

Triangle

OCTOBER 2022

HOMIE

DESIGN & DECOR®



DESIGNERS
at HOME

PLUS:
FUNKY FRESH
EXCLUSIVE
CHARLOTTE
LUCAS FOR
MODERN
MATTER

HAPPY

ACCIDENT

VICTORIA AND MARCUS FORD
GIVE THEIR 1970S DUTCH
COLONIAL NEW LIFE WITH
A TOTAL MAKEOVER AND
VINTAGE TOUCHES.

TEXT BY BLAKE MILLER
PHOTOGRAPHY BY CATHERINE NGUYEN





The couple's go-to carpenter, Joenate, Inc., brought the Fords' vision for the fireplace to life by reimagining the wood surround, adding open shelves and striking floor-to-ceiling firewood nooks.



VICTORIA FORD says buying her current home was a complete accident. “We were looking for a beach home but couldn’t find anything,” says Ford. “We had zero intention of buying anything locally. Our previous home fit us perfectly; it was a small, saltbox Cape Cod cottage and over time we infused it with our personality. But when we saw this home, our gut told us to buy it.”

The Dutch Colonial home in Cary was an impulse purchase for Ford and her husband, Marcus, and they fully embraced it. The property oozed with personality and character, and despite having very few updates since its construction almost fifty years prior, the couple was smitten. “With a little bit of paint and wallpaper, we knew we could clean it up,” she says.

Linoleum floors, nondescript kitchen cabinetry, brass lighting, and layers upon layers of wallpaper—much of it an eyesore—did not deter the designer. In fact, Ford was even more drawn to the home after seeing its bones. “I’m a bit of a traditionalist,” she says. “I like to honor the home as it is.” That included preserving the home’s original footprint and existing 1970s kitchen.



Ford maximized space in the breakfast nook by adding an L-shaped bench. The beadboard on the walls and shiplap on the ceiling are a nod to the subtle Colonial and nautical aesthetic that runs throughout the home. **OPPOSITE:** The Fords love DIY and renovation projects, so tackling their own home was one of their favorite tasks.





OPPOSITE: The kitchen was gutted down to its studs and replaced with a modern-day workspace that aligns with the home's original 1970s character. Two walls of Shaker-front custom cabinets by StarMark Cabinetry coupled with an unlacquered bridge faucet with a fluted apron-front sink achieve the look.

LEFT: In the foyer, the wallpaper by Rifle Paper Co. is the perfect introduction to the home, says Ford. The complementary green pairs well with colors in the nearby dining room.

"It's a rare day that I rip out a wall." But even Ford could see that not every original aspect of the home would work for modern twenty-first-century living.

The couple, self-described DIYers, moved the laundry room from the kitchen to the upstairs guest bedroom and created a pantry instead. That guest bedroom was split in half—one side for the laundry room and the other for Ford's home office. "The original laundry room made perfect sense in the 1970s," says Ford. "But for the way we live our lives today, it was ridiculous."

Then the real work began: a complete gut renovation of the kitchen. "We wanted it to feel very much true to the house," says Ford. She removed the original peninsula island, which instantly opened up the space, and in its place, installed a freestanding butcher block-topped table that she found on Facebook Marketplace.

By the window, a built-in bench with extra storage created a cozy dining nook. In keeping with an aesthetic that aligned with the home's original architecture, Ford added a shiplap

ceiling painted in a traditional Southern haint blue and used beadboard for the backsplash. Two walls of Shaker-front custom cabinets by StarMark Cabinetry coupled with an unlacquered bridge faucet with a fluted apron-front sink instantly updated the kitchen while also giving it character.

The rest of the home, though, remained much the same with very few architectural changes. "I wanted the home mostly to feel lived in," she explains. "You don't want a home to always feel photo ready. You want someone to come over and feel comfortable here. We wanted it to feel like that for ourselves, too."

For Ford, that meant infusing the home with warm, Colonial-inspired colors and furnishings. The couple's go-to carpenter, Joenate, Inc., gave the family room's existing bold blue wall and red-brick fireplace a modern makeover with a wood surround and built-in shelves painted in soothing Endless Sea by Sherwin-Williams in a semi-gloss finish. Staying true to the home's character, the couple kept the original popcorn ceiling detail but painted it with a fresh coat



In the guest room, the art pieces above the bed are replicas of historic Black ABC flash cards designed in Chicago.





of white paint to brighten the room. “Rugs instantly warm up a space,” says Ford, who layered one atop a jute rug for extra interest in the space.

The Fords love to scour the area for vintage finds and antiques that—like their home—boast inherent character. Their most coveted find is the living room’s perfectly worn leather Chesterfield sofa, which she found on Facebook Marketplace. In fact, much of the home is a curated collection of vintage and found objects and accessories, all of which, says Ford, add to the personality of their home. The console sink in the powder room was a score from a visit to Delaware and the dining room chairs were found on Craigslist. To balance the old with the new, Ford seamlessly weaves modern touches throughout the home, as she did in the dining room with the grasscloth wallcovering by Rifle Paper Co.

The couple has been through several renovations and makeovers with other homes and projects, each one fulfilling in its own way. And their personal home is no different—a work in progress over the last two years as they slowly infuse their own style and personality while preserving the home’s innate charm and character. “It’s been a long process, but it’s been completely worth it,” says Ford. “We love this home.” ♦



ABOVE: The Fords reconfigured the primary bathroom to allow for a pair of his-and-her vanities by Keller Mahogany, purchased from Signature Hardware and affixed with ribbed hardware. For a touch of nostalgia, the couple added four-inch basalt and calcite hexagon flooring by Fireclay Tile.

TOP LEFT: Ford covered the walls in a playful Sara Fitz wallpaper to complement the black-and-white checkered tile by Fireclay Tile.