

Triangle

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HOME

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Big Fun

WHEN A FAMILY WANTED PATTERN AND PLAY IN A GROWN-UP WAY, THEY CALLED ON DESIGNER LINDSAY SPEACE TO MAKE IT HAPPEN.

INTERIOR DESIGN
BY **LINDSAY SPEACE**
TEXT BY **ANNE
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Architect George Watts Carr left behind the original brick wall in the kitchen, lending a truly unique vibe to the room. The appliances are from Blue Star, and the fixtures from Newport Brass are a statement in and of themselves.





When interior designer Lindsay Speace received an email from her new clients, she knew it would be a fun and special project. Her clients explained that their “current home is a wild and somewhat wacky mixture of . . . oh hell, everything. We need our next house to be a ‘grown-up’ house, if you will, but also one that captures our spirit.”

A family of five, going on six, Speace’s clients needed a larger home to accommodate their growing family. Happily, the perfect home became available just down the street from their current Hope Valley home. It was a beautiful brick Georgian designed by prominent Durham architect George Watts Carr. “The house was in beautiful condition with well-proportioned rooms, but renovations were required to accomplish everything on the clients’ wish list and to modernize it for a young family of six,”

A bold blue custom vent hood brings playful energy to the kitchen space. Roman shades and seat cushions are covered in Sister Parish fabric. **OPPOSITE:** In the dining room, boldness is invited to dinner. Art by Theresa Disney takes center stage in red, while the trim is painted pure black. The table and chairs belong to the homeowner and the lighting is from Noir.






TOP: The original set of blueprints from architect George Watts Carr, which Speace framed in burl wood and hung above the living room couch, serve as a reminder of the beautiful home the family has found. A roll-arm sofa is covered in Lee Industries upholstery, and lamps from Visual Comfort shake things up.

BOTTOM: A red lantern chandelier from Coleen and Company greets guests heartily in the foyer, perfectly complementing a painting from the client's personal collection.

OPPOSITE: The window treatments in the living room, designed in Ferrick Mason fabric, speak for themselves. Art by Stephanie Henderson draws the eye, and a Lucite console from CB2 might be missed if it weren't for the interesting storage ottoman from One Kings Lane flanking the edge.





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—LINDSAY SPEACE





LEFT: Guests using the powder room get a friendly reminder that Durham is the home of Lucky Strike and the Durham Bulls with a classic, but original, black-and-white printed window treatment from Spoonflower. It pairs perfectly with an antique mirror and a sconce from Visual Comfort.

OPPOSITE: The book nook at the top of the stairs was a must for these former publishers. Speace added window treatments made from Schumacher fabric with Samuel & Sons trim, matching the Schumacher wallpaper to a tee. The window seat cushion from Robert Allen brings the room to center and is a perfect place to perch while reading a favorite.

Speace explains. The home was on a generously sized lot and the original owner, who built the house in the 1960s, had lovingly cared for it since.

For the renovation, they started by adding a shed dormer off the back of the house to allow for a large playroom and a sixth bedroom and bathroom for their eldest child. The kitchen, master bedroom, and master bath were also renovated, with a large closet added to the master suite. “Formerly from the children’s book publishing world, a book nook at the top of the stairs was an important addition for the parents and a place for the family to read together,” Speace adds.

An enclosed breezeway was added to connect the main house to the existing carport, which became a screened porch complete with a drop-down projector screen for movie nights. A separate garage was added, which houses a gym and batting cage on the lower level. With the proper additions made, it was time to create a space that made the family feel like they’d lived there all along.





“When the homeowner’s reached out to me, they actually described their current home as looking like it was decorated by Tom Hanks’s character in the movie *Big*, but in a good way,” Speace laughs. She said that they wanted the new house to be more traditional, but that they really wanted to integrate both styles into one home. “They have such a joyful, irreverent sense of style, and I wanted to infuse their home with that same spirit but in an elevated way,” Speace says.

Wanting to keep the integrity of the architecture and the history of the home intact, Speace designed the rooms with that in mind as she melded the new family’s modern and fun vibe with the Georgian construction. In the living room, Speace selected a traditional English roll-arm sofa upholstered in an aqua fabric and placed it alongside a tufted chartreuse velvet sofa on a brass cantilevered frame. “I love the tension of traditional and modern,” she says. “In the entry and stairwell, I employed a more traditional design and covered the walls and windows in the same fabric but in a modern deconstructed stripe by Miles Redd for Schumacher.”

When it came to knowing what her clients wanted in their home, Speace did what she always does—she took inventory of her clients’ current possessions. “I like to get a sense of what is meaningful to them—their art, collections, inherited antiques or heirlooms. It really helps me get a sense of their style,” Speace says. From there, she pulled fabrics that she felt spoke to her clients’ style. “For these clients, I chose pieces with big personality. Things that were a little wonky. Color palettes that were almost Dr. Seuss-like,” she says.

One piece of inspiration came from the original owner of the home, in fact. “The homeowners inherited the original George Watts Carr blueprints for the home,” Speace

ABOVE: The boy’s bathroom is playful with wallpaper from Spoonflower. Blue-and-white subway tile from Byrd Tile adds a classic look.

OPPOSITE: The guest bath is inviting and calm. The silver mirror from West Elm adds a touch of glamour, and the sconce from Visual Comfort remains classic. A peek into the hallway reveals a hand-painted custom stenciled wall.

says. “The blue was so vivid, it seemed like the perfect jumping-off point for the living room. I had them framed in handsome burl-wood frames and hung them in a grid above the sofa.”

In the kitchen, Speace focused on some unique details. A salvaged vent hood from a North Carolina mill was retrofitted and painted to match the BlueStar cobalt-blue range. The double basin soapstone sink was designed to anchor the island and “is as functional for a family of six as it is beautiful,” Speace says. She adds that the brick wall was original to the home and a hallmark of George Watts Carr’s design. This is one of her favorite rooms in the home.

Speace says that she likes to try to incorporate new vendors in each of her projects. For this project, she used wallpaper from Flat Vernacular, fabric from Ferrick Mason, Sister Parish, and Wayne Pate, and a Durham-themed fabric from local printer Spoonflower. “My aesthetic is always evolving, but rooted in a love of color, art, and beautiful fabrics,” Speace explains. “Each project brings new influences and inspiration driven by my clients. I love that I get to be a bit of a chameleon and design in a variety of different styles and interpret each client’s aesthetic through my lens.” ♦



RIGHT: In the girl’s bathroom, cheerful yellow penny tile from Byrd Tile dots the floor, and groovy floral wallpaper from Flat Vernacular adds a young and vibrant touch. The sconce from Stray Dog Designs offers more whimsy.

OPPOSITE: The quintessential boys room covers all bases, from stuffed hamburgers to Ewok prints, provided by the homeowner. The matching bed and nightstand from Pottery Barn Kids are offered in never-out-of-style gray.

