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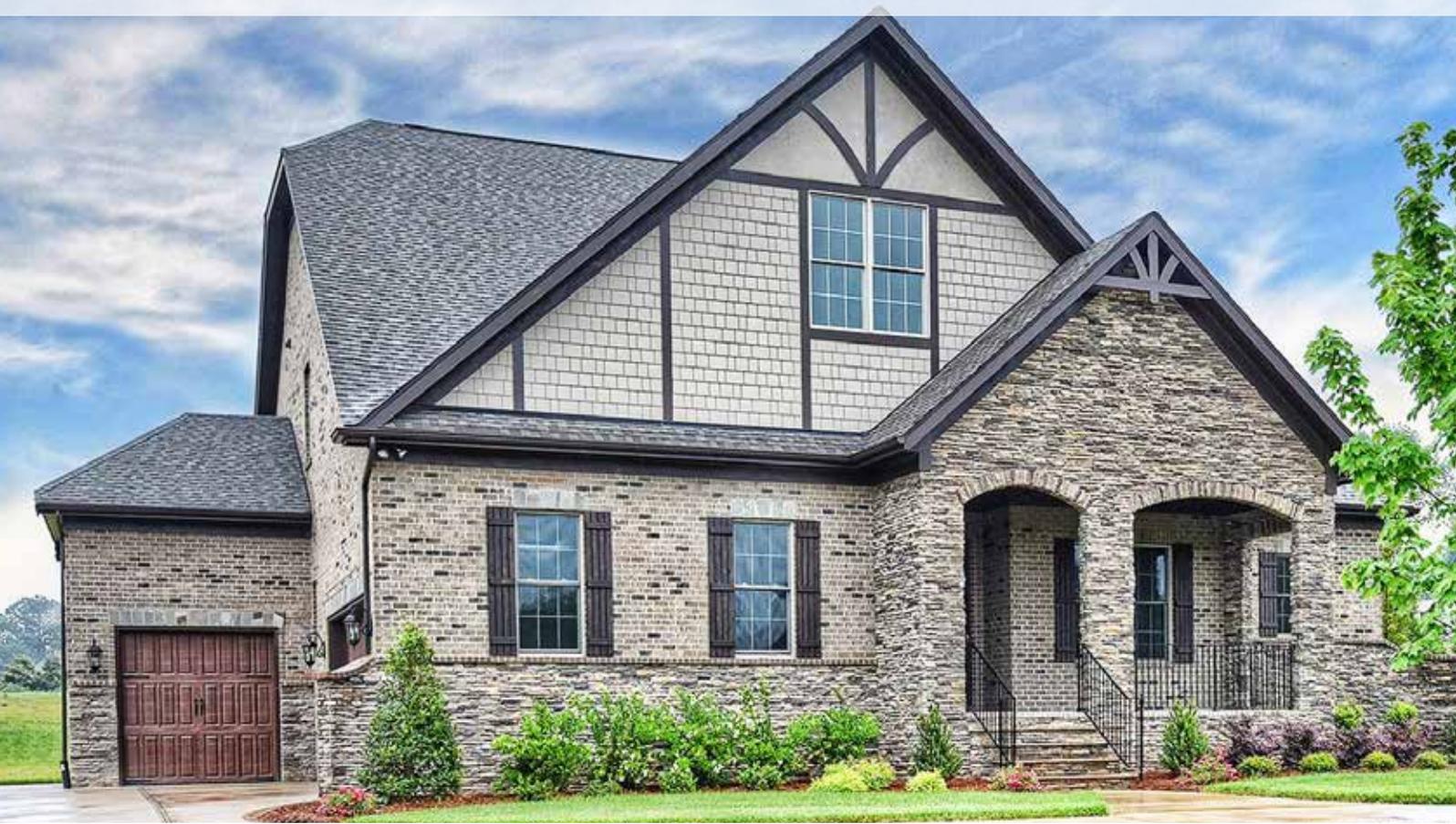
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*For the full story and to learn what this means for you, see page 80*



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**Publisher**

Mark Herrmann

**Managing Editor**

Anne Marie Ashley

**Editorial Director**

Tammy Wanchisn

**Production Administrator**

Shelley Kemper

**Art Direction**

Harriet McDowall  
PageCreations

**Sales**

Gayle Sebastian

**Writers**

Anne Marie Ashley  
Kate Golden  
Laura Jackson  
Brandy Woods Snow

**Contributing Editors**

Randy Hughes  
Beth Keim  
Mary Ludemann  
Jerald Melberg  
Bruce Moffett  
Catherine Whitney

**Photography**

Dustin Peck  
www.dustinpeckphoto.com

**Phone**

704-332-1504

**Fax**

704-817-4158

**Email:** comments@urbanhomemagazine.com

**Website:** www.urbanhomemagazine.com



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# home design



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# *In the* CLEARING

By Anne Marie Ashley  
Photography by Dustin Peck

*Many people talk about building their dream home, often far from the busy roads and surrounded by vistas and landscapes.*

**F**EW, HOWEVER, ACTUALLY SEIZE THE opportunity to do so. But when Louise and John Andrews sent their children off to college, they felt the time was finally right to build their dream home. Perfectly, John's family owned over 300 acres of gorgeous land in Midland – a dreamscape for a custom home. They purchased 13 acres and built their home in the clearing.

“John's family has owned this land since the 70s,” Louise explains. “Over the years, we talked on and off about building a house on the land, but it wasn't until our kids were out of high school that it really seemed feasible.”

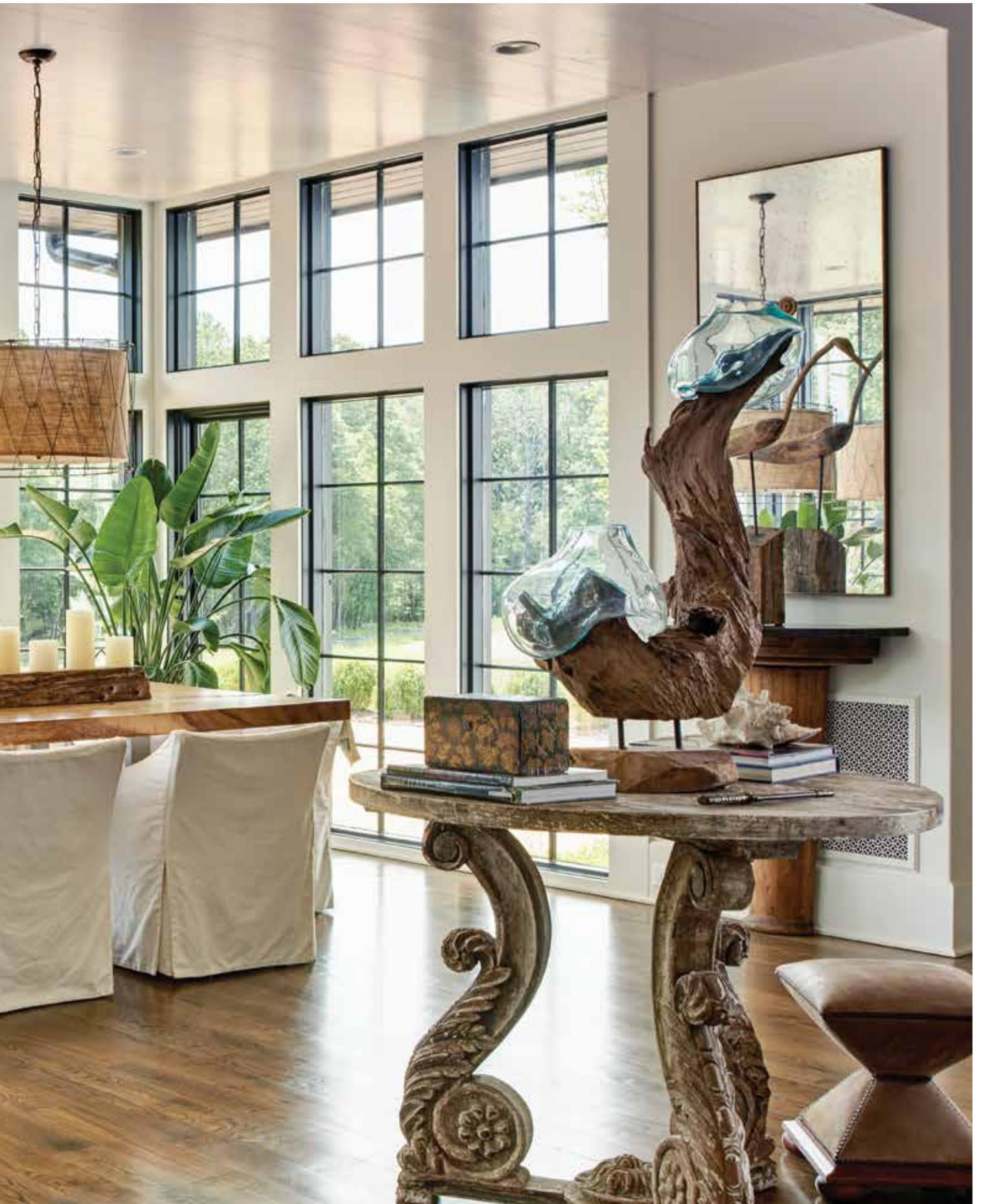
The couple envisioned a European farmhouse with a modern

feel, filled with light from floor-to-ceiling windows. Plans for an open-concept home with few hallways and plenty of airy rooms were drawn up. “We like to walk through rooms to get to other rooms,” says Louise. “Hallways seem like such a waste of space.” The sprawling home was constructed over the course of a full year.

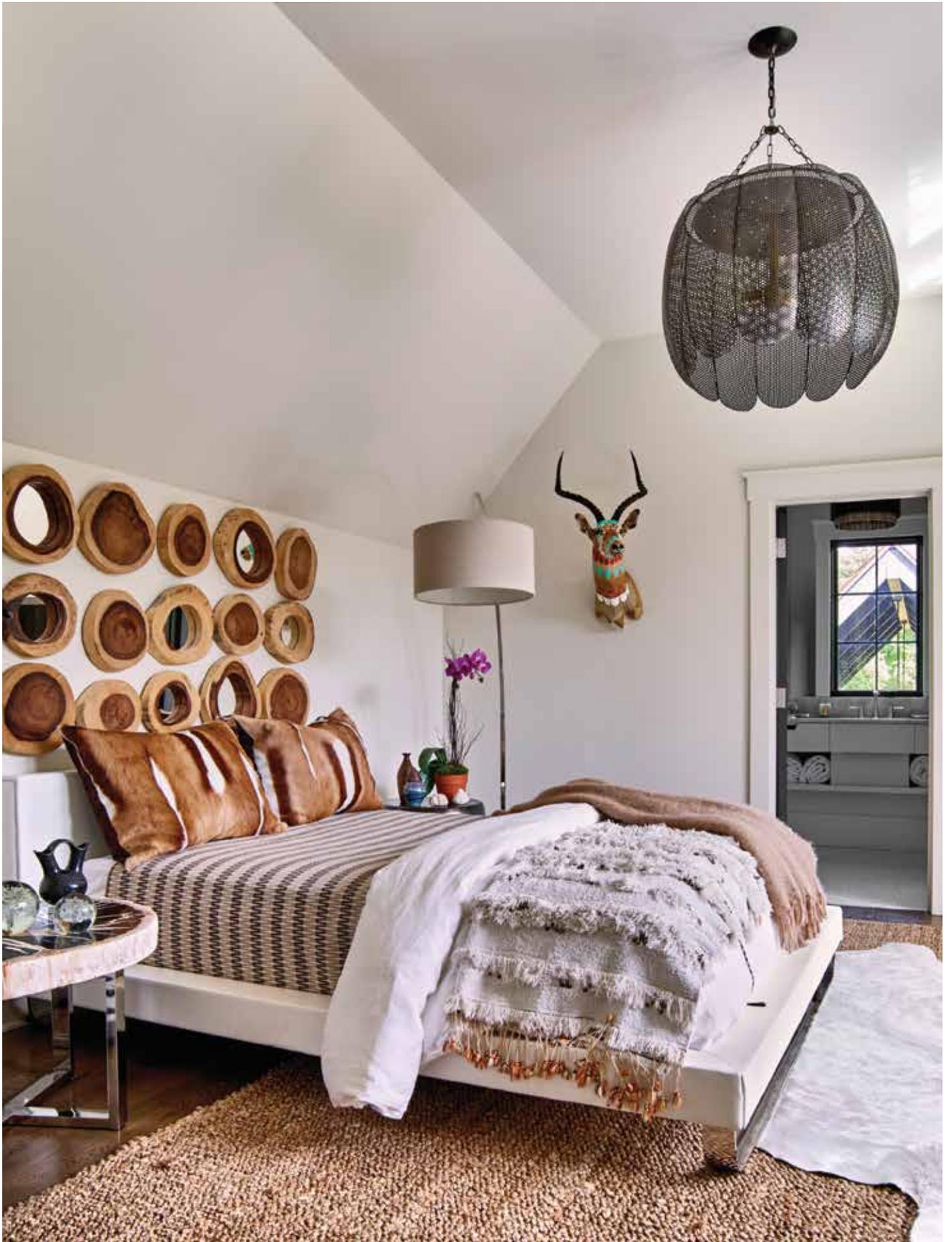
Before the home even broke ground, however, the Andrews' teamed up with interior designer Stephanie Semmes to help plan the interiors around the architecture. Louise had seen the home of friend Mollye Bell, also featured in *Urban Home Magazine* and designed by Semmes, and knew immediately that Stephanie would be the woman for the job.

“Stephanie was instrumental in getting this home completed,”











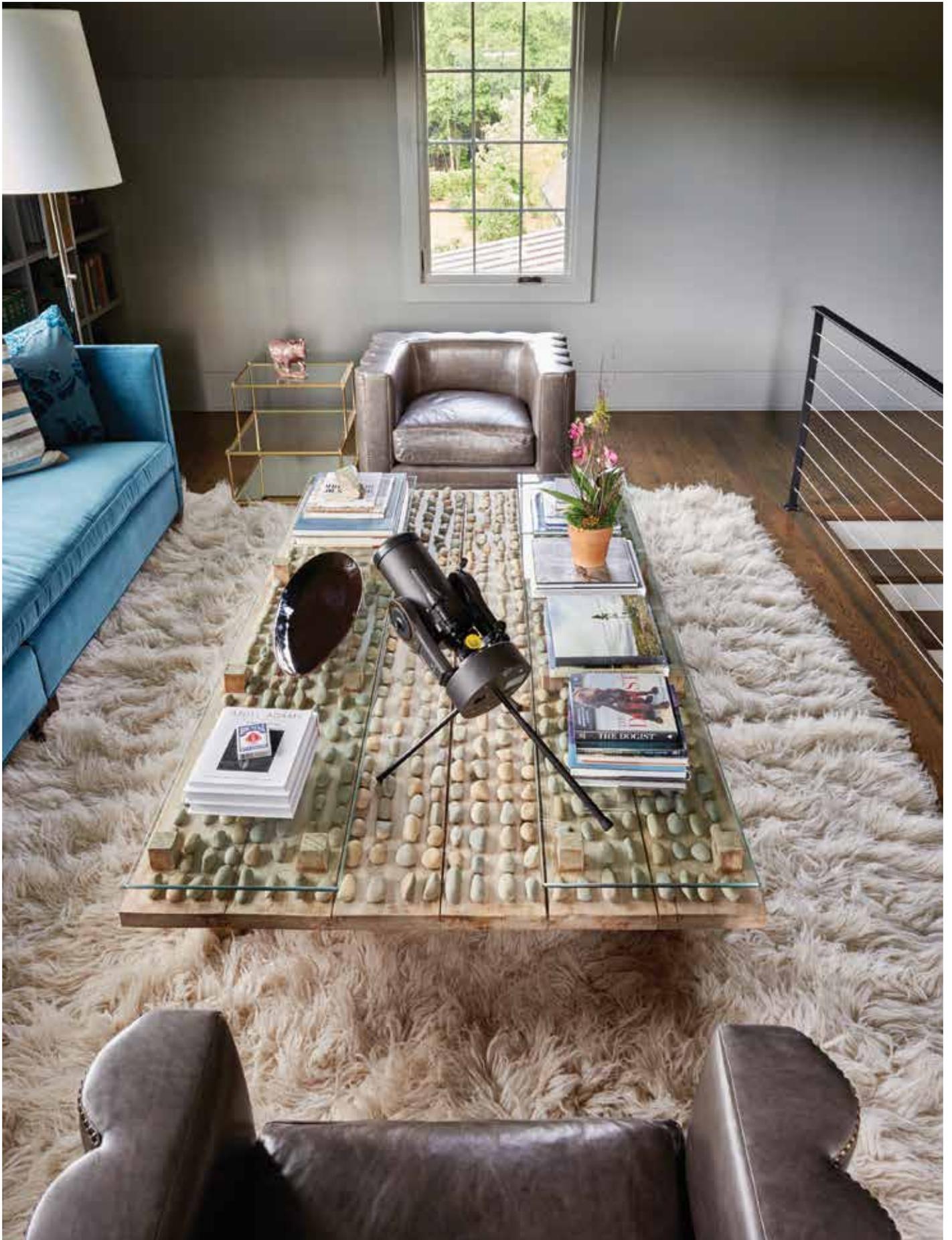


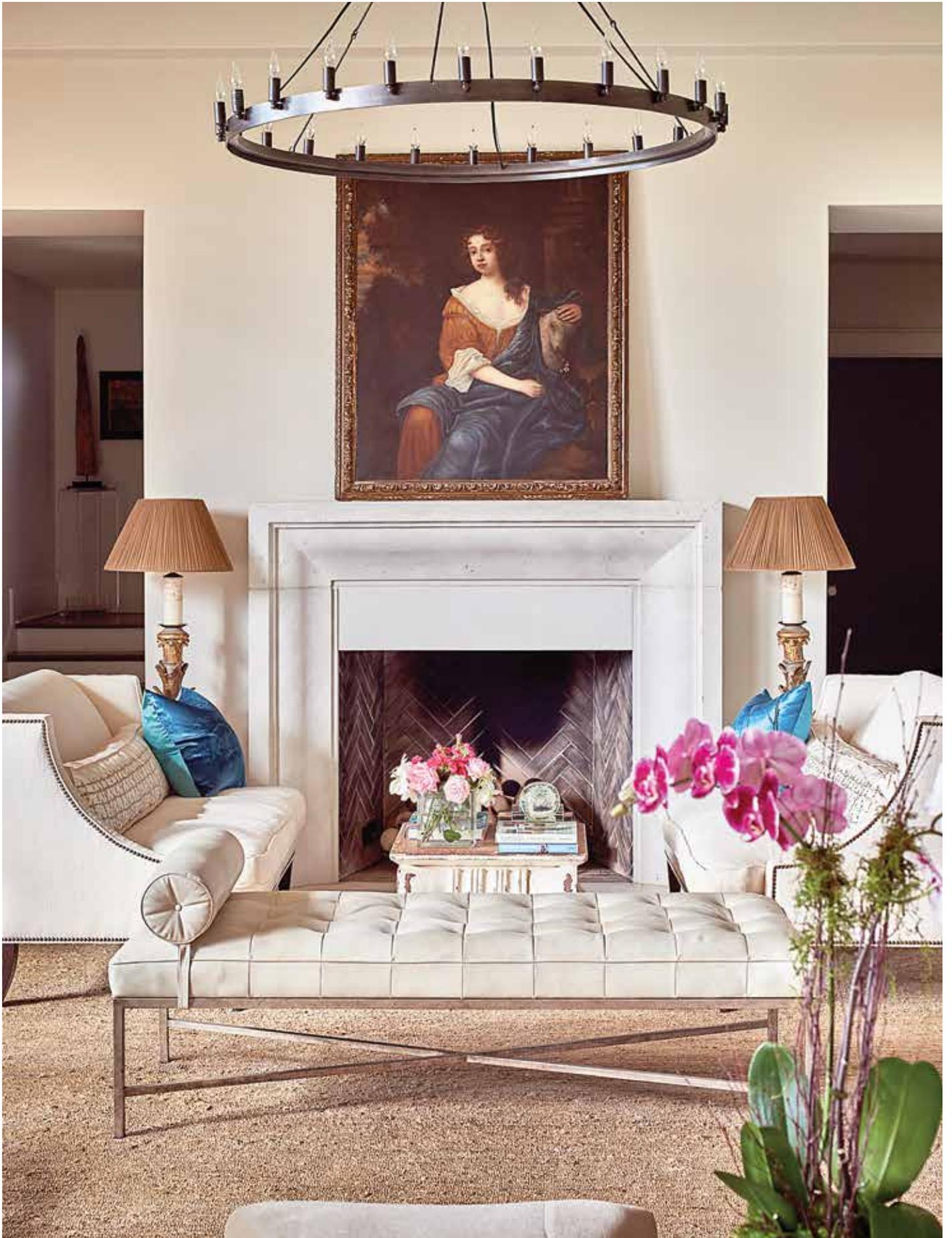
says Louise. “From tweaking the floor plan to paint selections, plumbing fixtures, floor stain colors and elevations – she was key to the success of this home.”

“It’s really easy for me to envision the design well before it’s installed,” says Stephanie Semmes. “And thankfully, I have a knack for translating that into words so that my clients can see what I see.”

Stephanie incorporated many of the Andrews’ personal pieces into the overall design. A painting of a large urn from Louise’s parents’ home was repurposed in a modern setting. A painting created by their daughter, Hunter, was hung in their master bedroom along with an original piece by Sarah Otts.

“In a home like the Andrews’, the architecture







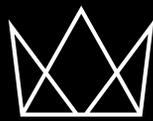
is the star,” explains Stephanie. “So the palette needs to be mostly neutral and designed with soft furnishings so that the architecture stands out.” The juxtaposition of modern design next to historical architecture is part of Stephanie’s general aesthetic as a designer, but was really the soul behind this project. “It just has to be done properly,” she advises.

Stephanie says that collaborating with Louise was her favorite part of this project. “She was challenging in the best way,” Stephanie laughs. “Louise has impeccable taste and so I couldn’t present her with just anything... it had to be a perfect piece.”

She admits that she had to push the boundaries only a few times, including Louise’s request for purple in her daughter’s room. “I just don’t work with purple,” jokes Stephanie. “But I did it anyway, and when neither Louise nor I liked the look of the room, she finally acquiesced and let me do my thing. Which was an Aspen-inspired room.” A vision Stephanie says was inspired by her many years moving around as a child – from the southwest to Charleston to Asheville and beyond, she brought a little something from each environment into her design repertoire.

Pulling pieces from Phillips Collection, Oly Studio, La Donna and Arteriors, to name a few, Stephanie created a cohesive look that pays homage to the landscape, the architecture *and* interior design – a trifecta of perfect planning. “My favorite room in the home is the living room,” offers Stephanie. “Every single accessory was thought out, every nuance planned.”

The Andrews’ also wanted to highlight the incredible landscape around the home, so they worked with the late John Byrd and his good friend Hugh Crump with Greenline Design. The landscape includes some formal spaces with a sodded yard, boxwoods and a rose garden, but also more rustic areas for the shed and vegetable garden. “It’s beautiful now, but I can’t wait to see what it looks like in a few years when it’s matured!” Louise says. ♦



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# mid-century *masterpiece*

By Kate Golden  
Photography by Dustin Peck

*Susan and Gus van Soestbergen have always had a passion for Mid-Century modern structures and style.*

**T**HE COUPLE CAME ACROSS THIS BEAUTIFUL Lynbrook Drive house after rekindling a desire to connect with nature, yet still be close to the city. They were drawn to the house and location because of the proximity to the city, but also the great community spirit and family feel.

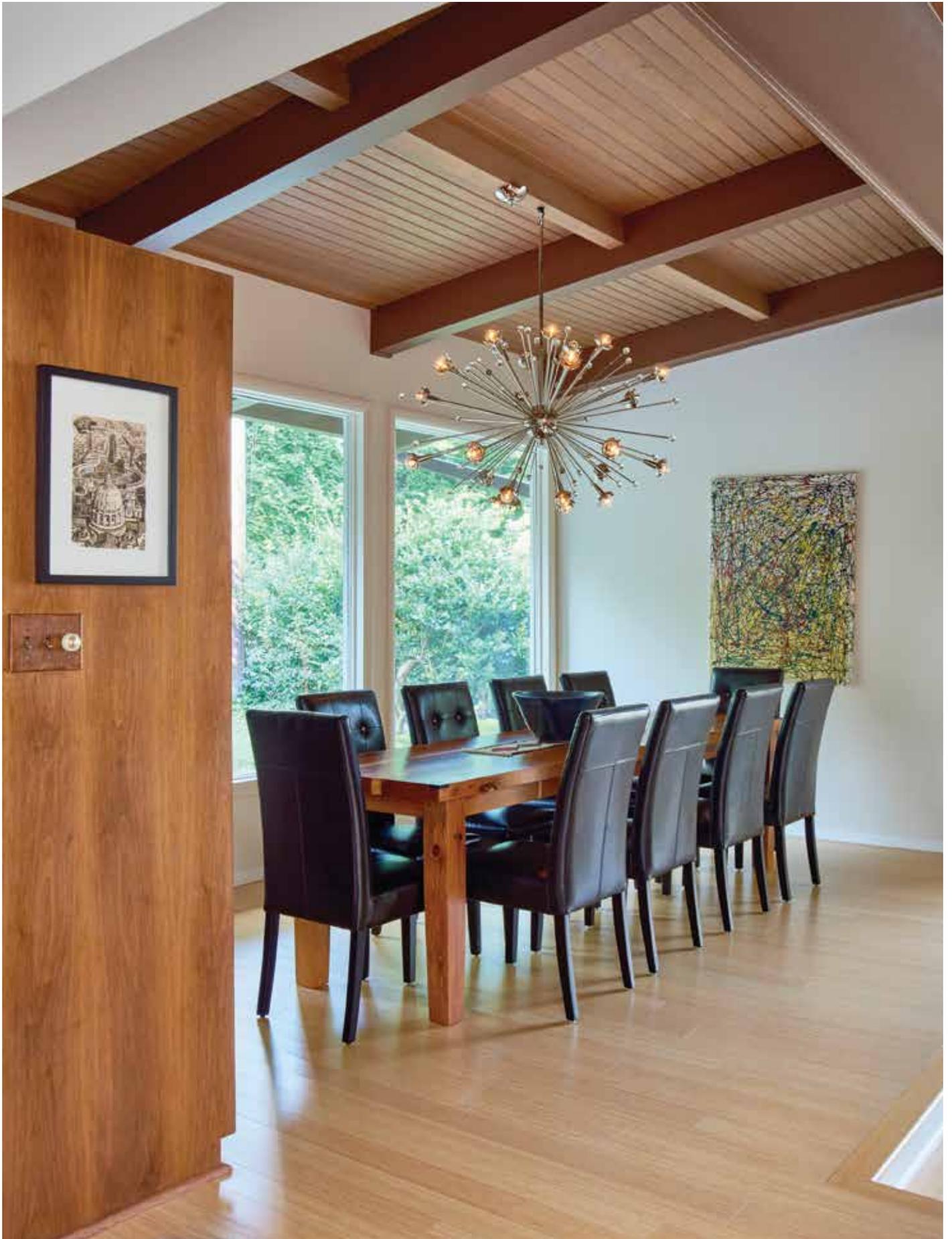
“Susan, being an avid researcher of Mid-Century modern design, concepts, architecture and homes in the Charlotte area, as well as the overall fundamentals of the period, has a keen eye for finding hidden gems within the region,” says Gus.

The house was originally designed by famed architect, Alan

Ingram, in 1960. There have been a few renovations since, but most of the style of the house has been preserved. Throughout the house, you can find the geometric shapes and clean lines that are characteristic of Mid-Century modern design. Expansive windows all around the house let in light and nature from every angle.

“Important features of the design period have been maintained and can be seen both within and without its’ walls today. These include design features which allow the home to open up, and unfold to visitors whom enter and are invited into the space,” explains Gus.



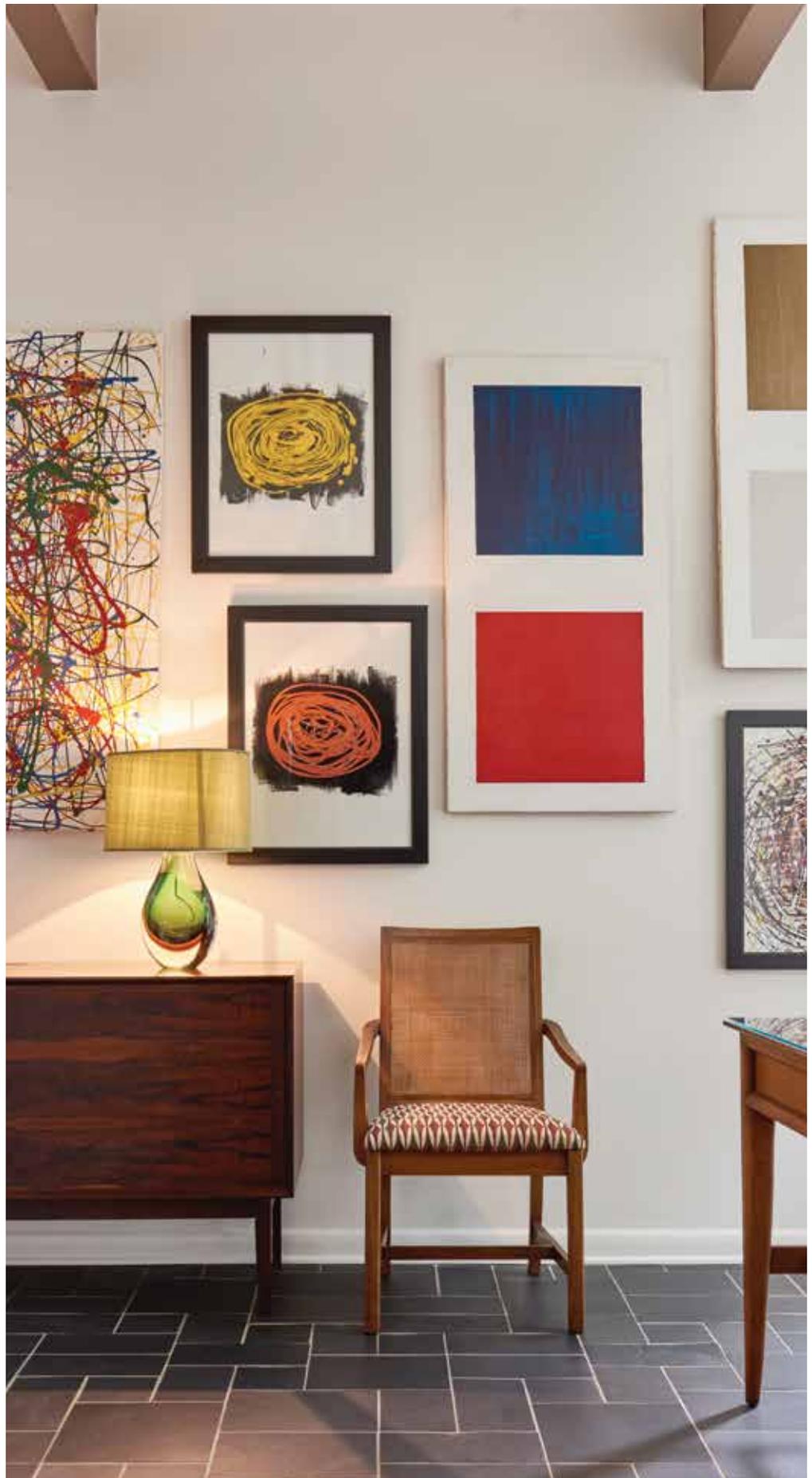


Susan handpicked all the furnishings herself. Her passion for the Mid-Century style inspired her to keep the influence within the décor. “We strive to combine today’s modern concepts with the functionality and design of the past,” says Gus.

The dining room is just one example of how the Mid-Century modern features come to play. A gorgeous chandelier with a chrome finish hangs above the wooden dining table. The owners chose the chrome finish after some discussion because of other chrome accents in their home. Having just moved in, the two plan on conducting a few renovations in the near future. Above all, they would like to keep the Mid-Century modern look of the home, restoring certain areas to their original state.

Some advice these two would give to those looking to buy a home from this era? Be yourself. “Look for a property that suits your character. Live in it for a while before you decide to redesign or change it.”

Gus and Susan’s Lynbrook Drive home will be featured in the “Mad About Modern” home tour, details in the sidebar. ♦





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Working around a client's art collection is my favorite way to begin a design scheme. Like a museum curator putting together an exhibition, I love to place the works against different backgrounds and with other objects that highlight the colors and shapes in the art.

I am currently designing an art lounge/library for clients with a cutting-edge collection of contemporary art. Two large-scale works will anchor the space. Liz Nielsen's "Pineapple" (courtesy of SoCoGallery) is a jewel-toned photogram where the artist uses handmade, transparent color gels and filters to create complex and layered compositions teetering between representation and abstraction. Ori Gersht's "Love Me, Love Me Not" (courtesy of CSI Gallery) depicts a drop of blood as it disperses through milk creating a symbolic representation of the cosmos.

Black lacquered walls provide a sophisticated backdrop for the colorful works, objets d'art, and art books. To play off of the angular shapes and colors of "Pineapple," we selected multi-colored fabrics with angular shapes that also border on abstraction. The circular shape seen in "Love Me, Love Me Not" is repeated in peacock blue lacquered side tables, orb glass lamps, and a black and white graphic carpet. The brass sunburst chandelier inspired by Tony Duquette brings both the angular and circular elements together.

In addition to highlighting the art, I always like to include antique or vintage pieces into an interior. Here, a pair of Mid-Century Italian lounge chairs will be reupholstered in red to bring out the red tones in the art. A black linen-wrapped cocktail table and deep chartreuse linen velvet tufted sofa will finish off the space. The perfect perch on which to admire the artwork, have a cocktail and plan the next art adventure!



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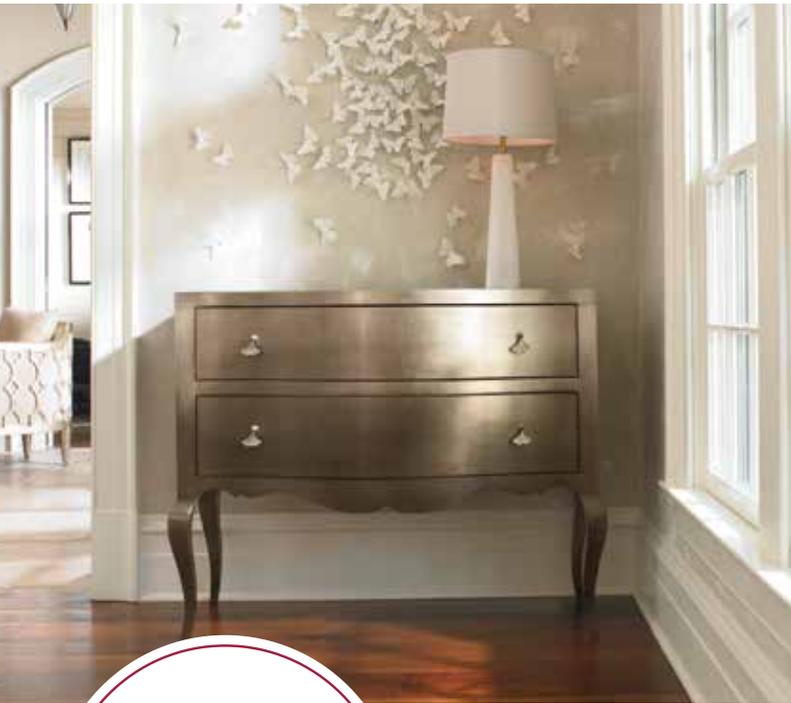
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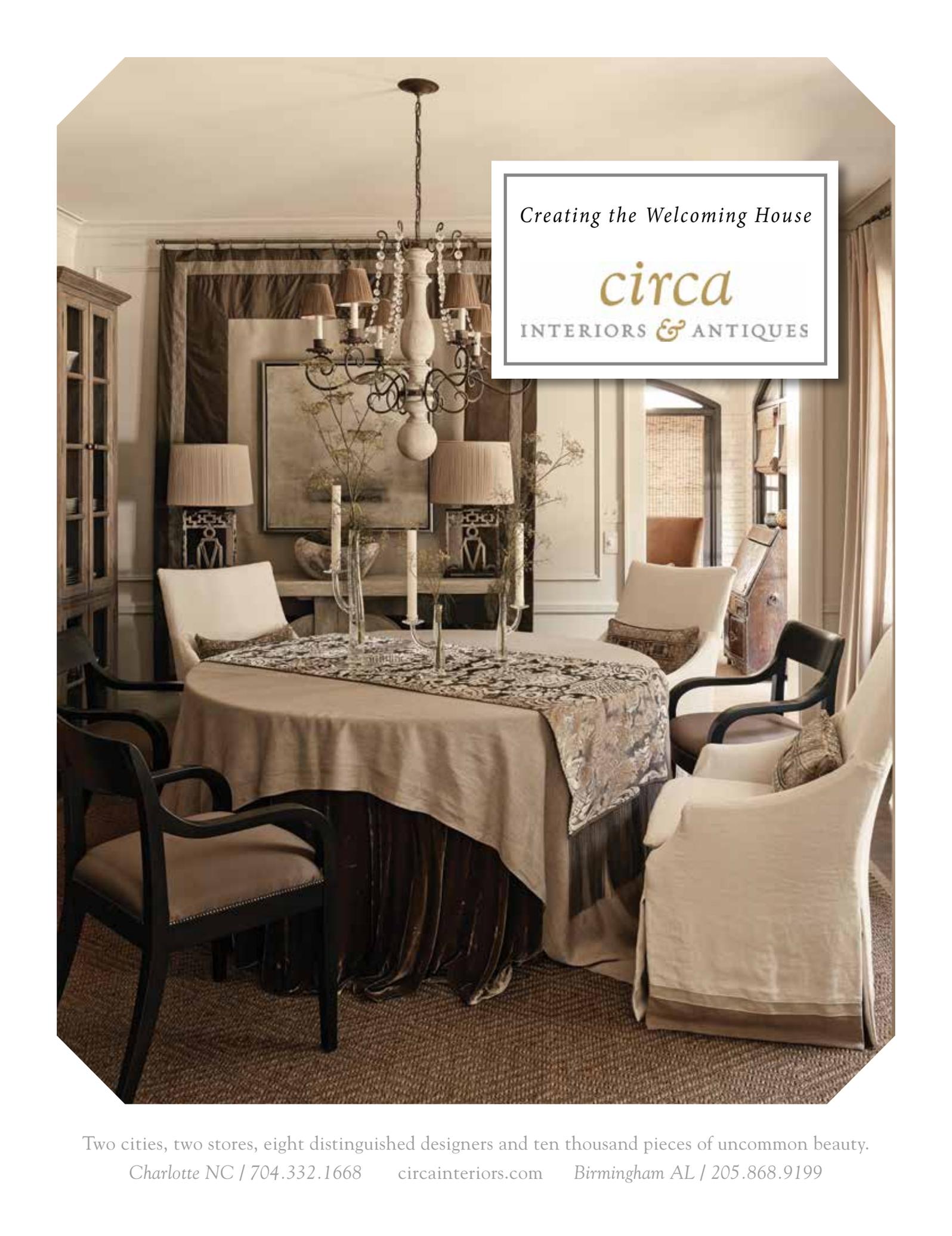
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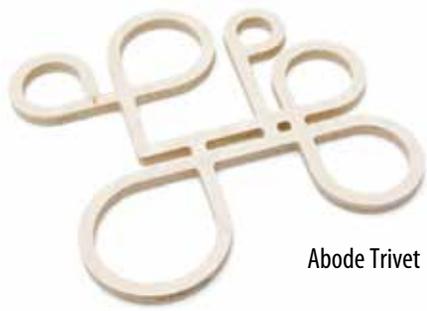


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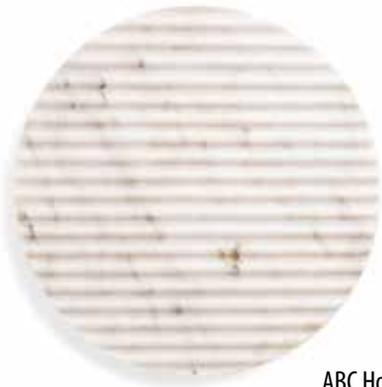
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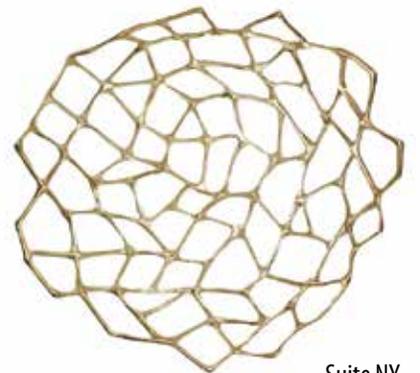
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# *Kitchen Trends*

## HERE TODAY AND TOMORROW

By Laura Jackson



Peter Salerno,  
Peter Rymwid Photography

*Whether you're dreaming about a total remodel of your kitchen, or you're looking to update and refresh, each choice impacts daily life in these key areas of your home. Recently, the national Kitchen and Bath Association polled members nationwide to come up with their top design trends for 2016. In a word, clean lines, less ornamentation and personalized luxury stand out as top trends.*

**Transitional Combines the Best of Both Worlds.** Featuring elements of contemporary and modern design in addition to some traditional approaches, the transitional style fits so many needs and tastes, while still remaining fresh. Characterized by clean lines and smooth transitions, it remains uncluttered by its philosophy of less ornamentation. Design experts agree—its staying power is secure.

**White / Grey / Neutral Color Palette.** White is always crisp, clean and timeless and never goes out of style. It combines well with all sorts of textures, colors and finishes and provides a clean palette for almost any type of design. Also noted was a rise in new neutrals and accent colors, with gray, blue and black being most popular.

**Let There Be Light.** There may be no other places in the home where the lighting is as essential as in the kitchen. Today's designers are taking advantage of the best of natural light while accommodating needs as varied as prepping and primping to cooking, entertaining and relaxing. LED lighting has proven the worth of its investment and is making appearances in all sorts of places. Interior lights in cabinets, concealed in crown molding to bathe ceilings with soft light, or under cabinets to highlight backsplash details are just a few of their versatile uses. An added benefit? They emit almost no heat.



## Top Kitchen Trends For 2016

- Transitional style, with clean lines and less ornamentation.
- Two or more cabinet colors/finishes in the same kitchen, often in a light/dark combo.
- Pull-outs, tilt-outs, and tilt-ins for easy access to storage, trash and recycling.
- The look of wood flooring dominates, be it actual wood or wood-look ceramic tile.
- Different countertops for islands and the perimeter, varying in both color and material.
- Outdoor kitchens, most popular in the Southeast.
- Built-in coffee stations and wet bars, as well as built-in wine refrigerators.
- Pocket doors.
- Pet spaces, including built-in feeding stations, food storage, and crates.
- Docking and charging stations.

**Tech Savvy.** The art of automation is not going anywhere. Adding more tech-friendly areas such as hidden docking and charging stations, sensor-activated lights that only illuminate when the kitchen or bath is in use, and all sorts of apps to coordinate everything from the temperature of the room to turning off the oven on time continue to expand exponentially.

**Open Shelving for Style and Functionality.** This trend has taken off for many reasons. Open shelving is a great way to display your favorite items from heirloom china to cookbooks, vases or even a piece of art, while also highlighting a beautiful wall treatment behind it, such as today's amazing tile backsplash selections. And it's a great way to take advantage of often-empty vertical wall space. For most homeowners, however, it works best to remember to still have ample storage behind closed cabinet doors, for all those other items not as display worthy (think overflowing plastic containers and cleaning supplies).

**Creative Storage.** Adding more drawers and pullout shelves makes it easier for everyone to access items with less bending and reaching. Hardware manufacturers are capitalizing on clients' needs for functionality and ease by changing the way many cabinet doors and drawers open and close. Look for more

hydraulic, easy-to-close doors that make the most efficient use of space.

**Look Mom, No Hands.** Hands-free and touch-activated faucets are rapidly moving from the trendy to the must-have, super practical list. They're perfect for sticky hands, both big and small, and are also ultimately a water saver because of the auto shut-off feature.

**Keeping It Cool.** The convenience of "point of use" refrigeration means it's no longer just about having one huge unit in the kitchen; homeowners are installing refrigeration in the places it's needed most. That may translate to a wine refrigerator next to the bar, a counter-height produce fridge or refrigerated drawer in the prep island.

**Quartz Rules.** The most popular countertop material is quartz, followed by granite. These natural stone leaders were specified by more than 80% of the professional kitchen designers in 2015 and the trend is expected to continue. While granite is still extremely popular, it has shown signs of decline in the last four years with 31% of the NKBA design professionals expect to use less of it in 2016.

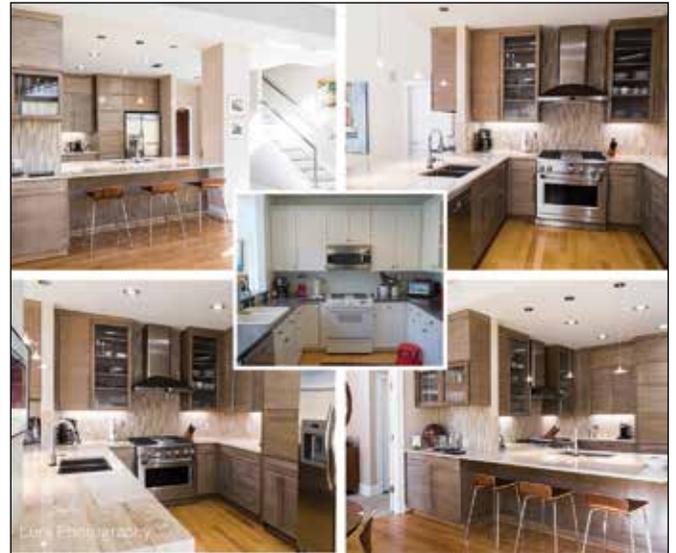
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Thomas McNickle, *Creek Bend Reflections*, 2013, Watercolor on Paper, 25 3/4 x 19 1/4 inches



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# Bathroom Update

*There are some exciting new trends in bathrooms today and here are just a few ways to add an updated element to one of the most functional rooms in the home.*

## **Open Shelving**

In this design climate, open shelves are a natural choice for both necessary storage and decorative storage. From freestanding floor-to-ceiling units to a cultured marble shelf running along top of a 4-inch splash next to the tub – the open shelving concept leaves room for individual interpretation. Of course, the golden rule with open storage: Keep it neat!

## **White on White**

Crisp and clean, white-on-white rooms can have a powerful effect on the mind, clearing visual and mental clutter and paving the way to total relaxation. Whether it's steeped in tradition or sleekly modern, a bathroom drenched in white is calm and peaceful. From tile and fixtures to vanities and accessories, no matter the size of your bathroom, white palettes invite light in for a spa-like atmosphere.

A couple of things to keep in mind: Bronze faucets add warmth and softness to the vanities and tubs; a room with several shades of white captures and reflects light in a unique way. Bright and refreshing in daylight, it glows with warmth at dusk.

## **Natural Elements**

Be it wood, stone or another natural material, bringing more organic elements into your bathroom satisfies man's inherent need to connect with nature. There's something particularly relaxing about taking a hot shower amidst a rock surround shower, or wood paneled walls and lucky for us, this trend offers a dizzying array of options to mix and match.

## **Interesting Tile Patterns**

Tile is an accepted and expected part of bathroom design since forever. But what's unexpected is the new way tile is being installed – and we love it! Standard side to side is nice, but consider a sophisticated herringbone pattern, or even a honeycomb set up with octagonal tiles. Or how about tiles in circles or pyramids? Tile may be expected, but the install is up for grabs.



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ROOM SERVICE



B E T H   K E I M



# THE AGONY AND THE ECSTASY (...OF A BATHROOM RENO)

*No renovation is fun; kitchens and bathrooms in particular can be the most inconvenient.*

Think of them like labor pains, however. When it's over, you tend to forget the headache and stress and marvel at the beauty you now call your own. There is nothing more satisfying than an updated master bathroom, especially when its one of the last things on the to-do list, because, let's face it, who goes in there but you? No one really sees it. When it's completed and gorgeous, you wonder what took you so long.

My clients Sheri and Eric Sayman had such a space. Their master bedroom and bathroom needed a major facelift. We decided not to do any major layout changes; the shower would stay in the same place, as would the sinks and toilet. The face of everything, however, would change entirely.

I started by choosing a new tile for the floors and walls. I wanted everything from the floor to ceiling to be covered in a soothing grey and white marble look. A grey-washed plank tile would cover the bathroom floors and I chose a penny tile for the shower floor. New millwork, new lighting, new sinks and wall-mount faucets also entered this space. The pièce de résistance — the new shower doors. Custom made by Tuan Hoang Le, these doors were meant to be a statement piece and they succeeded absolutely. I could not be happier with the result. When Sheri told me she couldn't get her 'tween boys out of her new shower, I knew I had succeeded. A new family favorite.

A couple tips in any re-design project: Find a showstopper piece and go for it! Secondly, call a professional.

Kitchen and bathroom renovations might push you over the edge sometimes, but ultimately, it's always well worth it! ♦

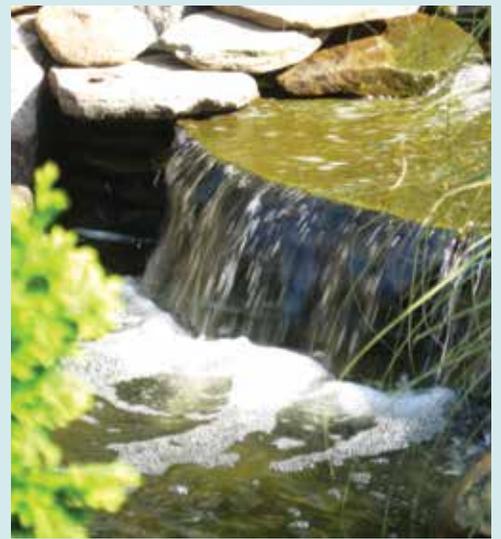
Beth is the owner of Lucy and Company, a full-service interior design firm located at 1009 East Boulevard. For more information visit [www.lucyandcompany.com](http://www.lucyandcompany.com) or call 704-342-6655.







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BUILDING A  
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## THE BENEFITS OF A FEMALE BUILDER

*Being a woman in a male-dominated profession certainly has its challenges but I believe this different perspective also provides benefits to my clients that may not be readily apparent.*

Good builders get the job done well, on schedule and on budget and their clients are satisfied. Great builders do those same things, plus they listen carefully, empathize well, cheerlead and hand-hold when necessary and take even the smallest needs of homeowners seriously. And their clients are blown away.

So much of being a great builder requires teamwork, great interpersonal and communication skills, and the ability to easily identify with people and walk around in their shoes – all traits which tend to come more naturally to women. In addition, women are often the driving force behind building and remodeling projects, and dealing with a female builder can make them feel more at ease.

Pamela, a recent client of mine, shared her thoughts on the benefits she found in hiring a female builder to build her new home.

*“I have undergone several building projects that were headed by male contractors, and I have to say that the difference was apparent to me right away. In the first meeting, Mary*



*pulled out a notebook and took notes the entire time. She was attuned to everything I was saying, and committed to getting it right. This spoke volumes to me about her desire to listen and communicate well.*

*It is wonderful to work with someone so intuitive. Mary really grasped the aesthetic we were looking for, and she was able to reflect it both in a technical way, and in a design sense. She has a great eye, and so she was adept at handling everything from framing to finishes.*

*I've never worked with a builder as empathetic and supportive. She guided us through every aspect of the process in a really confident, yet gentle way, so that it actually became fun and enjoyable. She worked closely with me on the selections I was excited about, and when it came to those I wasn't very interested in, she took the burden off me by paring the options down and making thoughtful choices that were very reflective of my style.*



*All that said, I think the most significant aspect of working with a woman was how comfortable I felt. She didn't just accommodate me; she understood me. The things that were important to me were important to her, too – no matter how small. She was even able to anticipate things I didn't think of, but really appreciate, like the ideal placement of outlets for holiday decorating. And she wasn't just thoughtful of me – she greatly understood my husband's needs as well.*

*I think that, as a woman, Mary understands husbands and kids. She relates to the day-to-day tasks it takes to manage a household. And she also knows those subtle extra touches that make a house a home. And that has made this project a truly great experience for us.”◆*

Mary Ludemann is the founder of New Old and has been designing and building homes for over 12 years. To discuss your next dream build or renovation project, contact New Old at 704-975-5196. For more information, visit [www.newold.com](http://www.newold.com) or email them at [building@newold.com](mailto:building@newold.com).

Contributing Editor

THE GALLERY



J E R A L D  
M E L B E R G



# LEARNING HOW TO SEE

*Do you pay attention? Are you aware of your daily circumstances? What's around you? Do you take pleasure in a bank of wildflowers along the interstate? Or are you just simply, mindlessly driving by?*

Throughout my career I have wondrously noticed how visual artists have a way of “seeing” that the rest of us don’t possess. How is it that they can really notice that that one bank of trees is set further back? How is it that they see that particular shade of pink? How is it that they can take nature and break it into totally abstracted form?

As the brilliant abstract landscape painter Wolf Kahn once said, “*I don’t have to make a tree look just like a tree; everybody knows what a tree looks like.*”

As we look at and study works of art, let them teach you how to see and how to look, how to know that color can be arbitrary, that scale does not have to be accurate. People don’t have to look just like themselves. After all, never forget that all art is fiction. ♦

Jerald Melberg is the president and director of Jerald Melberg Gallery, which he founded in 1983. Representing living artists and important estates, the gallery is located at 625 South Sharon Amity Road. Visit [www.jeraldmelberg.com](http://www.jeraldmelberg.com) to find out more, or call 704-365-3000. The gallery is open Monday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.



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## WHAT MATTERS MOST?

*If you're feeling  
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When Ashley Lewis arrived in our showroom, I could tell she was flustered. Her eyes darted rapidly from display to display. Nervously pulling a folder labeled “FLOORING” from her bag she explained, “I know that this should be a simple decision, but selecting the right hardwoods for my home is overwhelming. I don’t know where to start.”

We meet with homeowners like Ashley every day. Choosing the best product for your home or office can be very stressful - especially when there are so many choices available. Anxiety builds when you consider how long flooring lasts. You want to be sure that your selection will wear well and look good years from now. That’s where the advice of an experienced professional can help.

Here are some considerations that may help you with your decision:

**Durability** - Is the floor going to be in your living room that rarely gets used? Or in a high-traffic area like your kitchen where your kids and pets give it a daily workout?

**Beauty** - Are you the type of homeowner who loves to follow the latest trends (and choose style over longevity because you know you’ll be replacing it in a few years?) Or do you want a product that will last for 10 years or more and prefer to choose a classic look that is timeless?

**Comfort** - Is it worth it to you to spend a little more on a great pad underneath the master bedroom carpet? Or are you just updating the floor to put your home on the market? Furthermore, is that long-lasting, stain-resistant selection you made for the kids’ playroom actually soft under toddlers’ toes?

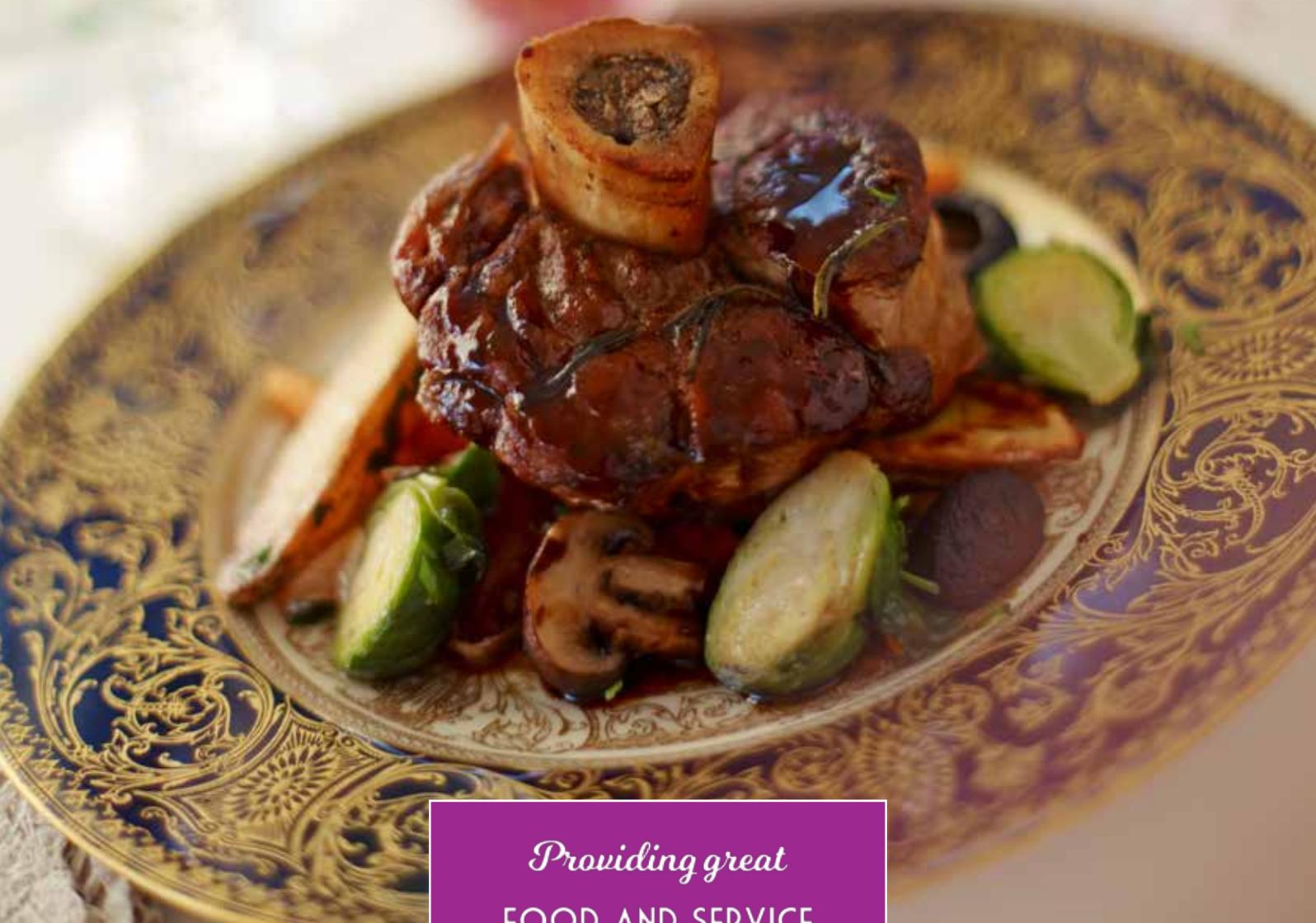
**Affordability** - Pricing is a factor for every homeowner and key questions will help you identify how important this component is in your selection.

**Innovation** - Like many areas in the home, flooring manufacturers have come up with some incredibly innovative products. Examples include vinyl floor tiles that look like real hardwood yet offer greater durability and less maintenance, carpet tiles that can be placed in high traffic areas and easily be replaced one section at a time and better stain resistance, low VOC products, and hardwood flooring that comes in dozens of wood species and widths.

By addressing your lifestyle, an experienced professional can take the stress out of your decision. Your answers will reveal *What Matters Most* to you and your family and lead you to the perfect flooring choice for your home. ♦

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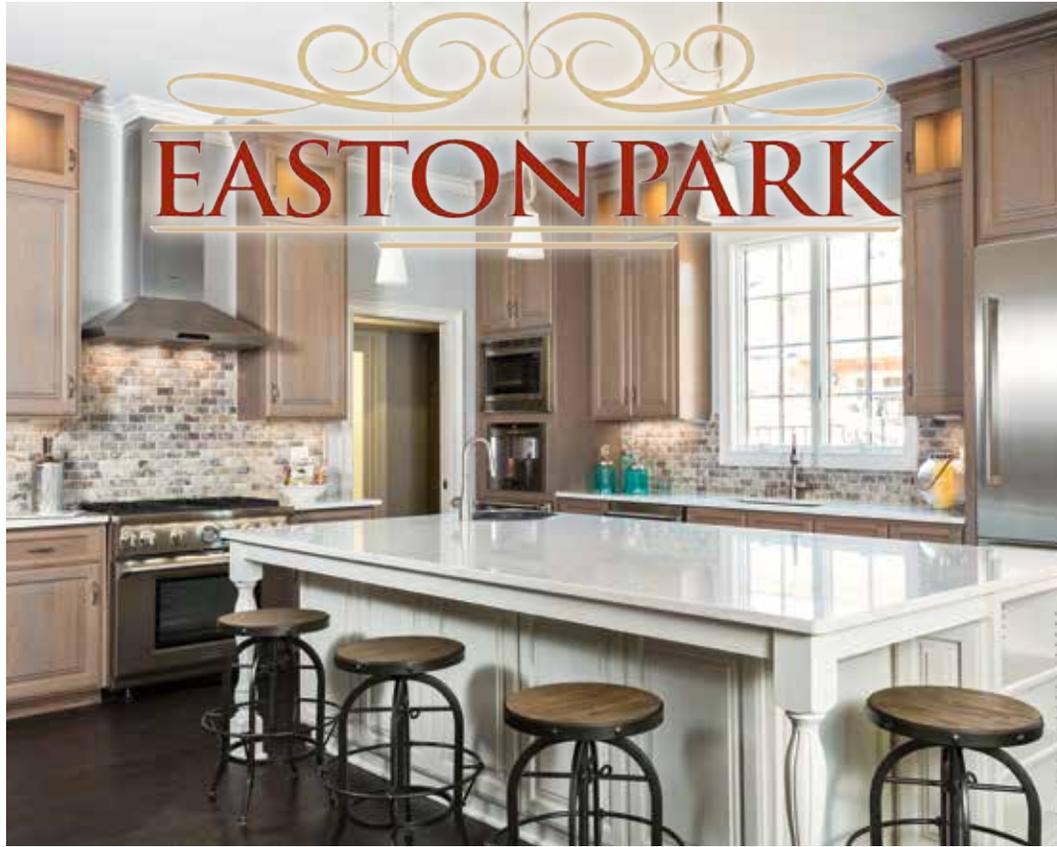


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Contributing Editor

KITCHEN DESIGN



CATHERINE  
WHITNEY



## TEXTURE IS THE NEW COLOR!

*I think it's absolutely amazing how, as designers, we are continually reconstructing the visual landscape by creating a new twist on materials that we use every day.*

In my personal world, I love the *tone-on-tone* look. There's something very soothing about using similar colors with *different textures*. From my perspective, it's organized, elegant and makes a powerful statement! It's interesting but not overwhelming.

When working with tone-on-tone or a monochromatic palette, one must create visual interest or excitement in unique

ways. One of my favorite ways is using different textures of the same basic color group on different materials and elements of the overall design.

Some great examples of different textures that you might consider combining in your kitchen or bath are:

**Cabinetry:** There are so many exciting finishes available on fine custom cabinetry these days! If you are feeling modern or



contemporary, you can use a high-gloss lacquer or a mirrored stainless steel door front. This gives a crisp and clean look to any space! If you are feeling a bit more rustic, you can have an open grain, sand blasted oak that has a “limed” finish applied to the open grain.

**Metals:** such as stainless steel, chrome, nickel, or brass can all have different finishes such as polished, brushed or matte (see image of brushed nickel faucet with honed Carrara marble countertop).

**Paints:** Both wall and trim sheens can vary greatly and can really impact the room by using the same color and sheen for both the walls and the interior trim. One can also use the same color *but different* sheens. One of my favorite features is to paint the ceiling a shade or two off the wall color. This is a subtle effect but adds visual interest.

**Countertops:** Whether you are using natural stone, quartz composite, wood, metal or even porcelain, you can select different finishes, which greatly enhance their appearance. Different finishes include: high polish, honed (non reflective), leathered, acid washed and many variations in between. One can also choose a chiseled or “live” edge to add interest.

**Backsplashes:** In the past, ceramic tile backsplashes were almost always high gloss. The last few kitchen renovations that I have designed incorporated a honed stone backsplash. The individual tiles were all nearly the same tone or color but they each had unique shapes (see photo of hexagon marble backsplash).

When making these important design decisions, it’s very helpful to create a “design board” that will allow you to see all of the finishes and colors that you have selected. While this is only a small representation of your project, it is extremely helpful.◆

Catherine Whitney is the showroom manager and designer at South End Kitchens. She has 30 years experience in the kitchen and bath industry and works diligently with clients every step of the way. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 704-508-9505, or email Catherine at Catherine@southendkitchens.com. The design studio is located in the historic Meeting Hall building at 1500 South Blvd. Suite 101-A. You can also visit South End Kitchens at [www.sekdesignstudio.com](http://www.sekdesignstudio.com).



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FOODIE



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## SUMMER IN CHARLOTTE



*Those days when you  
wake up and it's already  
80 degrees at nine  
o'clock in the morning...*

I feel the humidity as I step outside and get ready for a bike ride. I know it's going to be a long day and I better drink plenty of water. When I get in the restaurant and get the ovens and burners cranked up, I know the kitchen air conditioner will not be able to keep up. By 5:30, the temperature creeps up to the mid 90s. I yearn for my

days at the beach in Rhode Island where the daily high would be in the low 80s and the evenings would be in the mid 60s. By the end of the night, my T-shirt is soaked and that all too familiar headache is starting to creep in beneath my right eye. I go home, take a long shower and fall into bed.

Summer in Charlotte.

Honestly, summer is a time for great excitement in the chef world. The farmer's markets are in full swing. I found the Yorkmont and Matthews markets when I first arrived in Charlotte 15 years ago. When I worked as a chef in Boston, we had a network of farmers that would deliver to our restaurant on a weekly basis. I was determined to establish the same network here. At the markets, I found that and so much more. The produce grown by the local farmers is nothing short of amazing. I know that I can elevate any meal by simply preparing the products that just came out of the garden that morning.

My secondary love of these markets is the sense of community that I feel every time I walk through their confines. I always tell my wife that I will just be an hour, but wind up taking three. Along the way I will see farmers who have become lifelong friends. We will catch up on family, farm and personal subjects, or plan our next bike ride. The market is also an opportunity to catch up with other chefs and go over the latest restaurant gossip. And, inevitably, I always run into many of my good customers. It's gratifying to know that our love of good, sustainable food brings us together in this community.

Summer in Charlotte.

A time to slow down a bit. All my restaurants are closed on Sundays. Sometimes we take this day to do absolutely nothing. Other days I invite a few friends over and light my Big Green Egg. Lately, it's been all about the ribs. Five hours of constant monitoring yields a result that I'm proud of. It's good to know other cooks because they contribute the sides and the cocktails. We relax, eat on the patio and chat well into the evening.

Summer in Charlotte.

I'll take the good. I'll take the bad. It's our home. ♦

Chef Bruce Moffett is the executive chef and owner of Moffett Restaurant Group, consisting of Barrington's Restaurant, Good Food on Montford and Stagioni. He's been in the restaurant business 35 years, and cooking even longer. You'll find him in the kitchen mostly at the flagship, Barrington's. To make reservations, call 704-364-5755. For more information, visit [www.moffettrestaurantgroup.com](http://www.moffettrestaurantgroup.com).





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# design SPOTLIGHT



## George Matsumoto Architecture Award

The six winners of the 2016 George Matsumoto Prize, sponsored by the non-profit organization North Carolina Modernist Houses, were announced recently. Residential architects and designers who entered the competition, could be from anywhere, but the houses had to be located in North Carolina. Alpha Design Build, picked up the First Prize in Jury Awards, Situ Studios picked up the Second and Third Prize in Jury Awards. For more information and a complete list of winners visit [www.ncmodernist.org/prize2016](http://www.ncmodernist.org/prize2016).



## Crossville Tile & Stone Launches New Collection

Crossville Tile & Stone has been cooking up something special with the launch of their new Spices Collection. They will be offering nine intense colors with a slightly textured, glossy surface that has all of the passion and richness of a hand-made tile. These flavorful colors can be accented with a variety of available mosaics or combined with coordinating Stripes or Patches accent tiles. [www.crossvilleinc.com](http://www.crossvilleinc.com)

## Cotswold Marketplace Expansion

Not only are they expanding their space, they are adding new features. Swell Décor has expanded their design studio, custom monogramming is now available through Letter Perfect and Cotswold marketplace now has an expanded collection of antique and fine rugs. [www.cotswoldmarketplace.com](http://www.cotswoldmarketplace.com).

## Shea Homes & Shea Custom Design Studio Expansion

The award-winning Design Studio of Shea Homes & Shea Custom recently expanded and remodeled. Over 1,000-square-feet were added, as well as a new Elite Gallery for luxury and custom homebuyers. This gallery showcases high-end Merillat cabinets, the newest trends in flooring and lighting, gorgeous countertops made from materials such as leathered granite.

They also have professional appliances by GE Monogram and Electrolux. [www.sheahomes.com](http://www.sheahomes.com)

## Mad About Modern / The House that Modernism Built

On September 10, the Mad About Modern 2016 Mid-Century Modern Home Tour will take place. This event is organized by The Charlotte Museum of History and features five homes. For more information visit [charlottemuseum.org](http://charlottemuseum.org). In addition The Bechtler continues The House that Modernism Built exhibition featuring mid-century art, furniture, textiles and ceramics through September 11. [www.bechtler.org](http://www.bechtler.org).

## 2016 WIA National Convention

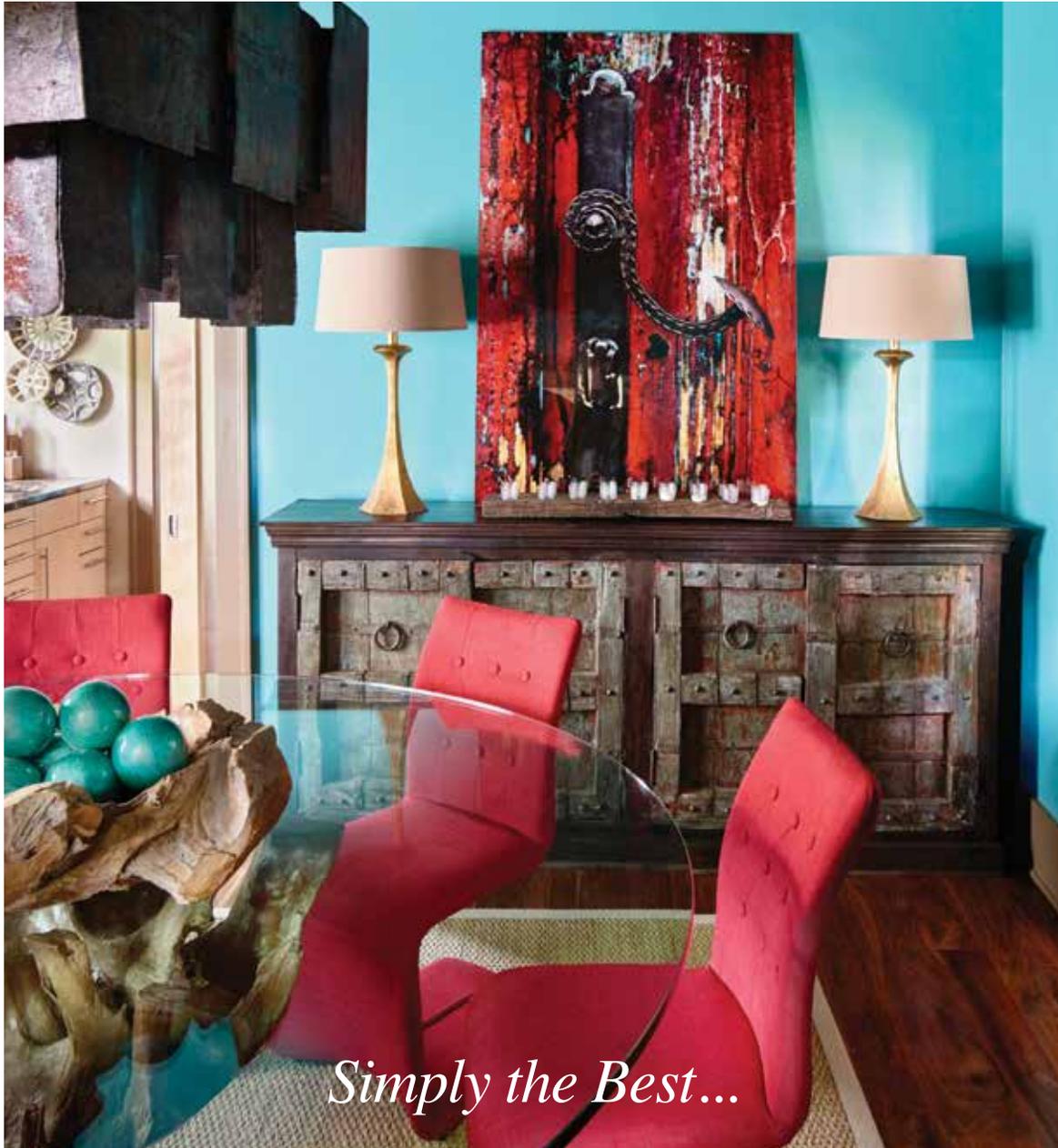
This year the Wallcovering Installers Association will be holding their national

convention and vendor showcase in Charlotte on September 16 and 17. The convention will offer sessions on installation techniques, business strategies, and much more. The WIA is dedicated to the interests and needs of wallcovering installers. The showcase will not only educate attendees on techniques but also have vendors with new products and tools useful for the industry. For more information visit [www.wallcoveringinstallers.org](http://www.wallcoveringinstallers.org).

## Dilworth Home Tour

This event happens annually and features extraordinary homes in the historic Dilworth neighborhood. The Dilworth Community Association sponsors this event and all proceeds go to support select initiatives of the community. September 16 and 17. [www.Dilworthonline.org](http://www.Dilworthonline.org).

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# THROUGH THICK AND THIN: *The Emerging New Shape of Ceramic Tile*

By Anne Marie Ashley



Since those days a few thousand years ago when the ancient Egyptians first started baking wet clay in the noonday sun, tile has gone through a steady evolution of change—shape, size, color, composition, and most recently thickness...and thinness. Today, standard porcelain floor tiles have been  $\frac{3}{8}$  of an inch thick, but that is changing. New technology can produce porcelain tile panels as thin as  $\frac{3}{16}$  of an inch with outer dimension as large as 3 feet by 10 feet. This same technology can produce tiles  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch thick and up to 2 feet by 3 feet in size. These are the shapes of things to come.

Porcelain tile panels are changing the way the world sees—and uses—tile. Crossville's Laminam is a tile that's measured in feet, not inches, yet is only a few millimeters in thickness and can be installed in places where tile was never previously

an option. Manufactured with unique technology, Laminam collections are ideal for skinning surfaces in a sophisticated, nearly uninterrupted style. The panels' outer dimensions of 1Mx3M (39" x 117") and very lean profiles (just 3MM for walls and 5.6MM for floors) are versatile and flexible with the performance characteristics expected of porcelain tile. This results in the design-forward, low maintenance looks that will stand the test of time for floors, walls, and other surfaces in commercial and residential settings, inside and out. Additionally, Laminam is chemical and wear resistant—highly scratch proof and resistant to deep abrasion. The panels resist extreme temperatures and are suitable for a wide range of weather conditions.

Just as tile is becoming thinner, it's also becoming thicker, lending itself to a myriad of outdoor applications. In fact,

Florim's new Outdoor is a 3/4" thick porcelain paving system with the same benefits as regular porcelain—combining a blend of design, versatility, performance, simplicity of installations, and eco-sustainability. This product is produced by fusing quartz, clay, and feldspar into a single material that is then fired at temperatures of over 2,200 degrees Fahrenheit. The result is tile with unmatched mechanical characteristics that can be used in the garden, around swimming pools, on exterior stairways and driveways. Until now, concrete pavers have been the preferred outdoor product. Unlike concrete, Florim's Outdoor product is frost resistant, colorfast, requires no sealing, is easy to clean, and requires no special installation considerations. An innovative option for both landscape architects and homeowners, Outdoor comes in an array of colors and finishes, including slate, stone, and wood looks. The tiles can be dry-laid onto grass, gravel, dirt, and sand—or onto roofs and terraces using raised supports—without grout, adhesives or specialized workers, making installation incredibly easy.

Both Crossville's Laminam and Florim's Outdoor are available at Crossville Tile and Stone in Charlotte. ♦

Visit Crossville Tile & Stone's showroom at 927-B Pressley Road, visit them online at [www.crossvilleinc.com](http://www.crossvilleinc.com) or call their design team at 704-927-8453.



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## How Award-Winning Advanced Renovations Became Alair Homes Charlotte

*(And What It Means For You)*

You would think that after winning the NARI of Greater Charlotte Contractor-of-the-Year Award a whopping twelve times that Duane Johns and Roger Ketchum would be satisfied with their success. Add 43 five-star reviews on Houzz, a litany of glowing testimonials, and it would be easy to rest on one's laurels. Not these contractors.

"With Advanced Renovations we built the foundation for something special but felt that we could improve our client experience with better systems and processes. That's when we heard about Alair Homes," says Johns. "Once we dug deeper, we saw that we would be able to deliver something truly exceptional to our clients, while still keeping true to our independent local hands-on approach and honoring the trade relationships we built over the last two decades."

Alair Homes creates raving fans in over 70 North American markets by giving clients control and certainty throughout their project. Ketchum says, "Lots of companies say they have transparency, but Alair takes it to another level. We are now able to show you where you are in your budget on a daily basis. The schedule can be updated daily, too. People love to see this. They also love being able to make changes without feeling like they are being held hostage. Our industry really needs this and we're very excited to be bringing it to Charlotte." Using a special combination of software and business practices, called Alair's proprietary Client Control™ system, clients have the ultimate say in everything that goes into their home. Because of the complete transparency of the system, both the contractor and the homeowner are able to make much better decisions, resulting in clients that are confident in their choices.

Duane and Roger have been overwhelmed with support from past clients and industry partners. "I like to say that Charlotte is a very big small town. News travels fast here and change can sometimes make people skeptical, especially in the contracting business," says Johns. "In our first meetings after making the transition it was very clear that our clients and business partners liked the new processes we'd implemented. We were excited to be taking things to the next level and they were happy to be a part of it. Even with all the new tools, what was most important to everyone we talked to was that it was still Duane and Roger."

To learn more about how you can renovate or build your custom home with confidence and certainty, contact Duane and Roger at 704-332-3733 or visit [www.alairhomes.com/charlotte](http://www.alairhomes.com/charlotte).

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# White Hot: *Marble in the Kitchen*

By Brandy Woods Snow

Kitchen remodels can be both exciting and daunting for homeowners deciding on colors, styles and materials perfect for their dream space, while also considering lifestyle demands. High-end countertops are an integral part in the total design aesthetic and functionality. Granite and quartz have been the go-to choice for homeowners interested in both beauty and durability, but an emerging trend has renovators stepping outside the granite box to consider an old favorite, a stone used for generations in

a plethora of applications but recently spurned from kitchen installations: marble.

There's no other stone capable of imparting such luxury and elegance juxtaposed with a comforting sense of home, so why has marble gotten a bad rap for kitchen applications?

Freddie Hood, owner of Bottega Stone, says, "We believe a kitchen is meant to be used freely without concerns of damaging the countertops. Therefore, we focus not only on delivering



*“No other option will compare to the color, pattern, and clarity marble offers.”*

the design of their dreams but also on educating clients of how marble will behave in everyday use and setting their expectations accordingly.”

He adds, “Clients often come in and ask, ‘Can you get me a countertop option that looks like marble and has the coloring of marble but in another type of surface that requires less maintenance?’ My answer is simple: No. No other option will compare to the color, pattern, and clarity marble offers. The beauty of



marble in kitchens reflects quality and sophistication simultaneously with warmth and casualness.”

Because marble is a calcium-based stone, softer and more porous than its design counterparts, there is a popular misconception it is inadequate for the demands of a working kitchen and requires excessive maintenance. Any research on marble reveals its propensity for etching, staining and scratching, but Hood reiterates that maintenance routines need not be burdensome, while also pointing out the natural patina with an aging marble is unmatched in both beauty and unique appeal.

“For clients who have never installed and lived with marble in their home, I recommend sealing the counters with a 15-year warranty sealer that protects the marble from staining. I also recommend removing the polish finish and hone the marble, which tends to show less etching,” says Hood. “Many homeowners are reluctant to use marble in kitchens because of etching due to daily usage. However, I believe it is this characteristic that enhances the balance of elegance and sense of home. Likewise, scratches on white marble are less noticeable compared with other countertop surfaces, and removing scratches is much easier than on other surface options.”

Hood wants to not only dispel the misconceptions of using marble in kitchen applications but also encourage homeowners to consider the stone’s unique advantages. In addition to its organic feel and timeless elegance, marble’s naturally cool temperature is beneficial for baking and its price point is comparable to other stones.

“Regardless of what surface option is chosen, it will require a substantial capital investment. This home investment will be used frequently and will greatly affect the resale performance. I encourage homeowners to invest in countertops that will make the most impact in their home.”◆



Ready to explore the possibilities of marble for your kitchen application? Visit the Bottega Stone showroom at 1200 Westinghouse Blvd in Charlotte, call 980-237-3700 or go online to [www.bottegestone.com](http://www.bottegestone.com).

— arts and culture —  
**SPOTLIGHT**



**Santiago Quesnel: Repetitions**

**Laca Projects**

Through September 2  
[www.lacaprojects.com](http://www.lacaprojects.com)

LaCa Projects proudly presents Repetitions, a solo exhibition featuring works by Argentine artist Santiago Quesnel. This is Quesnel's second solo show at LaCa Projects. Repetitions is a name that honors Quesnel's intention to create mutations and variations of the same mental image, resulting in an examination of non-traditional landscapes generated from the intersection of record, experience, and memory. While the ethereal scenes might initially appear conventional, a discovery occurs—a burst of color in an otherwise subdued palette, an object that seems out of place, or subtle traces of human inhabitation, or perhaps, interference.

**Two Person Exhibition:  
 Nicholas Napoletano and Matthew Steele**

**Jerald Melberg Gallery**  
 Through September 10  
[www.jeraldmelberg.com](http://www.jeraldmelberg.com)

Jerald Melberg Gallery is pleased to present an invitational exhibition of work by sculptor Matthew Steele and painter Nicholas Napoletano, both of Charlotte, N.C. The gallery will show recent works by both artists in Two to Watch, through September 10. Two to Watch aims to celebrate these two young Charlotte artists and introduce them to our collectors. Melberg decided to showcase the work of Steele and Napoletano after making numerous studio visits and considering the work of over 50 artists. He found that the superior craftsmanship, as well as the intriguing visual components found in both artists' work, is certainly worthy of recognition.



Nicholas Napoletano



Matthew Steele

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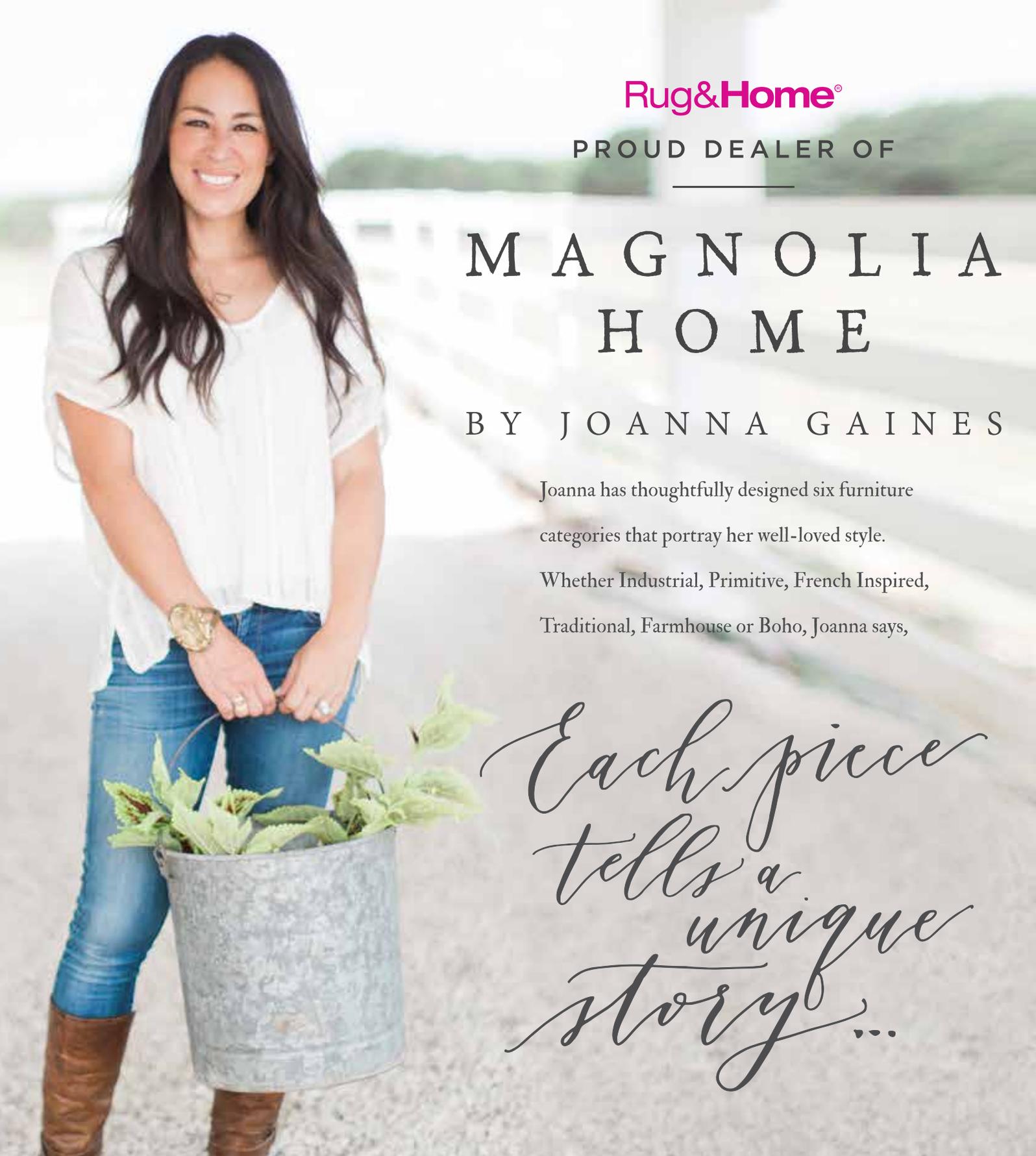
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