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JUNE/JULY 2020

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PRETTY THINGS

ONE FOXCROFT HOMEOWNER'S PENCHANT FOR PRETTY THINGS HAS CREATED A HOME THAT'S COLORFUL, CASUAL, AND ONE-OF-A-KIND.



INTERIOR DESIGN BY **GRAY WALKER** | TEXT BY **ANNE MARIE ASHLEY** | PHOTOGRAPHY BY **BRIE WILLIAMS**

In the family room, the homeowner's antiques dot the room along with more modern and comfortable fabrics. A sectional from CR Laine is the centerpiece, while a triptych art piece from SOZO Gallery anchors the space.



In the dining room, Walker selected a tropical Fromental mural in navy and gold for a dramatic yet classic effect. The round dining table is by Randolph & Hein and the chairs are by Artistic Frame.





LEFT: A bright blue Julia Buckingham chair for Global Views greets guests in the otherwise neutral foyer; the homeowner's antique mirror hangs just beside.

When longtime friends approached Gray Walker to help them design their new custom home, she didn't hesitate to jump right in. Though she had designed for them before, an opportunity to design a home from soup to nuts doesn't come along every day, and to celebrate the journey with friends was icing on the cake.

After looking for a few years to find the perfect home, a neighbor of Walker's clients suggested they look at

one of his properties in Foxcroft—a wonderful lot with a teardown just waiting for a custom home. Their neighbor also happened to be residential contractor Vernon Knight, so her clients scooped up the lot and gave Walker a call. Upon securing Greg Perry as their architect, the team worked together over the next two years to create the ideal home for the family.

“My clients were excited to create a home with an open floor plan full of large windows but also wanted to keep the formal spaces traditional,” Walker explains. The homeowner adds,



The homeowners' antiques are peppered throughout the living room, including the bergère chair in Osborne & Little leopard velvet. A CR Laine ottoman serves as a coffee table, and a pair of Charles Stewart sofas in Designers Guild velvet face each other for intimate conversation.

“We really wanted our home to be warm and inviting but also elegant and full of the heirlooms I love.” A third-generation native Charlottean, the homeowner had many antique pieces that had been passed down through the years. “I’ve always loved pretty things, from dressing to decorating, and I just wanted that to drip into my home. But in a livable way,” she says.

Walker began by helping her clients pick finishes, architectural elements, fixtures, and paint—along with the hundreds of other choices that come with building a custom home. “It was overwhelming,” the homeowner recalls. “But

Gray was amazing. She has incredible taste and spent hours upon hours with me choosing the right pieces. I mean hours.”

The goal was one that Walker is familiar with—partly because it’s kind of her specialty—mixing old with new, modern with antique. “Gray nailed it, down to the placement of each piece of furniture,” the homeowner says. They used the architect’s blueprints and measured each piece of furniture to make sure it would fit and adjusted the architecture as necessary. “She was thoughtful about what was important to me.”



The powder room is taken to a whole new level with hand-painted walls by local artist Lana Rubwright. The vintage mirror is the homeowner's, and the sconces are by Ro Sham Beaux.

A pair of Michael Clément lamps from Darnell & Company flank the range in the kitchen, surrounded underneath by countertops from Walker Zanger.

“IT COMPLETELY ENVELOPS YOU
AND TAKES YOU ON A LITTLE
JOURNEY TO A HAPPY PLACE.”

—GRAY WALKER





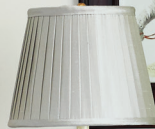
In the breakfast area, a vintage chandelier believed to be by Mario Villa from Darnell & Company hangs above the Tritter Feefer table and CR Laine chairs. The painting is by Paul Yanko.

“I call my client’s style ‘classic, with guts,’” Walker says. “She grew up in a home full of antiques. Her parents loved art and design, and I think once you have that foundation as a child, you have a connection and appreciation for those things as an adult. They make you feel grounded and at home.”

With this in mind, Walker’s clients wanted to push the envelope in their new home by creating large neutral living spaces with pops of color and thoughtful placement of their antiques. “When you place an insane antique next to modern upholstery with neutral walls and black-and-white photography, like in her family room, it becomes instantly chic,” Walker points out.

To really kick-start the design portion of the project, Walker took her client to the Atlanta Decorative Arts Center, where they spent their time looking for truly unique pieces. “We had so much fun at ADAC,” the homeowner says. “I think it’s important for people to fill their homes with things that speak to who they are. My home really just feels like me.”

There’s perhaps no better example of the client’s personal touch and Walker’s ability to mix styles than the dining room—a favorite room for both. “My mother’s favorite color was navy blue,” the homeowner says. “She wore it all the time, and she also loved to entertain. So I knew I wanted my dining



SUZANNE KASLER TIMELESS STYLE



The master bedroom is a respite with its neutral yet feminine palette. The rug is a vintage Moroccan. The swing-arm lamps are by Visual Comfort, and the mirror is by Made Goods.

TOP: In the master bath, the Schumacher drapes offer some privacy as well as interest, while the sconces by Visual Comfort add the understated touch of light.

BOTTOM: On the covered patio, all of the fabrics are by Perennials, and the wire chair is from Palecek. The custom-sized ottoman by vanCollier is the ideal perch for food or drinks while relaxing by the fire.



room to be navy blue to honor my mom. We installed this gorgeous hand-painted wallpaper in navy and gold, and I know my mom was looking down with love and pride.” She adds that Walker may have had to talk her into the gold ceiling, as she had a hard time wrapping her mind around how it would look. “But, my goodness, it’s the finishing touch on an incredible and meaningful room.”

“The dining room takes my breath away,” Walker adds. “It completely envelops you and takes you on a little journey to a happy place. It has to be one of the most dramatic rooms I’ve ever created.”

Walker worked with many pieces from the homeowner’s own collection but also purchased all new sofas and some custom pieces. Most rooms have a neutral foundation, but a few, like the dining room, the bar/scullery, and the office, serve as colorful transitions to an otherwise stylish but understated home. Small pops of color appear throughout, reminding you that the homeowner enjoys pretty things, is casual but fun, and loves to entertain—just like her mother. “My love for entertaining definitely influences the flow and welcoming elements,” she says. “I wanted it to be casual and inviting, but I did also want some wow factors designed to impress.” A feat easily accomplished by Walker.

“I really haven’t added anything to Gray’s design; it was so perfectly filled in for me. I have a few spaces that need an item, but I am happy to let them go empty until I find the perfect item,” the homeowner says. “I still want this house to be a reflection of who I am.” ♦

