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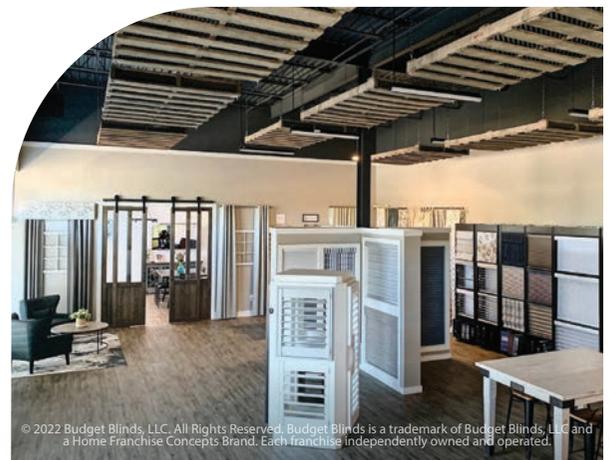
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PHOTOGRAPH BY Abigail Jackson

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There's something so intriguing about interior design. So often, we drive around looking at the facades of homes and wonder what the interiors are like. What colors are on the walls, how did they design their kitchen, what wallpaper hangs in their powder room? With each edition of *HDD*, we open the front doors of homes in our city and offer an exclusive peek inside some of the Triangle's most beautifully designed residences.

The *Designers at Home* issue is a little different, however. Admired designers invite us into their own homes, giving readers a glimpse of the choices they've made for their families and lifestyles. Easily one of our favorite issues of the year, it's an intimate look at how painstaking—and rewarding—the design process can be for each designer.

All three styles in this issue are wholly different, showcasing each designer's unique approach to her personal home. From Michelle Murphy's funky, modern designs to blogger Victoria Ford's DIY layered and cozy interiors to our cover story on Vicky Serany's elegantly curated private residence, this issue is overflowing with glowing examples of how impressive—and varied—Raleigh's interior design scene is.

Elsewhere in this issue, find our exclusive look at designer Charlotte Lucas's new hardware line for Modern Matter, and check out Atlanta's newest and hottest hotel.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue as much as we loved producing it.

Blake & Anne Marie

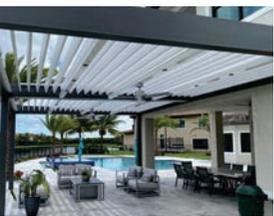
Blake Miller and Anne Marie Ashley
Co-Editors-in-Chief



ON THE COVER: Designer Vicky Serany of Southern Studio is one of three designers who invited us into her home for the *Designers at Home* issue (page 44).

LAUREN GRAHAM/PHOTOGRAPHY INDUSTRY PEEK

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PRODUCED BY ANNE MARIE ASHLEY
WRITTEN BY CHRISTINA SPRATT SPENCER



TRADITION WITH A TWIST

A collaboration between designer Cheryl Lockett and Wildwood, Rocky Mount's legacy interior design brand, this debut collection of furniture, lighting, and accessories reflects their shared commitment to heritage, artistry, and craft. Classic and informed silhouettes rooted in tradition are infused with global influences, textile inspirations, and a charming approachability to create a line synonymous with Lockett's signature aesthetic—impressively fresh with a time-honored whimsy. wildwoodhome.com



DESERT FLORA

Functionality meets fine art, sculptural formality meets organic form, and Tel Aviv meets Los Angeles with this exclusive partnership of acclaimed interior designer Kelly Wearstler and Hagit Pincovici, a third-generation Israeli artisan. The five-piece collection, Third Nature, reincarnates the artisanship of traditional bronze casting techniques and marries it with a hand-brushed solid-oak finish to emphasize the form and texture of the date palm tree, a commonality to both locales, in an inventive display of modernity. kellywearstler.com



LUXE LAYERS

Award-winning interior designer and architect Marie Flanigan brings her trademark blend of everyday sophistication and innovative simplicity to form in her collaboration with the classically modern design house Annie Selke. This distinguished collection of handcrafted rugs, elevated bedding, and luxurious pillows and accessories is created with serenely neutral and soft-toned palettes and a timeless consideration for structure and form. The result is an approachably refined and inviting lineup intended for layering. annieselke.com

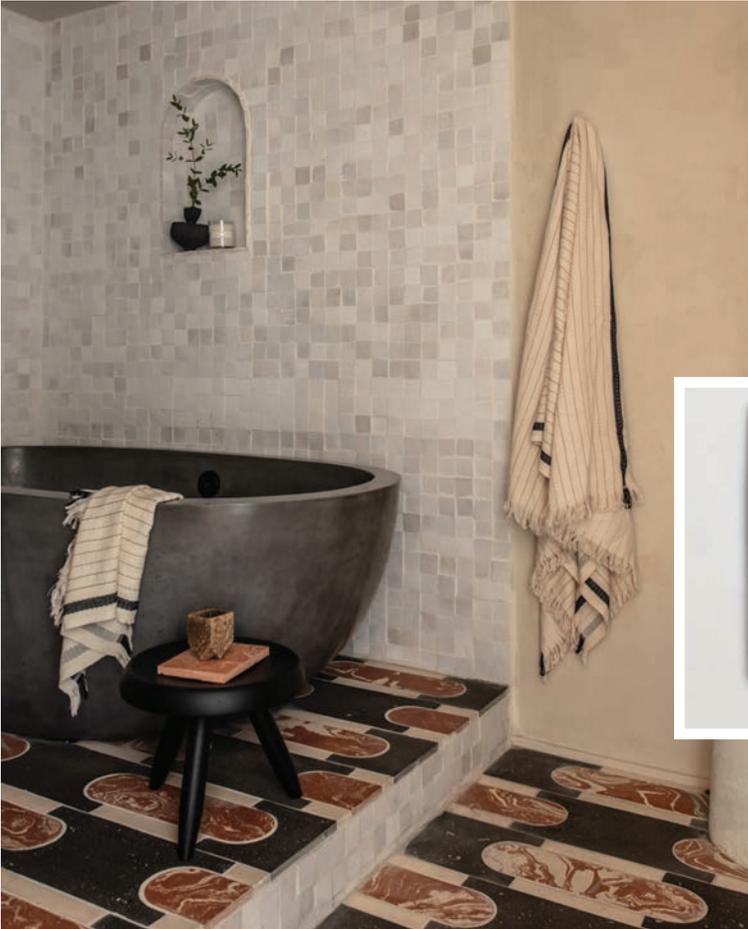


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PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Abigail Jackson*





GEO TRAPPINGS

A classically contemporary partnership between leading Italian architect and designer Cristina Celestino and third-generation tile makers Fornace Brioni produced this handmade natural terra-cotta tile collection for Clé Tile, bringing new possibilities to the traditional craftsmanship of centuries-old traditions. Using clay from the Brioni family-owned land in northern Italy, the collection is heavily inspired by the formal gardens and geometric forms of topiaries and sculpted hedgerow from the land where it is unearthed. cletile.com



TRACE THE LINE

In this distinctive collaboration with Schumacher, Washington, DC, artist and designer Hadiya Williams has harnessed the relationship between Black people and their ancestral lineage, history, and rituals as it moved across the diaspora. The translated pieces result in an artfully graphic rendition of lineal-based designs, full of movement and centered on the interpretation of art and culture colliding. fschumacher.com



DOMESTIC NIRVANA

Inspiring a nurturing sanctuary of urbane sophistication, this second collaboration between Universal and Miranda Kerr, Tranquility, offers a nearly forty-piece collection of minimal and modern Parisian-inspired furnishings. With an emphasis on elevated simplicity, white lacquer, waterfall edges, and streamlined silhouettes meet burwood, bouclé, and organic curves; and all are accented by soft gold hardware in a hushed neutral palette. waysidefurniturehouse.com

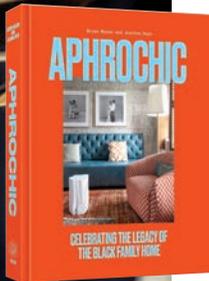
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: LEFT: CLÉ; SCHUMACHER; UNIVERSAL FURNITURE



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APHROCHIC: CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF THE BLACK FAMILY HOME

By Bryan Mason and Jeanine Hays

In their joyous, celebratory, and groundbreaking new book, Jeanine Hays and Bryan Mason invite you into the intimate spaces of sixteen beautiful and diverse home tours of creatives, artists, curators, actors, and musicians as they celebrate Black homeownership and the haven and cornerstone it is to Black culture and life. Through art-filled and generationally storied decor, the book sheds light on the obstacles many Black Americans still face today. penguinrandomhouse.com

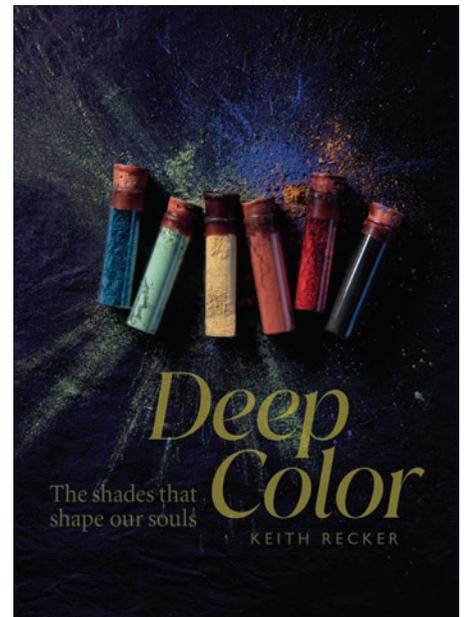


HOW TO LIVE WITH OBJECTS: A GUIDE TO MORE MEANINGFUL INTERIORS

By Monica Khemsurov and Jill Singer

An indispensable tool for the modern home, this visual and emotional journey focuses on championing personal authenticity in design through the lens of intentional acquisition. Cofounders of the online magazine *Sight Unseen*, Monica

Khemsurov and Jill Singer address individual connection to design and to the objects we surround ourselves with through tips, home tours, and practical advice on what to collect to foster unique and meaningful connections. penguinrandomhouse.com

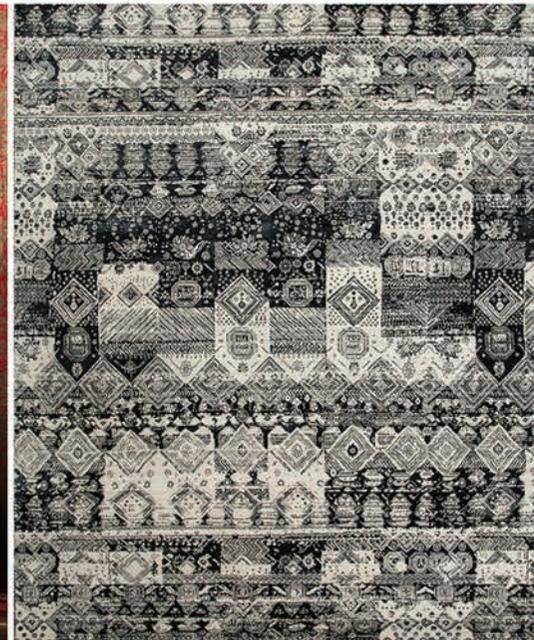


DEEP COLOR: THE SHADES THAT SHAPE OUR SOULS

By Keith Recker

A tool for artists, the culturally curious, and designers alike, Keith Recker's third book is a profoundly deep dive into how color communicates. By closely examining an insightful, multicultural experience with forays into both ancient meanings and historical context as well as modern stories, this book unpacks the oftentimes unconscious messages carried by different colors and how it empowers, inspires, and influences us. blitzerandcompany.com

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: PATRICK CLINE, PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE; BLITZER & COMPANY; CLARRISON & POTTER, CHARLIE SHUCK



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Dressed to IMPRESS

DESIGNER CHARLOTTE LUCAS TEAMED UP WITH MODERN MATTER TO CREATE A PRETTY COLLECTION OF COASTAL-INSPIRED HARDWARE CERTAIN TO DRESS UP ANY HOME.

WRITTEN BY BLAKE MILLER

Charlotte Lucas has never been one to shy away from a design collaboration that feels right. After all, the North Carolina-based designer has worked on several idea show homes and even has a luxury line of finished goods with House of Harris, created with her sister, designer Liz Carroll.

So when she and Katherine Mulford, long-time friend and founder of Modern Matter, began talking about their latest projects, they soon realized it was the perfect time for them to collaborate. “Kat and I have been friends for a long time and we’re always chatting about our design work,” says Lucas. “When I told her I was selected to design this year’s *Southern Living* idea show house, she suggested we design a coastal-inspired collection that can be used in the home. And so we did.”

The seaside-inspired Charlotte Lucas for Modern Matter collection of hardware is not coastally overdone. In fact, much of the line was inspired by the duo’s visits to New York City, where brownstones adorned with antique door knockers or jewelry pop-ups chock-full of vintage pieces informed the collection’s design. “I wanted the line to have enough bandwidth of general style to work in any setting,” says Lucas, regarding coupling the aesthetics.

The eight-piece collection features door knobs and knockers, drawer and appliance pulls, and, as Lucas hoped, complements just about any interior design style.



LUCAS PROVIDES INSIGHT ON SOME OF HER FAVORITE PIECES FROM HER MODERN MATTER COLLECTION.



“I love this little flower with a ring pull at the bottom. It feels like a piece of jewelry and dresses up any kitchen cabinet or bath vanity.”



“In this collection we used some really interesting colors, such as a turquoise patina in some of the crevices of the hardware. It was an extra added layer of detail and interest that I love.”



“This is a really beautiful edge pull with scallops. It was a mix of some coastal nods with some vintage and antique pieces, which is how my work usually evolves.”



“This line is very versatile. The little knob has a white stone, but it can be swapped out to a turquoise stone or a coral stone if you need a pop of color.”



COLEY HOME



Potential BEAUTY

THE OWNER OF COUTURE HAUS INTERIOR DESIGN TURNS HER HOME WITH POTENTIAL INTO A HOME WITH STYLE.

WRITTEN BY ANNE MARIE ASHLEY
PHOTOGRAPHY BY CAT WILBORNE PHOTOGRAPHY

When designer Sandra Moncada-Mainz of Couture Haus Interior Design moved into her home, she was a little nervous about how they would make it work. In the fast-moving housing market of 2015, with very little inventory, her family looked for a home that had the most potential. Though it was dark and dated, they landed on one that could work—Moncada-Mainz just wasn't certain how. "I think we



The Nuevo chandelier adds a touch of modernity to the breakfast room, while wooden chairs from Four Hands keep things warm.

PERSONAL TOUCH
Artwork gathered from trips to France and Columbia.



PERSONAL TOUCH
Nightstands from Ambella for a modern, vintage look.

LEFT: Wallpaper from Style Library creates a focal point behind the bed in the guest bedroom, and custom Roman shades made with velvet Schumacher fabric add a layer of texture.

RIGHT: Walls trimmed in black complement the Cole & Son wallcoverings, while colorful accents in Kravet and Surya fabrics pop against a gray backdrop.



PERSONAL TOUCH
A funky dresser doubles as storage.

STEVEN SHELL

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PERSONAL TOUCH
Coffee tables from Modloft create a midcentury-mod vibe.



PERSONAL TOUCH
Photographs by Fares Micue inspired the dining room design.

TOP: Patterned curtains in Chaotic Berry Dada Stripe from Fabricut are striking in the family room, while the sofa and chairs from American Leather offer ample seating for family cocktail hour.

ABOVE: A funky Marilyn Monroe sculpture found locally at Paysage adorns the dining room table, and Phillip Jeffries wallpaper on the ceiling adds drama. Chairs covered in a Romo velvet stripe bring a pop of pattern.

just wanted to live in the home for a while to see how we used it,” says Moncada-Mainz. “It had dark cabinets, it was almost ten years old, and we needed to figure out what we needed.”

Fast-forward, and Moncada-Mainz’s home is a stylish and layered abode that is highly functional and the perfect fit for her family of three. “As a designer, I can experiment in my own home. So that’s what I did. I knew I liked geometric patterns and color,” explains Moncada-Mainz. “I love bright colors mixed with black and whites. I wanted to feel happy when I come home, and I wanted some funkiness to it, but I didn’t want it to be too out there.”

The result is clean, bold, and collected, with a decidedly personal feel. As most designers can attest, their homes are constantly evolving, but the pandemic helped Moncada-Mainz realize that their home was actually the perfect fit for them. “Pre-pandemic, my husband and I thought we’d move once our daughter left for college, but now, we feel like it’s the ideal house. Like most people, the time at home gave us a chance to really use our home in the most functional way,” she says.

Moncada-Mainz turned her formal living room into a lounge and cocktail room for her and her husband, where they now spend most evenings relaxing and chatting by the green-painted fireplace. The dining room, which had previously been a catch-all for their old furniture and not-yet-placed items, became a showstopper of an entertaining room, with bold wall color, paper on the ceiling, and the photographic art that drove the design placed

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PERSONAL TOUCH
A butterfly sculpture painted by Moncada-Mainz's mother makes things personal.

In Moncada-Mainz's office, a tailored but glam shade pendant by Barbara Cosgrove coupled with a seatbelt chair from Phillips Collection creates a mixed media pop of texture. A gray Jaipur area rug keeps the room grounded.

front and center on the wall. “Those photographs just weren’t fitting in anywhere, and I knew I eventually wanted a moody dining space, so I just let the art drive the concept,” she says.

They turned the bonus room into a study space for their daughter, using black and white as the base, and pops of her favorite pink color combined with red. “It’s funny because I originally picked out a Cole & Son wallpaper called Circus for this room, and everyone hated it, including me!” recalls Moncada-Mainz. “It was far too busy for the size of the room,

so we settled on this more neutral black-and-white pattern. Again, I get to experiment!”

With an industrial engineering degree, Moncada-Mainz cannot design without function. “There is definitely a balance between beauty and function for me,” she admits. “But in the end, if it isn’t functional, I won’t do it.”

In buying a house “with potential,” this industrial-engineer-turned-designer took potential to functional and made it beautiful. ♦

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This living room designed by Lisa Sherry is a dreamy creamy palette of white tones and natural textures.



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LAUREN *Burns*

Designer Lauren Burns is known for her masterful mix of styles and sophisticated layering. From commercial to residential designs, her projects can be seen nationwide. In her own home, Burns strives to create spaces that are bold yet soothing.

“For my own bedroom, I wanted to create a feminine and restful space that was sophisticated and comfortable,” explains Burns. “It’s important to me to have curated spaces, whether it’s in my own home or for clients. My bedroom includes original and refinished vintage pieces mixed with layers of soft gray, and several found objects that add interest and create a collected look.”

1. Chunky Stacked Table Lamp / \$699 / circalighting.com
2. Vintage Broyhill Credenza / vintage shop in Durham
3. Noir Art Deco Chandelier / to the trade / noirfurniturela.com
4. Addison Throw Pillow / \$238 / piper-collection.com
5. Berlin Distressed Rug in Rose / \$1,164 / burkedecor.com
6. Meje Wingback Bed / to the trade / decorist.com
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INTERIOR DESIGN: MADRE DALLAS
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WRITTEN BY SARAH CROSLAND

The swanky Buckhead district of Atlanta has been a destination for fashion and design for decades. And while there's no shortage of luxe hotels in the area, the new Kimpton Sylvan is undeniably the most stylish of the moment.

Originally a 1950s midcentury-modern residential building, it recently underwent extensive renovations, reopening in 2021 as a 217-room boutique hotel. It's just steps from Buckhead Village District, home to designer brands, art galleries, and shops like Ferguson, Ligne Roset, and Interior Define.

The name Sylvan is derived from the Latin word for "forest," which feels especially appropriate as you enter beneath towering old oaks and magnolias. Subtle wood finishes in the living room–style lobby and hues of sage and forest green in the guest rooms weave this verdant theme throughout.

Make reservations for at least one dinner at The Betty, Kimpton's onsite restaurant and self-proclaimed New American Supper Club, which has already received accolades for both its Old Hollywood ambiance and its fresh take on classic fare. Blue velvet banquettes, penny-tiled floors, and dramatic art set the midcentury glam scene. The menu is seasonally driven and features elegant dishes like whole salt-crusted fish seasoned with leeks and turnips and pillowy ricotta gnocchi topped with fragrant lamb ragu.

After dinner, catch the elevator up to the ninth-floor colorful rooftop lounge, St. Julep. It's as playful as The Betty is moody, with an Instagram-worthy terrace that features a hand-painted mural on one side and sweeping Buckhead skyline views on the other.

CRIS MOLINA



NEW & NOW

The famed Atlanta Decorative Arts Center (ADAC) is less than three miles from the Kimpton Sylvan and is a must-see while in town. ADAC is open to the public on weekdays and filled with designer showrooms such as Kravet, Schumacher, Pindler, Tritter Feefer, and more, which are always worth a visit to get the creative juices flowing.

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EXTRAORDINARY EVENTS.



- 1) David O'Neil speaks with Jo Miller, Clay Duran, and Emily Bourgeois.
- 2) Left to right: Ellie Hiers, Jim Levesque, and Jo Miller.
- 3) Left to right: Zandy Gammons, Jackie Craig, and Vicky Serany.
- 4) Left and right: Seely Nicholson and Jackie Craig.
- 5) Left to right: Nichole Blough, Blake Miller, Anne Marie Ashley, Julia Mullen, and Betty Eatman.
- 6) Left to right: Leah Heinsius, Katie Miner, Fresca Rose, Carmen Reitnour, and Sheryl Vandermolen Bucci.
- 7) Left to right: Cathy Austin, Kara Cox, and April Freezor.
- 8) Left to right: Anne Marie Ashley, Don Duffy, Blake Miller, and Aida Saul.
- 9) Left and right: Kelly Nicholson and Sue Mooney.

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FIVE MINUTES WITH RAY BOOTH

HDD sat down with Ray Booth to discuss his new line with Hickory Chair, which is carried at Good's Home Furnishings.

Q: What's your favorite piece in the Ray Booth for Hickory Chair collection?

A: *I really love the Tete-a-tete; it's a classic silhouette. But I also love the Block dining table, which is such a beautiful piece of architecture—kind of a pavilion as a cocktail table.*

Q: What inspired you to become a designer?

A: *I credit my mom. She was able to experience living in antebellum architecture at a young age, and it cemented her love for architecture and design. That's why I studied architecture at Auburn, and when I went to New York, I fell in love with design, too.*

Q: What was the impetus to write your book, *Evocative Interiors*?

A: *I was a lesser known designer at McAlpine when the company's book publicist took notice of me and suggested I write my own book. So, we began conceptualizing *Evocative Interiors*. It was cathartic, and to intellectualize the work you do with people is amazing. That book led to this Hickory Chair (HC) line.*

Q: What's next for Ray Booth?

A: *Well, we're about to introduce thirty new pieces to the HC line, but I'm also working on a secret project that we're excited to announce soon. Stay tuned.*



- 1) Left and right: Oonagh Murray and Ray Booth.
- 2) Ray Booth signs his book for Maria Owen.
- 3) Good's owners, Chris and Kevin Bowman.



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DRINKING IT IN

WHEN VICKY SERANY WAS FINALLY ABLE TO DESIGN HER OWN HOME FROM THE GROUND UP, SHE PULLED OUT ALL THE STOPS.

TEXT BY JILL WALDBIESER | PHOTOGRAPHY BY DUSTIN PECK



Serany's husband, Dan, has taken up guitar, so his home office doubles as a music room. It opens up to a courtyard behind the house, so he can practice inside or out. The grid of black-and-white photographs is Dan's collection of manhole covers. **OPPOSITE:** Serany commissioned the dining room art from her friend, artist Susan Hecht. The asymmetrical light fixture by Arteriors adds an air of playfulness. Highland House chairs and pottery purchased on a recent trip to the Amalfi Coast showcase Serany's use of texture.



AFTER TWENTY YEARS of designing some of the region's most beautiful homes, Vicky Serany had seen her share of impressive architecture and design. But in the end, what drew her to the space where she would eventually build her own family home wasn't square footage or a lush landscape—it was the beverage situation. "I wanted to be able to walk for coffee in the morning and for wine in the evening," says Serany, founder and principal of Southern Studio Interior Design.

The lot in Cary was conveniently situated for both, but it had other challenges. At just thirty-five feet across, it was long and narrow, and it had to meet some specific zoning requirements. Serany found inspiration in the architecture of historic Charleston, South Carolina, and with the help of local designer Tony Frazier and her own team at Southern Studio, she was able to make her dream of a casual, comfortable, well-designed family home a reality.

From the start, Serany knew that using space efficiently was key. "I wanted something livable, but not large," she says. "I wanted beautiful detail, but didn't need square footage. I really thought about the way we live and what we needed in our home."





The living room is one of the more casual, comfortable areas of the home. Serany says she “bit the bullet” on a large sectional from Highland House, but making it fit in a smaller space was a challenge. The open floor plan and the delicate accent pieces help. The fireplace is wrapped in leathered steel gray granite with a wooden mantle that echoes the ceiling beams.

Serany uses the light, bright loft area at the top of the stairs as a workspace. Captain Morgan, the family dog, loves the spot as well. The gold wall-mounted table is a piece from Stray Dog Designs that was in their former house, and special measures were taken to ensure that it fit perfectly in this space. "It's a special piece," says Serany, pointing out that the leaves are actually papier-mâché.





While the main house is a study in neutrals, the small guest apartment above the detached garage was Serany's opportunity to play with pattern and color. "It's such a small space that I wanted to test and push myself," she says.



The staircase is central to the house, but because Serany didn't want open balusters, she enclosed the area with paneling and added a wet bar/beverage station. The entire counter, sink included, is fabricated from a single piece of quartzite.

Those needs included space that could be pressed into more than one function as needed: home office or music studio, dining room or meeting space. "I wanted a big, open plan with flexible spaces," says Serany, who occasionally works from home, as does her husband, Dan. They each have their own spaces: she frequents the upstairs loft while he has a room that opens onto a courtyard. He uses it for work and play, having recently taken up guitar. And because they plan to stay in this home into their retirement years, Serany wanted the option of moving the primary suite downstairs at some point, if necessary.

The shape of the lot called for an open floor plan if they wanted to maximize natural light, so the staircase is at the center of the house. Serany considered balusters a waste

of space, so she enclosed the stairs with walls that feature millwork instead.

Of course, the open floor plan meant Serany had to use all her interior design skills to create distinct rooms in the 2,800-square-foot home. "We defined spaces by using ceiling detail more than walls," she says. The entire second floor lacks drywall, with only tongue-and-groove paneling instead. Floors became similarly important. The primary bathroom maintains its warmth with a wood floor, the integrity of which is preserved by the creation of a "wet room"—a freestanding tub enclosed in a shower stall, which keeps moisture in its designated area.

Serany favors natural materials like wood and stone, and a largely neutral palette, but details like trim and millwork



The walnut island makes a fitting centerpiece for the long, narrow kitchen, and is topped with quartzite that matches the backsplash. Rather than a formal breakfast nook, Serany added a bar-height table, also walnut, because “we don’t often use it in homes.”



add plenty of interest. Her coworkers at Southern Studio frequently tease her that her favorite color is a texture, and from upholstered Highland House chairs to textural wallpaper, everywhere you look there is a surface begging you to run your hand over it.

Any color that is in the home is often pulled from artwork Serany has collected over the years. The entire concepts for the dining room and a guest bedroom are pulled from shades used prominently in the paintings that hang in them.

One of the benefits of being able to design from the ground up was the ability to create spaces around favorite possessions and treasured collections. The living room features a growing gallery wall of street art purchased on the family's many vacations, and in Dan's office/music room, a grid of framed photographs of manhole covers dominates one wall; he makes a point of taking a photo of one in every new



LEFT: Serany likes to add a visual pause between common areas and private spaces, and this nook just off the primary bedroom proved to be the perfect spot for it. Because the rest of the home is so light and bright, she lent this alcove some moodiness with handmade textural wallpaper by Vahallan.

ABOVE: In this guest bedroom, Serany made a daring departure from her usual neutral palette, pulling green from a painting by Nancy McClure from ArtSource and splashing it on the nightstand, the dresser, and the barn-style closet door.

city they visit. "Collecting art during our travels gives us a story and memory," says Serany.

In the scullery off the kitchen hangs a collection of framed recipes handwritten by Serany's grandmother. "I love seeing her handwriting every day," she says. The walk-in pantry was part of her master vision for the kitchen, but she wanted it to have its own vibe, so she changed up the hardware, countertops, and flooring, using natural slate in a Versailles pattern with contrasting cream grout.

The narrowness of the lot constrained the dimensions of the kitchen somewhat, but it still functions beautifully, says Serany. Because she doesn't like to interrupt traffic flow in the kitchen while entertaining, and beverages rate high on her priority list, Serany added a separate wet bar away from the kitchen, at the base of the stairs. That way, people can serve themselves without getting in the host's way.

Working on her own home has been, she says, both easier and more difficult than her client's projects. But she's happy with how it turned out. "It was a really fun project to design," she says. It suits her lifestyle now, coffee and wine included. "This is a new phase of life for us," says Serany, "and this house makes it so we like to be at home." ♦

The wooden double doors and round pillars on the wraparound porch are elements borrowed from historic Charleston homes. With a huge magnolia tree lending natural privacy, the porch is an ideal place to sit and enjoy cocktails and conversation with friends.



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.



MR. H. POTTER,
The Cupboard under the Stairs,
4. Privet Drive,
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SURREY



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.

FUNKY FRESH

TEXT BY ANNE MARIE ASHLEY | PHOTOGRAPHY BY CATHERINE NGUYEN

DESIGNER MICHELLE MURPHY GIVES US A PEEK INTO HER CREATIVE MIND BY WAY OF HER PERSONAL ONE-OF-A-KIND HOME.

In this living room corner, art that Murphy purchased from Baker Furniture hangs over a bench from Arteriors.





ABOVE: Pendants from Visual Comfort draw the eye into the bright and airy kitchen. For added texture and interest in the all-white space, Murphy added chevron panels to the end of her island. Oak floors from Raleigh Reclaimed complement a softer look.

WHEN DESIGNER Michelle Murphy saw the quaint old home with a white picket fence just down the street from her client's home in Chapel Hill, she fell in love with it—which was odd, because it was not her typical modern style. It was built in 1974 and the adorable fence made it feel charming and nostalgic. Still, she and her husband, Dennis, begged to get inside before it was set to hit the market, and when they did, it had even more of the opposite style Murphy was drawn to.

“I mean, this home had eight-foot ceilings, chopped up rooms, and, like ... kangaroo wallpaper in the kitchen,” she recalls, laughing. “The kitchen was so tiny that it could barely fit a forty-inch table. But I just loved the bones so much, and the location, and I knew right away that it was the house for us. The second it hit the market, we made a full-price offer and landed the home.”



**THIS PAGE AND
OPPOSITE BOTTOM:**

Murphy envisioned a smoke-filled room with masculine energy for the family room loft, which comes to life with a smoky hand-painted mural by Caroline Lizarraga. A black shiplap wall mixed with moody furnishings from Four Hands rounds it out.





Michelle Murphy stands in front of her floral graffiti wallpaper from Porter Teleo and artwork made from a collage of wedding photos.

Seeing potential where others can't may be one of Murphy's superpowers, and her designs only solidify her specialty. They drew up plans for a total renovation of the home, but started first with the kitchen and primary bedroom and bathroom. And although they added a dormer on the front that was not in the plans, the home has captured everything in her original blueprints, exactly as Murphy could envision.

The kitchen with kangaroo wallpaper transformed into Murphy's new butler's pantry, and when they discovered a five-by-four-foot walled-in empty space during the renovations, her son's bathroom grew bigger. The second renovation, which took place last year, nearly doubled the footprint of the home and included tearing down to studs and starting over, complete with "sneaky walkthroughs to add interest and curious nooks and crannies throughout," according to Murphy.

"In order to match me and my husband's style, we had to layer," says the designer. "The bones are modern farmhouse, but inside of that we wanted clean lines and a modern feel for



In the dining room, Murphy hid the door to the kitchen with wallpaper from Vahallan. A metal dining table from Dovetail Furniture adds an industrial feel and a chandelier from Oly Studio brings the funk.



my husband, and, for me, a little coastal, a little rock 'n roll, a little boho, and a little glam. I try to layer many different styles to create an overall look.”

And that aesthetic is evident in most rooms; the guest bathroom has an Asian-style wallpaper combined with a green-hued vanity, a black-and-white patterned floor, and “wacko art,” as Murphy puts it. It’s finished off with polished chrome fixtures to add the glam piece. In the formal living room, a leather chandelier mingles with floral graffiti wallpaper. “It’s all done in an elegant way, so that nothing seems too over-the-top,” promises Murphy. “It’s balancing funky elements with more neutral or tonal elements, and playing with texture to get depth out of a neutral palette; but that balance is what keeps it feeling cohesive.”

Murphy continues, saying that in her husband’s “manland” she had the chance to go ridiculous—



ABOVE: In this little corner, Murphy chose Kravet fabrics for softness and color, and paired them with a mirror from Palecek.

BELOW: In the primary bedroom, Murphy chose Beyond wallpaper by Phillip Jeffries to add interest behind the bed. Nightstands in navy from Villa & House stand by, and a rug from Eatman’s Carpets & Interiors grounds the room. Chairs from Four Hands offer a respite on the side.



Murphy's favorite room is her office, with another hand-painted mural by Caroline Lizarraga that "makes the space," she says. The hot pink ottoman is a centerpiece from Baker Furniture, as is the sofa and table. A chandelier from Visual Comfort adds some fun, while art by Jennifer Lashbrook complements.







The main living room is open and airy, with Porter Teleo wallpaper on the staircase wall and a white leather coffee table from Square Feathers that centers the room. Gray chairs from Arteriors offer extra soft seating. Plants throughout are from GTHRd by HD.

The primary bedroom closet is Murphy's personal heaven, where the ceiling is just as lively as the clothes on the hangers. Wallpaper from Christian Lacroix and a chandelier from Currey & Company set the tone.



ridiculous as in lopping off the head of a deer statue, lacquering it in white, and making a planter out of it. “Sometimes when I tell my team what I want them to do, they definitely give me an uneasy look,” says Murphy. “But then they see the finished product and they’re like, ‘Oh yeah, actually that is one of our favorite elements!’”

Her vision may lack luster in language, but in execution, it’s vivid and flawless. Murphy saw her husband’s “manland” as a smoky bar with a modern feel. Translated, it looks like reclaimed wood on the ceiling, black walls, and a modified deer planter to create the effect.

“For little things, I may occasionally second guess myself, but for bigger things, I just think, ‘It’s so badass, why would it be bad?’” admits Murphy. “You have to do new things all the time, or else design can get stagnant and boring.”

After twenty-five years in the business, Murphy has earned the right to be badass, especially when it comes to her own home. And her home is anything but boring or stagnant.

“I saw in a magazine feature that Mike D from the Beastie Boys had this Brooklyn toile in his home that featured landmarks and icons from his hometown in Brooklyn, and I just fell in love,” she says. “I searched everywhere for the manufacturers of that paper to order a Philly toile that would pay homage to my college town. I was able to custom order a Philly version in a black-and-white pattern, and it’s one of my favorite elements in the home.”

Artist Caroline Lizarraga flew in from San Francisco and painted the murals that currently reside in Murphy’s office and family loft. “I am the worst at waiting. I have no patience. But I waited for Caroline. It was exactly what I needed in those spaces,” says Murphy.

Perhaps it’s the mix of patience, vision, creativity, and a healthy dose of badass-ness that results in the overall intrigue of Murphy’s home. One thing is for certain, however: it oozes style that only Murphy can create. ♦



ABOVE: The designer ordered a custom black-and-white Philadelphia toile wallpaper by Flavor Paper for her powder room and paired it with a hot pink vanity for a fun dose of color.

BELOW: Murphy made the laundry room just as fun as the rest of the home with wallcoverings from Emma Shipley for Kravet and fixtures by Arteriors.



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WRITTEN BY BRANDY WOODS SNOW



Meredith Beregovski

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Meredith Beregovski, owner of Georgia Street Design in Charlotte, greatly values the relationships she builds with her clients as a basis for her designs, and she trusts A. Hoke with helping to create spaces that truly reflect them. “We love working with A. Hoke and their expert staff who are dedicated to finding the best price points, discovering alternative fabrics, and efficiently ordering products,” she says of her more than ten-year relationship with A. Hoke.

As a one-stop-shop for high-end furniture, fabrics, wallcoverings, and decor, A. Hoke’s comprehensive showrooms, conveniently located in both Charlotte and Raleigh, provide designers with close collaboration on custom pieces, extensive product selections, and workspaces perfectly suited to bringing in clients for a hands-on experience. New initiatives focused on expedited delivery and quick-ship options show A. Hoke’s commitment to meeting designers and clients where their needs are.

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For Beregovski, simply walking into A. Hoke inspires her designs. “By providing access to upholstered pieces on the showroom floor, my clients and I have the ability to see and experience firsthand all finishes as well as gauge the size and scale of signature items. Also, I love having a bright, open space in which to build designs and sort through fabrics and samples,” she says. “Having access to the showroom enables me to fully service my clients and the investment they’re making in their home.”

With a keen attention to detail, a knowledgeable and efficient staff, and featuring top furniture lines like Highland House, Lee Industries, and Century Furniture, A. Hoke has solidified its position as a designer’s perfect partner.

Applegate says she’s grateful for the knowledgeable staff that provides transparency and advice on everything from conceptualization to front-end logistics. “Details matter, and A. Hoke is great about communicating clearly on each order so that my clients always get the best results.”

Beregovski agrees, saying, “A. Hoke feels like an extension of our business. We are thankful to work with them on every project we complete at Georgia Street Design.” ♦



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CUSTOMERS ARE LIKE FAMILY AT THIS FINE ART GALLERY,
WHERE IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE.

WRITTEN BY DANA W. TODD



There's not much the staff at Bev's Fine Art, The Centerpiece Gallery won't do to prioritize the cherished relationships they have developed over the last thirty-five years. As a family-owned business, the familial atmosphere between team members helps them develop strong relationships with artists, homeowners, and collectors.

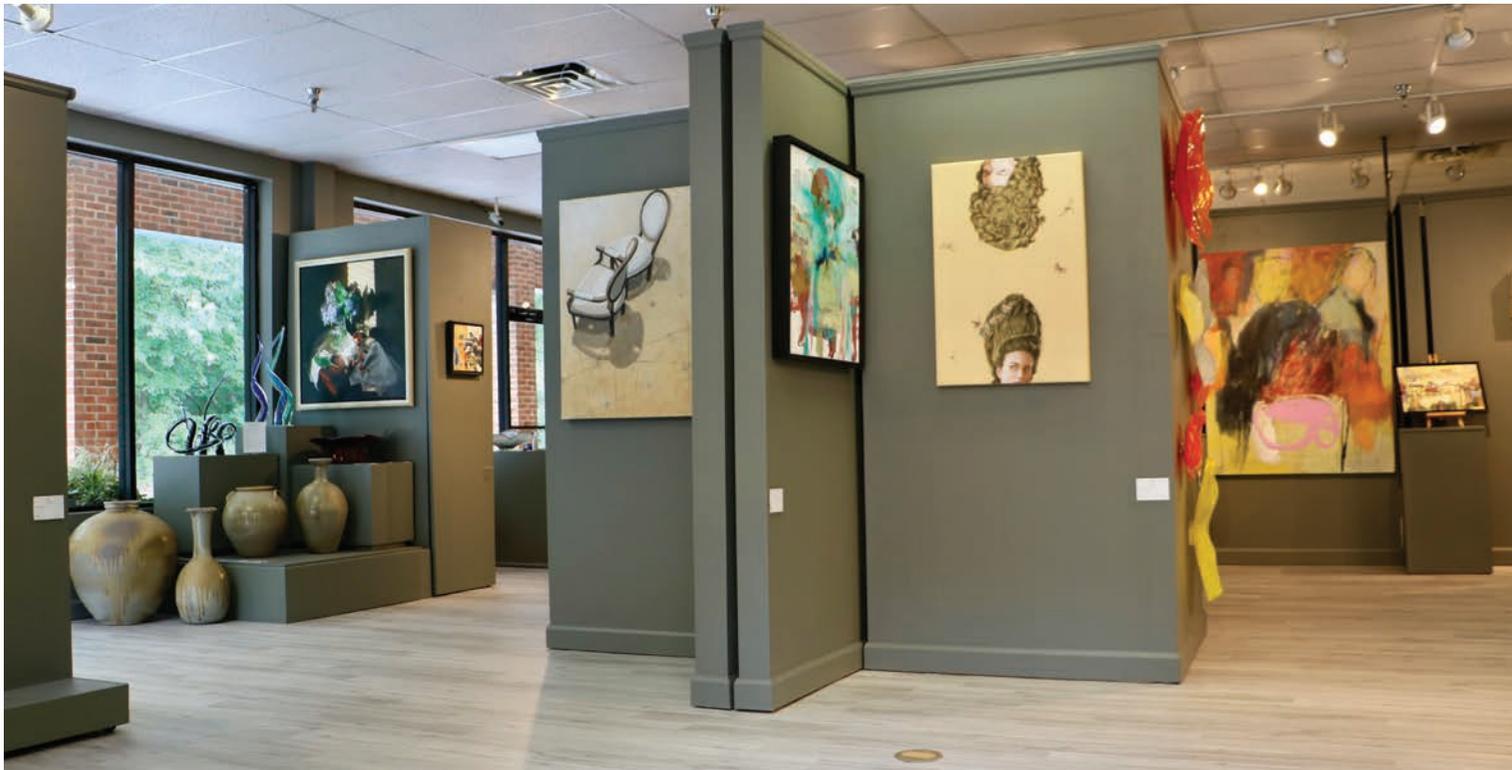
"The synergy of our talented staff members extends to everyone who walks in the door of the gallery," says Wendy Kesterson, co-owner and operator of Bev's Fine Art, The Centerpiece Gallery. "Some employees have been with the company twenty years—almost as long as the doors have been open—and some are actively sought out for their intimate industry knowledge. Gallery manager Kathleen Deep, for example, is an acclaimed artist in her own right."



BEV'S FINE ART, THE CENTERPIECE GALLERY

“THE SYNERGY OF OUR TALENTED STAFF MEMBERS EXTENDS TO EVERYONE WHO WALKS IN THE DOOR OF THE GALLERY.”

—WENDY KESTERSON



The multi-talented team, which includes art sales and framing specialist Stacey Chapman, not only scouts out nationally-known artists to bring their works to the gallery walls, but also provides well-respected custom framing and installation services. “I started working with Bev’s Fine Art when I moved to town twelve years ago,” says artist and framing customer Susan Woodson. “The gallery is very professional and the team is personable. They have framed some of the pieces I have painted, and they have reframed existing art for my new home. Even though I live some distance from Bev’s, I always make the effort to go there.”

Above and beyond is ordinary business for the team. When a couple stopped by the gallery on a recent trip through Raleigh and purchased three pieces of art for their Maryland residence, they had no way to get them back home, so Kesterson transported and installed them in the client’s home.

The supportive vibe is evident among the artists who frequent the gallery, too. During receptions for seasonal exhibits, you can expect to see artists displaying their work as well as fellow artists cheering on the exhibitors. The gallery’s year-round workshops, where patrons learn a variety of artistic skills at all ability levels, are well attended.

Whether looking for new fine art for your walls in the 4,000-square-foot gallery, giving a fresh look to your rooms by reframing existing pieces, adding energy to your corporate space through art and multimedia installations, or learning and honing your skills in one of the monthly workshops, there is something for every art lover. And with the full range of services provided at every step of the process, including consultation on thoughtful placement and installation in your home or business, Bev’s Fine Art, The Centerpiece Gallery is the single source to uncover your inner artist.◆

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SMALL BUT MIGHTY

CLOSETS BY DESIGN OFFERS SMART SOLUTIONS TO OPTIMIZE THE SMALLEST SPACE IN THE HOUSE.

WRITTEN BY LEE RHODES



Pantries are the unsung heroes of our kitchens. When done well, they can boost storage, cut down on clutter, and maybe even motivate you to cook more. But the key is to make sure they're done well, and this is where Closets by Design comes in. Locally owned and operated, they do much more than the name suggests, designing, building, and installing custom closets, garage cabinets, home offices, laundries, and, yes, pantries too.

For CEO Chantale Persinger, it's personal. Before she designed her own pantry, she admits it was "a wreck."

"I would clean that thing out and the next time I would go grocery shopping, it would be mess again," she says with a laugh.

The redesign of her pantry became what she calls "life changing."

She's not speaking in hyperbole. Whether large or small, if you design it right, your pantry can provide a home for everything. And the versatility of a well-organized pantry is just one of its many advantages. Persinger shares creative solutions that allow you to use your pantry to its full potential.

Visibility. Many people opt for drawers in their pantry, but unlike regular drawers where you can't see what's inside, pantry drawers have Lucite fronts that allow for neat, easy storage where you can easily see everything.

Adjustable shelves. Wasted space, be gone. Unlike a closet, pantries hold many small items, like mustard jars and spices, so the height between conventional shelves wastes tons of space. Incorporating adjustable shelves saves space, allows for proper organization, and creates a sense of order.





“SOMETIMES THE SMALLEST SPACE IN THE HOUSE CAN GIVE YOU THE MOST BANG FOR YOUR BUCK.”

—CHANTALE PERSINGER

Kid-friendly solutions. Pantries can be used to house dedicated drawers or baskets for children. During grocery shopping at the beginning of the week, each child’s items get stored in the respective baskets. “Once they run out, they run out, but they can’t touch the other child’s goodies,” explains Persinger. “This keeps the bickering down.”

Hanging options. The space behind the pantry door is not always top of mind, but by incorporating a flat wall with hooks on it, you can hang everything from fruits and veggies to grill utensils to oven mitts. Cookie pans and other awkwardly sized items can be stored vertically in the pantry as well.

Beyond food storage. Many homeowners like to keep small or less frequently used appliances, such as mixers or blenders, in

their pantries. Others have workspaces created within the pantry so appliances can be operated there, keeping unsightly cords out of sight.

Wine and coffee. Yes, please! Today’s pantry is not limited to canned goods. It can be a dedicated spot for wine storage (including a wine fridge) as well as a coffee station, with the machine, java, mugs, and sweeteners all conveniently within reach.

Closets by Design offers all these high-quality pantry solutions and more, and for a pantry install, they’ll be in and out of your house in less than a day, with a result that increases your kitchen functionality and decreases your stress level.

“Sometimes the smallest space in the house can give you the most bang for your buck,” concludes Persinger. ♦



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WALKING THE WALK

R. JACOBS STEPS UP IN HEARTWARMING WAYS.

WRITTEN BY LEE RHODES

The Raleigh community already knows that R. Jacobs delivers exceptional hardware and kitchen and bath fixtures. What they may not know is that founder and CEO Rick Jacobs, along with team members Eric Jacobs, Parker Jacobs, and Teresa Merritt, serves the community in other extraordinary ways.

Those who know Rick Jacobs say he's always had a big heart, but Jacobs himself is quick to say it's not about him. "It's about the community," he emphasizes. "We've all had

ups and downs. Our ups are because of the community, so it's important to give back to them."

Jacobs has always been consistent with supporting organizations near and dear to his heart, and he's also been intentional with the causes he supports; being deliberate with community partnerships allows him to make a much deeper impact.

One such partnership is with the Roc Solid Foundation, an organization that creates hope for families fighting pediatric cancer by providing them with custom backyard playsets.



GARY DRAKE

R. Jacobs was one of Roc Solid's first supporters, and they have just completed their fifth annual playset for a local pediatric cancer family.

The new backyard playsets not only provide children with a safe, germ-free place to play, but they also give families an escape from the difficult reality of fighting cancer while creating happy memories together. Jacobs recalls when he first heard about the foundation. Kara Bonvillian, senior development coordinator at Roc Solid, traveled from Virginia to Raleigh to meet with Jacobs and share their story.

"A few minutes into her speech, I said, 'I'm in,'" he recalls. "There are certain things that hit your heart right away, and this was one of those."

Bonvillian indicates that one of her favorite R. Jacobs traditions is when Jacobs places an American flag on every single playset built by his team. And those playsets are increasing thanks to a VIP fundraising event that R. Jacobs hosted at their premier showroom to help even more kids receive them.

IT'S ABOUT THE
COMMUNITY . . . IT'S
IMPORTANT TO
GIVE BACK TO THEM."

—RICK JACOBS

Another cause near and dear to Jacob's heart is the Helene Foundation, a cancer organization that provides immediate support to mothers fighting cancer, and their families, with a goal of maintaining as much normalcy as possible during the chaos that such a diagnosis brings.

Susan Bowers, executive director of the Helene Foundation, met Jacobs decades ago when they were neighbors. "He is one of the kindest men I have ever met and would literally give you the shirt off his back if he felt like it would help you, and he asks for nothing in return."



When Bowers reached out to Jacobs years later about sponsoring the Helene Foundation at their annual gala, he agreed, and also proposed a unique idea for a fundraiser—having kids race plastic ducks down the twisty slide at Seven Oaks Swim & Racquet Club for prizes. This fundraiser, affectionately known as the Kentucky Derby, just celebrated its eighth and biggest fundraising year yet.

"Rick loves our community, and he doesn't just talk about it; he walks the walk through tremendous monetary support and volunteer hours," adds Bowers.

"We will continue to support the community as long as there are good causes out there," concludes Jacobs. ♦



PERFECT PRIVACY

BY DAVID PAYNE

IF THE STREETScape AND OTHER SURROUNDINGS ARE UNSUITABLE VISUAL COMPANIONS FOR YOUR HOME AND YARD, THERE IS A SOLUTION TO TONE DOWN THEIR UNSEEMLY EFFECT ON YOUR LANDSCAPE.

We helped one family living inside the Beltline turn less-than-ideal features into a picture-perfect landscape. The homeowners were frustrated by a lack of privacy from street activity on their corner lot and an unsightly utility pole bordering their front yard. A creative landscape and hardscape team of professionals from Home & Garden Landscapes addressed these issues in a clever way that met the family's needs.

When a project takes many months to complete, such as this one, it's important to remain consistent when choosing plant material so the result appears unified. By choosing the same tree and shrub specimens throughout the project, we addressed the family's concerns in a cohesive way and ensured the landscape looks like it has matured-in-place over time. By planting only fully grown trees and shrubs, the homeowners understand how the finished project will look.

By adding more than fifty large Southern Magnolias, Needle Palms, Weeping Alaskan Cedars, and colorful Camellia Sasanquas, we unified the front yard, backyard, and side yard into a naturally pleasing landscape. We tucked many of the mature trees behind a retaining wall streetside. Needle Palms provide privacy at eye level, while tall Weeping Alaskan Cedars surround the unsightly utility pole and all its protruding wires, drawing the eye upward and mitigating its undesired effect on the landscape. By adding twenty-two-foot mature Magnolias to the front yard, we successfully blocked harsh car headlights shining into the house as vehicles turn onto a side street. Stone steps and walkways installed from the street to the house soften the transition to the entranceway and provide an interactive, clear path to the house's front door.

With the homeowners' request to provide privacy and hide utilitarian structures completed, we turned our attention once again to consistency of design by





“WE GAVE THE HOMEOWNERS A TAKEAWAY BONUS: AN INSTANTLY MATURE LANDSCAPE THEY CAN BEGIN ENJOYING IMMEDIATELY.”

repeating plants in an interesting way. Needle Palms planted at the backyard’s entrance echo the front yard and hint at the pool and surrounding palms around the corner. A new group of dwarf Hinoki Cypress installed as foundational plantings repeat what was installed in the first two phases of the project. By alternating arrangements of these four specimens of trees and shrubs, we adhered to our design theme while enlivening it with different patterns.

In answering the call for privacy through landscape design, we gave the homeowners a takeaway bonus: an instantly mature landscape they can begin enjoying immediately. ♦

DAVID PAYNE is the owner of HOME & GARDEN LANDSCAPES and can be reached at 919-801-0211 or HOMEANDGARDENLANDSCAPES.COM.



CHEERS FOR CRYSTOS

BY SUNNY SURANA

QUARTZITE IS A TOP CONTENDER IN THE WORLD OF NATURAL STONES, ESPECIALLY FOR KITCHEN COUNTERTOPS, BECAUSE OF ITS RESISTANCE TO HEAT, SCRATCHES, AND EVERYDAY WEAR-AND-TEAR.

Design consultants at CRS never assume the type of material homeowners need. The consultant asks a series of questions about the homeowner's lifestyle to connect them with the type of finish that best fits how they live. Do they have a large or small family? Do they enjoy entertaining? Does someone really like to cook? Are they careful about placing hot pots and pans on the countertop, or do they prefer not to worry about this? It's an organic conversation that helps us better understand needs and desires. Often a homeowner walks into the showroom and tells us marble is completely off the table, but when we show them our selection of polished, hard, honed, or leathered marble, they change their mind. Or sometimes the diversity of CRS' line of quartz or Infinity's Italian porcelain has the right color,

composition, and durability for their family. This dialogue between homeowners and designers is integral to finding the perfect addition to any home.

In addition to its gem-like beauty, quartzite is popular for its minimal maintenance. Since it only requires sealing once a year, it is ideal for high-functioning households and suitable for any application, including countertops, shower walls, fireplace surrounds, backsplashes, and indoor-outdoor kitchens.

We have recently introduced a new quartzite, Crystos, with rave reviews. This quartzite features a background of black and moody shades of gray with elegant, ivory crosshatch veining and pops of rosy, warm gold. It is a welcome, dramatic counterpoint to an otherwise Zen space.

Homeowners and designers can peruse CRS' dog-friendly showroom to view more than four hundred stone options, the largest selection in the Southeast, and compare them side by side. There really is no better way to choose stone for a home than in person and with the guidance of a knowledgeable consultant. It's important to note that a stone can look different or be treated





“CRYSTOS QUARTZITE IS A WELCOME,
DRAMATIC COUNTERPOINT TO AN OTHERWISE ZEN SPACE.”

differently from supplier to supplier, but CRS’ natural stones never undergo color-enhancing treatments or fillers. All are simply as beautiful as nature intended and showcased in our newly remodeled showroom with

natural lighting and a climate-controlled environment. Bring the whole family, including Fido, and choose your quartzite, quartz, marble, soapstone, porcelain, or granite on site and with an informed opinion. ♦



BREAKING GROUND

BY EVAN BOST

IN THIS HASTY HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION ECONOMY, IT'S EASY TO MINIMIZE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF EACH NEW HOME ADDED TO THE LANDSCAPE.

Whether it's a starter home or a custom estate, building a new home is a monumental endeavor for the builder, trades, and homeowner. We believe a new home is an enduring fixture that will provide a lifetime of memories as well as housing for future generations. Thus, we celebrate each new home with a groundbreaking ceremony and blessing of the project that has become tradition here at Bost Custom Homes.

Even as our schedules become increasingly cluttered, we believe it's important to make time for the celebrations that bring value to our lives. For our team and our clients, the groundbreaking ceremony has become one of the most significant events of the entire homebuilding process. It may seem trivial, but through this tradition we now share special memories with dozens of families and continue to build new ones with the next generation.

Any anthropologist or historian will agree that nearly all ceremonies are rooted in religion, and groundbreaking ceremonies are no different. Across cultures and religious traditions, celebrating the commencement of a construction project with a ceremony is nearly universal.



“THE GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY HAS BECOME ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT EVENTS OF THE ENTIRE HOMEBUILDING PROCESS.”



In the West, the tradition of laying a building’s cornerstone dates to the early Christian church in Eastern Europe, and earlier. Cornerstone ceremonies often involved symbolism of building on a spiritually solid foundation and receiving blessing from God. The idea of blessing the ground before breaking it to build upon is also rooted in ancient mysticism across cultures.

Although our ceremony is more social and celebratory in nature, we do pray a blessing over the project—for the safety of the workers, the ease of logistics, long-term waterproofing (half kidding), and, above all, for the family

that will inhabit the completed home and create a lifetime of memories there.

Although we don’t always share cultural or faith backgrounds with our clients, the blessing portion of the groundbreaking has always been a bonding moment between our team and our clients. It certainly helps us start the project off on the right foot, with a unified team paddling in the same direction. We believe taking the time to celebrate important milestones not only brings us closer together, but also produces better results in the field. It helps to remind us that we are building something greater than the sum of its features and budget items—we’re building a home. ♦

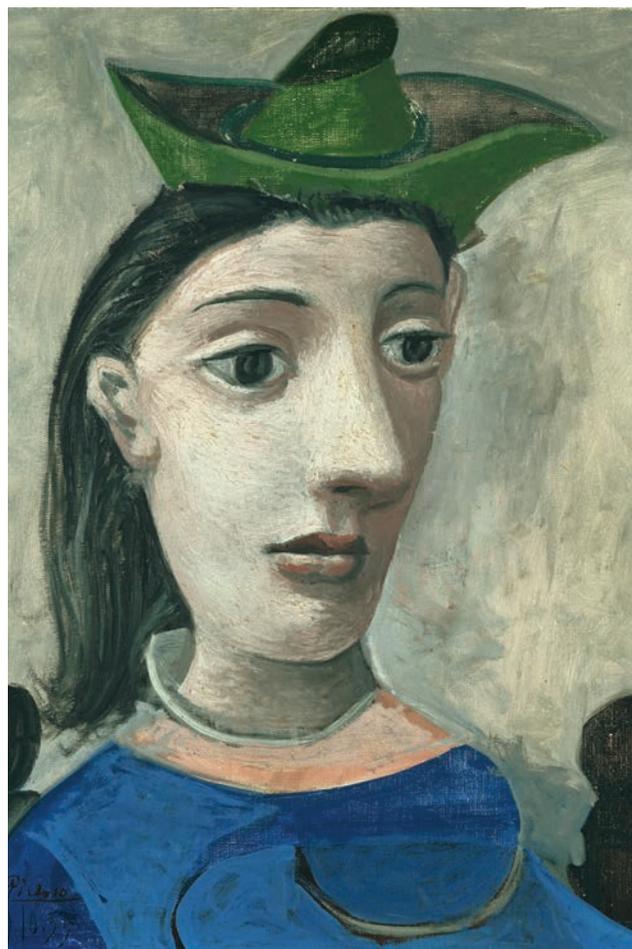
ARTS & EXHIBITIONS

SPOTLIGHT

*BAL MASQUÉ:
ART UNMASKED*

PITTSBORO GALLERY OF ARTS
October 14
pittsboroarts.org

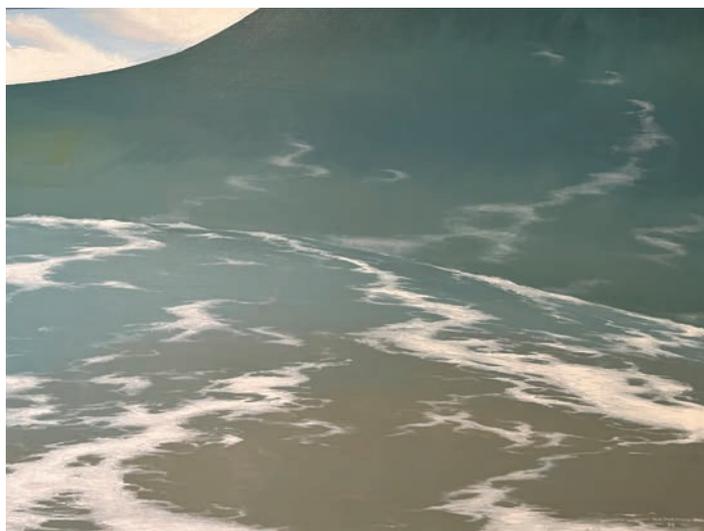
The Pittsboro Gallery of Arts invites art lovers to its *Bal Masqué: Art Unmasked* reception on October 14, from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Mingle and enjoy appetizers and beverages as you meet the artists and view new works on display in many mediums, including paintings, photography, fiber, ceramics, jewelry, woodworks, and mosaics. Commemorate your participation by stepping into a vintage scene for a unique photo opportunity.



*A MODERN VISION: EUROPEAN
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PHILLIPS COLLECTION*

NORTH CAROLINA MUSEUM OF ART
October 8–January 22
ncartmuseum.org

Featuring more than fifty paintings by iconic artists from the world-renowned Phillips Collection, including Edgar Degas, Vincent Van Gogh, Édouard Manet, Claude Monet, Pablo Picasso, and Paul Cézanne, *A Modern Vision* brings artists famous for their depictions of light, color, and modern life to the North Carolina Museum of Art. Opening alongside a historic reinstallation of the NCMA's collection, this exhibition showcases extraordinary paintings by titans of impressionism, postimpressionism, expressionism, and cubism.



A LIFE OF SEEING: SUE SNEDDON

CRAVEN ALLEN GALLERY
Through October 29
cravenallengallery.com

Sue Sneddon was one of Craven Allen Gallery's most popular artists, with fourteen exhibitions over twenty-five years. Her fifteenth show of original work was in the planning stages when she passed away unexpectedly in January. *A Life of Seeing* features works from Sneddon's decades-long career, including works for sale. Collectors are generously sharing special artworks for this retrospective, along with stories and memories of Sneddon.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: ART BY PABLO PICASSO, NORTH CAROLINA MUSEUM OF ART; ART BY SUE SNEDDON, CRAVEN ALLEN GALLERY; ART BY ANGELA CARDEN HILLIARD, PITTSBORO GALLERY OF ARTS

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The advertisement features a photograph of a dark wood display cabinet filled with various blue and white ceramic items, including plates, vases, and a bust. The cabinet is set against a backdrop of a landscape painting. The text is overlaid on the image in a clean, modern font.



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