Southern Studio Interior Design, and custom home builder Mary Ludemann of New Old. "We immediately connected and spent the evening discussing building and design as we followed a band marching through the French Quarter," Serany recalls with a smile.

Fast forward to the fall of 2018, and the pair were in Fort Mill, South Carolina, along with Ludemann's husband and business partner, Troy, visiting the site and reviewing plans for what would become The Bramble, Charlotte area's first *Southern Living* Inspired Community, and the 4,200-square-foot Burnham show home. "Troy is a developer and had been wanting to do an intimate, high-end development for some time, he had just been waiting for the right location to come along," Ludemann says.

Both firms are known for their casually sophisticated, livable designs. Their goal in this home was to push the limits of design and

showcase some new ideas while still creating realistic spaces. "Our buyers want right-sized rooms, not a bunch of cavernous spaces," Ludemann says. "They want each room to be thoughtfully planned for the type of living that will go on in that space."

One look at the result and it's clear that this team—with an assist from dozens of participating artisans and vendors—hit the sweet spot of what gracious living and entertaining in the South looks and feels like heading into the next decade: luxe functionality. While the ubiquitous modern farmhouse remains popular, it is quickly evolving and incorporating other architectural styles like craftsman and European.

Buyers still request shiplap, but here it's mixed with bold stone accent walls and modern geometric-print wallcoverings. There's also less gray and more jewel tones—a trend Serany predicted last year. "We used a warm textural palette with the added drama of the emerald-green color in the main living areas. We saw a lot of emerald green during our visit to the furniture market in High Point and decided it was time to bring this fresh perspective to life," Serany says.

The key starting point was a fabric by Thibaut called Mitford—a lively combination of greens, black, and cream that was used for the window treatments and worked to bring nature



indoors. Wallcoverings in smaller spaces like the pantry, laundry, and powder room complement this bold pattern. A pair of swoon-worthy emerald-green velvet sofas by Lee Industries anchor the living room, while a soaring stone wall crafted of thin-cut Tennessee Fieldstone by General Shale serves as the perfect backdrop for a conversation around the fireplace.

An open floor plan means all eyes can focus on the dramatic kitchen and its eight-foot-wide custom matte, black metal hood with bronze strapping. Serany's Southern Studio team designed the range wall, and New Old enlisted Modern-

Aire Ventilating to fabricate it. "It took eight men to lift and install the hood, and let's just say it was nail-biting to watch," Serany admits. The black and antique brass finishes extend to the lighting, fixtures, and hardware. The island, combining custom cabinetry by Walker Woodworking and a waterfall countertop of hand-cut honed Bianco Avion marble, provides plenty of prep space and comfortable seating. Black cowhide counter stools bring in rich texture. Two oversized Hollis Lanterns by Hudson Valley Lighting tie the space together, while a backsplash of white arabesque-patterned tile adds shine and pattern.



Just off the kitchen is every well-appointed home's best-kept secret: a scullery. A British staple made famous by shows like *Downton Abbey*, this workhorse is making a twenty-first-century comeback. Large windows and light countertops by Silestone keep it bright, while the cozy feel comes from the stone-to-ceiling backsplash, graphite-toned cabinetry, and black and white porcelain flooring by Tile Collection. A twenty-four-inch under-counter beverage center by Sub-Zero frees up space in the main kitchen, and a thirty-inch Whitehaven Farmhouse sink by Kohler handles any party cleanup and other behind-the-scenes tasks. Custom shelving in the walk-in pantry, designed by

Left: The reclaimed wood Life Table from The Old Wood Co. features hand-forged metal branches as the base. "We love a round table for easy conversation," designer Vicky Serany says. A long console ingeniously nests two smaller tables on wheels that can be moved anywhere in the room for additional serving and entertaining. The Petal mirror by Regina Andrew is paired with vintage green plates for a fun, informal wall design. *Right:* Vaulted ceilings, natural light, and a thin six-arm Sawyer Chandelier by Hudson Valley lend an airy feel to the living room. The full stone wall—in lieu of brick—gives the room showstopper status. The limestone cast fireplace surround is by The Precast Lady, and the firebox is by Isokern.





IMPACT Design Resources and stocked by Williams Sonoma, surprises with hanging storage space for kitchen linens, while the laundry room incorporates a built-in dog bed underneath a handy desk that doubles as a folding station.

In the master bath, more beautiful details abound, seamlessly blending old and new. A shapely, freestanding soaking tub gets a vintage vibe when paired with a floor-mount tub filler in champagne bronze. A combination of shiplap and gleaming white tile on the walls and shower extends to the ceiling and provides interest and texture

Opposite: Baker Weave wallcovering by Thibaut adds just the right hint of green to the powder room, while Venetian Bronze fixtures from Brizo pair beautifully with the extra-wide vanity from Restoration Hardware and luxe white countertop by Silestone in Classic Calacatta in a suede finish.

Top Left: The scullery stuns with its mix of textures and bold flooring. A smaller Whitehaven farmhouse sink by Kohler echoes a larger one in the main kitchen. A champagne-bronze Trinsic faucet by Delta ties in with aged brass cabinet hardware from Restoration Hardware. Sculptural artwork and a painting add color and play off the glass bottles throughout the home.

Top Right: The mudroom proves that a much-used space can be both functional and uncluttered, with an assist from a custom sawn-oak storage bench and floating shelves in a Rubio Havanna finish by Walker Woodworking. The cushion fabric, Parada by Thibaut, perfectly pulls in the black and green accent colors.

Bottom Left: A cheery laundry room is always on trend, especially with this fun Hillcock wallcovering by Thibaut. The black and white tile—Palazzo Deco Florentina in Castle Graphite from Tile Collection—continues from the mudroom and scullery. The washer and dryer are by Electrolux.





without a lot of color. The charcoal-hued porcelain tile flooring offers a rich contrast. Serany found the wooden chair, which doubles as a towel holder, during a recent shopping trip to the Brimfield, Massachusetts Antique Flea Market.

An upstairs guest bath stuns with its sleek pharmacy-style black vanity by Restoration Hardware and a striking abstract wallcovering called Metal Stars by abstract artist Windy O'Connor. Her original pattern continues into the bedroom on textiles for pillows and window treatments.

It's details like these that are meant to inspire, yet still be accessible—things people can take away and incorporate into their own homes. "This home is a style that begs for you to take your shoes off, come in, and enjoy. I think people really like the juxtaposition of the space," Ludemann says. "Kind of like the oxymoron of New Old—it's the balance achieved in the differences." ♦

Opposite: This modern-glam guest bathroom beckons you to come in and take a closer look. The whimsical textile pattern Metal Stars, created by artist Windy O'Connor, influenced the adjacent guest bedroom design as well.

Above: A tranquil guest bedroom painted Silver Strand by Sherwin-Williams takes its color cues from the adjoining bath with pillows and window treatments in fabric designed by abstract artist Windy O'Connor. The bedding is from Pine Cone Hill.