

Triangle

DECEMBER 2021

# HOME

DESIGN & DECOR

## GREAT GATHERINGS

**PLUS:**  
THE ULTIMATE  
GIFT GUIDE

A LITTLE BIT OF MAGIC:  
WHEN DINING &  
DESIGN MEET



Applegate designed the living room around the Osborne & Little drapery fabric with Samuel & Sons trim detail. The love seat is the homeowners' existing piece. The paint color is Benjamin Moore Melted Ice Cream.



# COMING HOME

AFTER SEARCHING FOR A HOME, A YOUNG COUPLE  
DECIDES THAT THEIR CURRENT RESIDENCE IS  
EXACTLY WHERE THEY WANT TO BE.

In lieu of a kitchen renovation, the homeowners built an addition, making the kitchen a large, seamless space for gathering. The homeowners fell in love with Mizzle by Farrow & Ball, which became the color for the custom cabinetry and complements the Carrara honed-marble counters. **OPPOSITE:** The dining room is a pass-through space, so Applegate wanted it to remain somewhat neutral in its design. She achieved this with textured wallpaper by Cowtan & Tout, a rug from Eatman's Carpets and Interiors, and dining-chair fabric by Kathryn Ireland. The chandelier is by Visual Comfort.





WHEN ANNA APPLGATE'S CLIENTS first moved into their Chapel Hill home, they knew that at some point they would either want to renovate or move elsewhere. "We always had these ideas and dreams of eventually renovating and expanding the home," says the homeowner. "In 2013, when we first moved in, we had a four-week-old baby, so we did what we needed to do in order to settle in quickly and comfortably. We only made a few changes to make it our own."

But as their family grew from three to five, they quickly began to feel the restraints of a smaller home. In 2018, the couple started looking for other places with more square footage and bedrooms to accommodate their larger family. But as they continued to search for that perfect home, their heart kept bringing them back to where they had lived for the last five years. "We searched and searched, and nothing ever felt right to us," she says. "Everything brought us back to our home."

So the couple began researching architects, builders, and designers who could bring to fruition their dreams of a larger, more updated space that better suited their personal styles. They enlisted architect Jim Spencer and builder Alex Sayre with Argyle Building Company to renovate their family home. It wasn't until the homeowner toured her friend's home that she found Applegate. "Between looking at my friend's space and browsing through Anna's website, I could tell she really tailored her interior designs to the individual," she says. "It wasn't Anna's stamp all over each project. You could see she took each homeowner's likes and dislikes to create a personalized style." Above all, though, the homeowners loved Applegate's seamless coupling of vintage with more modern pieces—something they wanted in their new interiors.



The library, or "chatting room," as the homeowners' son calls it, features an all-over bold dose of color in Farrow & Ball Hague Blue. The lighting is by Visual Comfort, and the antique trunk and pair of chairs are from the homeowners' existing collection.

**LEFT:** The jewel-box powder room was the perfect place to add a bold-patterned Pierre Frey wallpaper coupled with kelly green paneling. To soften the color and pattern, Applegate installed a traditional vanity from Wilkinson Supply Company and sconces from Visual Comfort.

**RIGHT:** To add interest to the foyer, Applegate installed the stair runner by Stanton, which adds a dose of color and texture. The Union Camp Collective lamp features a patterned shade by Bunny Williams Home.



Applegate worked with Spencer and Sayre from the beginning, redesigning the layout of the home, reworking spaces to modernize it, and creating gathering spaces for the family of five, while also renovating high traffic areas such as the kitchen. A primary bedroom en suite addition was introduced to the footprint, while a mudroom, bonus room, basement, and powder room were added, as well. “There really wasn’t a part of the home that went untouched,” says Applegate.

With the renovation complete, Applegate worked closely with the homeowners to install an interior design scheme that was classic, clean, and ultimately kid-friendly. “We definitely didn’t want anything to feel too stark,” says the homeowner. “We wanted everything to be livable and comfortable for our young family, and most definitely not too precious.” Applegate’s intuitive knack for creating a seamless aesthetic that marries timeless design with livability was put into high gear when she began working on the home. “The homeowner has such great, classic taste,” she says. “We always wanted to stay true to the age and type of the home, so I strived for a traditional look with

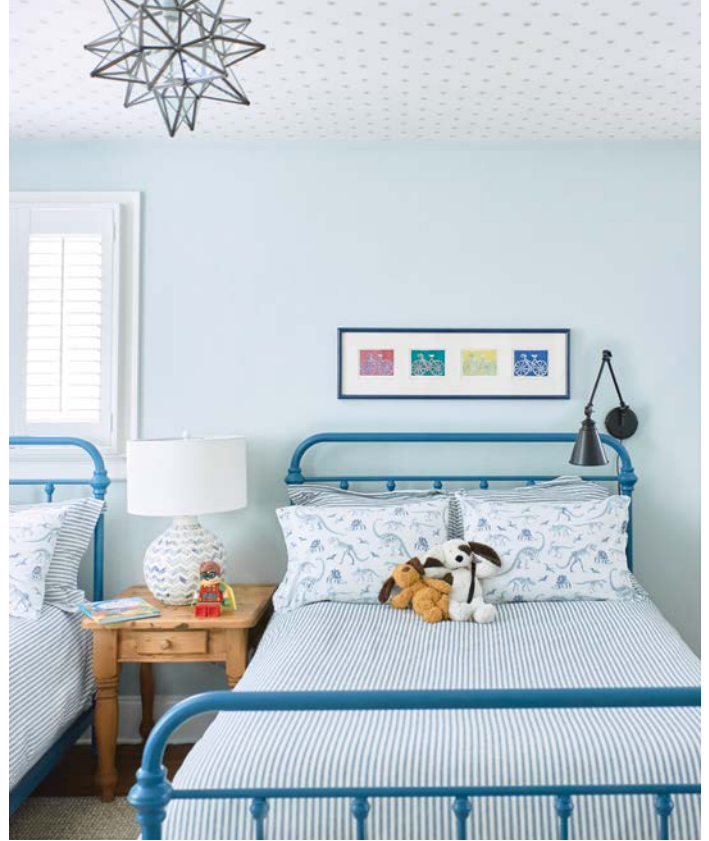
a youthful twist. She was so fun to work with because she was up for some fun and color, so that’s what we went with—interjecting a lot of color and personality into the home. It’s important to me to design spaces that are not only beautiful but also functional and practical, where families can live and gather together and not worry about messing things up.”

Using color, traditional design elements, and functionality as the springboard for her design, Applegate pulled from her client’s existing pieces along with newer items to weave together just the right aesthetic. “I think it’s a fun challenge when there’s existing furniture or artwork that the client loves and wants to work into a room,” she says. “I love how it feels like a completely different space, but also brings with it personality and a history with some of these pieces.” Such was the case with the homeowner’s existing dining room table. Her clients enjoy hosting family dinners and holidays, so “we weren’t going to get rid of that,” laughs Applegate. “Adding in pieces like the dining table is part of making the house their home. It brings some soul into the home. I don’t ever want to do a project where everything is brand new.”

Applegate designed the primary suite as a soothing, relaxing retreat with the addition of the four-poster bed by RH, the bedside table by Woodbridge Furniture, sconces by Visual Comfort, and bed linens by John Robshaw and RH. Applegate scored the artwork at Antique & Design Center of High Point.







**TOP LEFT:** Applegate designed the mudroom with colorful custom cabinets by Kitchen & Bath Galleries. She added a laundry room sink from Rejuvenation, accenting with black-and-white tile from Byrd Tile Distributors and butterfly artwork from Antique & Design Center of High Point.

**TOP RIGHT:** Formerly the primary suite, Applegate transformed the space for the homeowners' son. The room features a pair of twin beds from the homeowners' existing collection. Pottery Barn bedding complements the Schumacher wallpapered ceiling and the blue walls painted in Skylight by Farrow & Ball. The bedside table is from Hunt & Gather.

**BOTTOM:** The family of five gathers in the family room for TV time and relaxing. The sectional by Century Cornerstone is from A. Hoke Ltd. Applegate added the antique coffee table and comfy chair by TCS Designs, Inc. swathed in a durable but sophisticated Peter Dunham fabric.



In the living room, she took a similar approach by incorporating two stunning traditional settees, which were the inspiration for the rest of the room's design. Now the homeowners can entertain seamlessly outside of the family room and kitchen. New Osborne & Little draperies coupled with the Benjamin Moore Melted Ice Cream paint injected color into the once-neutral space. "Now the room feels completely different; much more colorful and bright," Applegate says. "Between the two, the husband and wife had some really great family pieces, photos, and artwork, all a reflection of their lives, their families, and their personalities."

For the homeowners, working with Applegate was a delightful experience, one that they feel made the entire process well worth the many months it took to complete. "We really had this great mutual respect with Anna; a give and take when it came to the design," says the homeowner. "She would bring these great ideas to the table, and so would we. She was open to our ideas and we were open and appreciative of hers. It truly was a partnership. And you can tell because everything looks so beautiful." ♦