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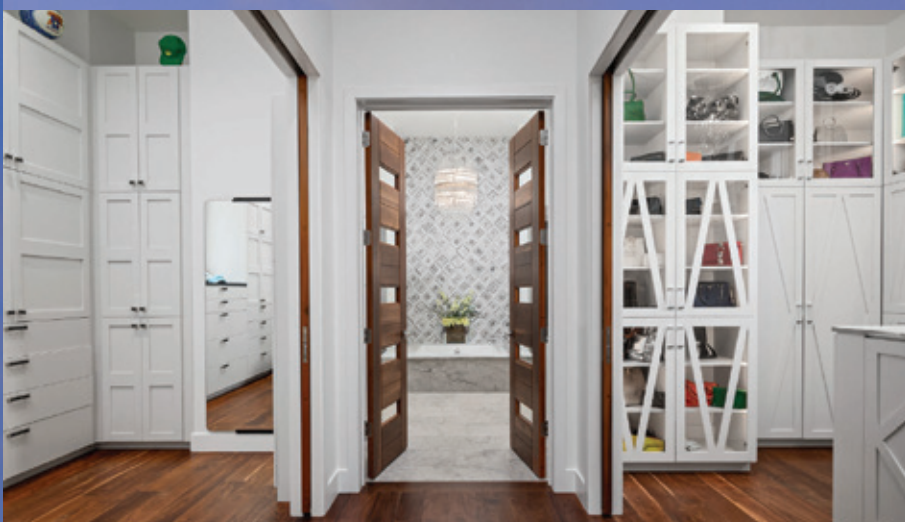
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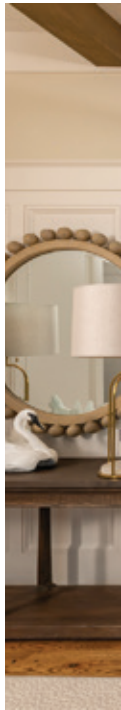
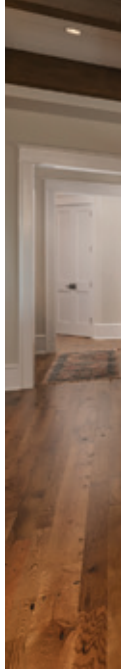




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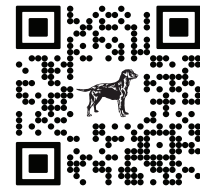


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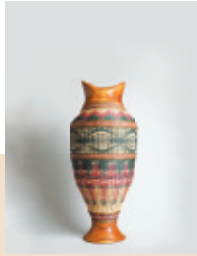
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CONTENTS

Fall 2022



ON OUR COVER:

Woodworking skill plus a passion for basket weaving lead to the one-of-a-kind creations of Jerry Maxey. Find out more on p. 107.

photo by Eli Warren

The Homes

20

Maximum Impact

Designer Sandra Cannon helped the Johnsons put a uniquely personal stamp on a major renovation project in Spartanburg.



56



A Warm Welcome

This lakeside stunner from Dillard-Jones offered the Kirchofer family all of the comfort they craved, with style to spare.

88



First Home, Forever Home

The Vargas family worked with CarsonSpeer on this home that offers livable luxury now and remains adaptable through every phase of life.

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CONTENTS

- 32. **INSPIRATION** Mood Boards
- 36. **ASKED & ANSWERED** Movies, Anyone?
- 39. **PERISCOPE** Against the Grain
- 47. **PANTRY** The Great Eight

101 **TRADE FOLIO** Entryways



IN THE GARDEN Mimicking Nature **71**



- 52. **CHRONICLE** Tag Sale
- 68. **TREASURE** The Treasure Within
- 77. **DETOUR** Long Weekend on Las Olas
- 107. **COMPOSITION** Jerry Maxey
- 115. **STYLED** Nursery School
- 118. **BOOKSHELF** Award-Winning Books
- 120. **FINI** A Selection of Photos

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— H. Jackson Brown Jr.

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NOTES FROM HOME



“Days decrease,
And autumn grows,
autumn in everything.”

— Robert Browning

Robert Browning was a celebrated British poet of the Victorian era. He was also my dad. Well, not the British fellow, of course, but I carried the name Browning before becoming a member of the Greenlaw family and my dad's first name was Robert. Robert Browning, the Brit, was known for dramatic monologue and psychological portraiture but my dad was known for his humorous writings and poems. One never can predict where a similar name will lead, but we sure had lots of laughs in my family. I'll take laughter over deep introspection any day.

Browning was an award-winning poet, so it seemed proper to include his quote in this issue that highlights some of our local award winners. You'll find two home builders that were given grand acknowledgement, Bridge Awards, from the Home Builders Association of Greenville for the quality homes they built. A Spartanburg interior designer was the only designer in the Carolinas nominated for an ADAC award. The home she redesigned is a stunner!

Basket artist Jerry Maxey has award-winning talent represented in his complex, totally handmade works of art. Artisans from the past are highlighted in Treasure, which features tea caddies.

Authors whose books have won awards, including a local poet, can be found in Bookshelf.

Interior decorators give advice on their winning ideas of how to treat the entry to your home in Trade Folio. One of Greenville's illustrious landscaping groups shows us what beauty can be found in a bog garden.

The wide variety of talent goes on and on in this issue. Don't miss a page of it.

One last quote about autumn from my longtime favorite artist:

“As long as autumn lasts, I shall not have hands, canvas and colors enough to paint the beautiful things I see.” — Vincent Van Gogh

Contact me at lgreenlaw@communityjournals.com or call 864.679.1200 and leave me a message. I always welcome your comments and suggestions.


Lynn Greenlaw
Editor in Chief



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MAXIMUM



IMPACT





DESIGNER SANDRA CANNON PAIRS SCALE AND INTENTION AT THE HOME OF ANN AND STEWART JOHNSON

by **Stephanie Burnette** photography by **Forrest Clonts**

Just over a year ago, designer Sandra Cannon received a surprising request: would she apply for ADAC's Southeastern Design of the Year? Shortly afterward, Sandra Cannon Interiors was named a finalist. Submitted work included the commercial concepts The Honey Hive and Underpin, and the home featured here, recently completed on Montgomery Circle in Spartanburg.

"I thought about my portfolio and how I could show its diversity, projects that have an edge where I visually explored creative hard work," Cannon says.

Though best known for her finesse in the F&B industry—if you've eaten at one of the four Willy Tacos, then you've witnessed her play on industry chic—Cannon, selectively, will do residential. She considers what she calls long-range residential: in-depth team projects consisting of two-plus years of new construction or ninety percent renovation. "Residential is so personal that the idea of bringing on a full team from architect to builder to custom craftspeople means it needs to be a project with a ton of creative processing," she says, "and that's where I do my best work."

Ann and Stewart Johnson called on Cannon eight years ago and implemented initial ideas. They stayed connected, waiting for the right time to overhaul the home and add significant outdoor elements that the traditional Georgian was lacking.

They started mid-pandemic with a request for architects. Teague Studio won out and detailed renderings were created to reconfigure seventy-five percent of the first floor. Walls would be moved to overhaul the kitchen, living room, and primary suite to create a keeping room, private wet bar/lounge, and new his-and-her bath; Dunbar Construction was tapped to bring the vision to life.

Three bedrooms upstairs for tween/teen children, and a guest room, would get a facelift. Lastly, a significant veranda and porch would be added seamlessly, no small feat for a fifty-year-old brick home. "Ann and Stewart wanted to maximalize their lifestyle and they wanted to do it the right way, all at once," says Cannon.

"Sandra truly represents her clients individually and she is always positive and calm under pressure," says Ann. "She was the force we needed with such an in-depth project."

ART-CENTERED

The Johnsons wanted several pieces from their cousin, artist Aimee Wise, to hang in their home and Cannon planned to use art to inject moments of contemporary styling. She was given access to Wise's available portfolio, selected several, and identified additional pieces by local artist Lucy Boland.

One sits over an antique Italian altar acting as a console in the formal living room. The work by Boland is five feet by five feet. Cannon says she envisioned the piece as a wall covering. "I like big dramatic pieces of art."

ENTRY WITH IMPACT

A settee, covered in velvet by an English company, Designers Guild, is hand-dyed to look like marble. Cannon says the velvet spoke to the design team and made a dramatic contrast to the beautiful rosy color the two-story entry was painted, replete with lots of millwork and stairwell details. "I wanted a lot of impact when you walked in."

Cannon calls the Johnsons' entry one of the most traditional foyers she's ever worked in. For the light fixture, she went with aged brass but identified a chandelier that felt airy and with significant diameter. The chest is antique. A work by Wise hangs above it, detailed with snakes and a coral background that is near match with the wall.

KITCHEN AND KEEPING

A new kitchen was configured to sit astride a keeping room, and a dimensional paper sculpture by Wise plays a functional role. "It's a unique moment in design for the house," says Cannon. "The keeping room is an artery of travel on the main level; in a sense it's a hallway."

Instead of furniture, the sculpture offers depth off the wall, encouraging guests to get into the room with its comfortable furnishings and spectacular watercolor-encased coffee table. Cannon calls it intentional design. The keeping room is meant to be a part of the action in the kitchen as well as a place to relax if the kitchen is closed. "It feels a whole lot larger than it is, but by nature a keeping room is supposed to be just a little space, not a whole other living room." **ah**



▲
The keeping room is intentionally light and open. One of Cannon's favorite details is the window design, which offers as large an expanse of glass—both vertically and horizontally—as possible and creates transparency to the outdoors.

The coffee table is fifty-four inches wide by twenty-four inches deep. When the light from the window hits it, it has a reflective quality, but because of its solid core you can sit on it, put your feet on it, or park a plate of food. "It's not a delicate piece," says Cannon. "In a keeping room, keeping function in mind is pretty darn important."





The cabinets and hardware in the kitchen are very traditional, including Grade A black walnut. "The finishes for the kitchen are super sleek," says Cannon, "and we lightened it in color to feel a little more transitional but not modern."

Appliances were all sourced through Jeff Lynch. A really large island was important because Ann and Stewart wanted to have a seat for everybody. There's a unique sink here too, installed with two faucets. "It's the biggest sink we could find," says Cannon. "It's custom and made to order by The Galley, purchased through Bird Hardware."



“We lived here for thirteen years before we started the renovation. It really gave us the time to think about how we wanted to use space in our home.”

—Ann Johnson



◀ Ann and Stewart love to entertain, and they envisioned an outdoor room that circulated through the kitchen and wet bar area. They wanted it to have a big fireplace, wood burning with a gas starter, and a big gathering hearth. It's furnished with four swivel club chairs and a daybed. A ninety-six-inch fan moves air throughout the entire space.

Much research from Ann went into the details for the veranda. "Those arches were a consistent element that came out of her homework," says Cannon. The metal fretwork above followed the existing metal pattern in the garden gazebo to create a repetition of form, also seen in the daybed. ▼





◀ The bath includes its own his-and-her spaces. “We approached it with a ‘dream it up and build it’ creative vision,” says Cannon. The shower has doors on two sides leading to separate vanities, toilets, and closets. The chandelier over Ann’s tub was designed to feel like sitting under an arbor of wisteria. ▶



▲ The couple’s bedroom got a wall of drapery on one linear bar and a light rainwater color was pulled from the Schumacher fabric for the walls; the oval light fixture is made of strung coco beads. “This light fixture is one of my favorite things in the house. Its layers are made of millions of microbeads. It’s like chainmail the way it’s layered; I was very inspired by it,” says Cannon.







Fall in Love With Your Space

EARLY FALL

Fall weather runs the gamut here in the South, from blazing-hot September days to crisp October evenings. Early fall's back-to-school phase offers a great opportunity to spruce up your space with enticing desks, orderly shelves, and lighting that's both pretty and practical. In fall's colorful later stages, hand-painted platters and seasonal foliage and flowers set the scene for the holiday gatherings to come. These mood boards from artist Audrey Gore are sure to put you in an autumnal state of mind.

Bring warmth and softness into your space using Roman shades like these used in Carley Page Summers' design.

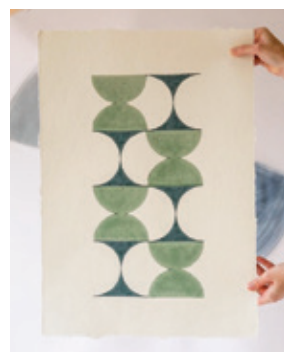
As school sessions resume, it's the perfect time to begin planning indoor projects or outdoor additions like this beautiful garden building by DabneyCollins.



Custom pillows by Elizabeth Wheaton feature Lulie Wallace's fabric paired with a fun striped edge.



You can add pattern to your space by updating an old lampshade using wallpaper or fabric.



Original art like this woodblock print by The Campbell Collection is an easy way to add a pop of color if you prefer neutral walls.



Fall is a fun time for antiquing. Mix vintage with newer pieces to provide more interest.





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INSPIRATION

L A T E F A L L

A road trip through the mountains this season is a fun way to gather color inspiration for your autumn home decor.



Achieve a fall look by adding cozy plaid pillows just as Studio Faeger created in this charming window seat.

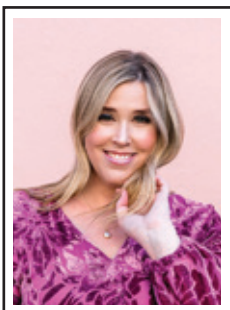


Consider adding a hand-painted platter for family gatherings like this piece by Polly Fern.



The ARK Elements combines a modern pop of color with traditional plateware for a fun setting.

Layer duvets with colorful quilts like this one by Projekti TYINY for an extra layer of warmth.



AUDREY GORE

Audrey Gore is an artist and graphic designer located in Greenville, South Carolina. Her creative philosophy is shaped by her love of visual storytelling and artistic expression. Audrey is inspired by traveling, books, stylish interiors, nature, and all things French. Notes of femininity paired with joyful color palettes and sensibilities are deeply rooted in her artistic style. Audrey is grateful for the privilege to be in her studio painting and designing daily.

@audreyannagore

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Movies, Anyone?

What to know if a home theater is on your horizon



Even before a nasty virus drove us out of the commercial theaters, the desire for an in-home theater to entertain friends and family was building. We asked Kerry Penwell, CEO/Principal of Kasted Design Group, to tell us what to expect when considering a theater.

Q. How do I replace my outdated home theater systems?

A. Theaters are one of the easiest areas of a home to update. The first question to ask is, “Are you pleased with the audio performance and sound?” Speakers are one technology that has not changed much over time. A good speaker placed in a well-designed room will last for years. If you are pleased with the sound, then it is easy to upgrade the video and processing in the room. Video is an area that has significantly improved over the years, with laser projectors and 4k video quality, and the price for the video has decreased, which is great news for updating systems. Oftentimes, our clients who are upgrading are spending substantially less on equipment than when they initially built the room, but the performance of the new equipment matches a commercial theater.

Q. What is the newest sound system technology?

A. Ray Dolby, founder of Dolby Laboratories, gave us surround sound in the late 1970s. With minor improvements over the past four decades, not much has changed. Dolby Atmos is Dolby Laboratories’ newest and most amazing invention. Surround sound typically has speakers in the walls aimed at the listener. Atmos goes to another level and adds speakers in the ceiling. Along with the needed processors, Dolby Atmos adds more control to sound, creating a wonderful sound atmosphere for the listener.

Q. What would be the perfect room dimensions for an indoor theater?

A. There is no magic, perfect-sized room for a theater. The size of the room depends on the number of viewers that will be watching and the movie experience desired. A room desired to be an IMAX experience would require a minimum size of 16 feet by 24 feet, or a smaller viewing screen with a room of 10 feet by 14 feet. The key is that the room needs to be a rectangle. This is driven by the acoustical properties required for a movie experience.

Q. How can a home theater double as a gaming area?

A. A multipurpose or “architectural theater” is the most requested theater style. More clients want to have a space they can use every day but that still performs as a dedicated theater. We call this an “architectural theater” because everything blends with the interiors of the home. This type of room takes the most planning and design but often delivers the best option. It may include features like roller shades to block light from a wall of windows, a motorized screen to lower over an existing TV on the wall to provide a cinema-size video, or a full video wall to display multiple games at once or one large image for a movie. The options are limitless.



Q. Are outdoor theaters growing in popularity?

A. This is the second most popular area. We live in an amazing area with fantastic weather. Our customers are entertaining outside more than they are inside. Providing outdoor audio and video is essential to enhance that experience and enjoyment. It may be as simple as a temporary projector and screen or an outdoor video wall.

Q. What’s the best way to combine high-tech equipment with your current home aesthetic?

A. With today’s technology, there is no reason that technology should take away from a person’s interiors. Choose a firm that distinguishes itself with intentional design. Aesthetics are a focus when choosing your architect and your designer. It should also be a qualifier for your AV firm. Pick an AV firm that is accustomed to collaborating with interior designers and architects from the beginning of your project. By the time an electrical walk is happening, it is typically too late to implement aesthetically pleasing solutions. We are typically involved before physical work even begins on a project, allowing the necessary planning for things like hidden shades, invisible speakers, art TVs, or motorized TV lifts. It also allows for simple things like placing a wireless access point where it cannot be seen. Sometimes, it is the little things that make a big difference in a highly functional, aesthetically pleasing home.

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Against the Grain

This Lake Keowee cottage tells a unique story with modern lines, cozy accents, and global decor

by Beth Brown Ables
photography by Aaron Hogsed

PERISCOPE

In 2020, many shifts transformed the way we live our lives. Time spent in quarantine encouraged many to seek solace in nature and retreat. This led Devin and Vanessa Burnett to the realization that the waterfront property they'd purchased for a future second home on the shores of Lake Keowee couldn't wait any longer. Instead of beginning with a full-sized lake home, the couple envisioned a guest home, ready to be used and enjoyed with their children sooner rather than later.

They immediately called Tom Markalunas of the Markalunas Architecture Group, the same architect who planned their Asheville family home. Devin shares, "We loved using Tom for both our homes. He's a master of using space; nothing is wasted and everything is very livable." They knew they were in the best hands with Markalunas' plans.



A soaring ceiling and an entirely glass-in wall of windows offer spectacular views of the lake from the primary bedroom.



The convenient bunkroom sleeps four in extra-long beds that work for older kids and teenagers.





Modern touches, including dark cabinets, unique hexagonal tile, and sleek windows, make this lake cottage one of a kind.



However, the Burnetts' lake retreat would be very different design-wise than their Asheville residence. Drawing inspiration from their time on safari in South Africa (Devin's home country), as well as lake cottages in Minnesota, the family gravitated toward sleek, soaring windows, wooden beams, and exposed concrete. The effect is modern and a little against the grain.

Vanessa admits she's always had a little rebel inside of her, pushing against norms and longing for something set apart. Devin agrees: "We wanted to know that when we were here, it wasn't like our house back in town. Every sense of what this place is needed to be different, to shake us out of our day-to-day lives."

For their lake house, standing at just over 1,200 square feet, space was of utmost importance. The family needed a retreat big enough for the kids to bring friends, but without losing sight of future plans for a main house build on the property. Windows bump out, creating cozy nooks: one for a dining area, another a daybed, cleverly adding more light and places to read or play cards, giving everyone a space to be together without feeling crowded or in the way. The bunkroom was fitted with extra-long beds, making it an ideal spot for older kids and growing teenagers to sleep.

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The ceiling is built on an angle, with the lowest point starting at the front entrance, then soaring to its highest elevation facing East toward the waterline. Half of the view is a screened-in porch; the other, an entirely glassed-in wall of the master bedroom. Though the drama of the ceiling first gave Vanessa pause, it is now one of her favorite elements. “It looked like it was just too tall, especially compared to the length and width [of the home]. I was worried we had gone too far. It’s incredibly dramatic—at night, we can still see the landscape all around us. The moon lights up the lake and spills inside. It’s really beautiful.”

The timetable was incredibly tight, and in the midst of shipping delays and a housing boom igniting the market, nothing short of a miracle was needed to get the family on the lake by summer of 2021. Builder Jason Bergeron of Bergeron Custom Homes had a sliver of time to make their lake dreams a reality. “It was September 2020 when we decided to pursue the build. The market was super hot,” Devin says. “Jason only does three to five projects at a time. But he bought into the vision, liked the idea of doing a modern house; [he] cleared the lot in January, and we were in the house by July.”

Despite expanses of concrete and glass, the team created cozy, welcoming spaces, including this bumped-out dining nook in the kitchen that features plenty of built-in seating.

The biggest challenge for Bergeron was the exposed concrete work, which then became his favorite part of the home. “Concrete walls are not uncommon in residential construction, but they’re typically only structural and not ornamental as well,” he says. “I ended up meeting and working with a guy named Judah Haas with Alchemy Concrete, which proved to be a godsend.” Alchemy handled the footings, the foundation, the poured walls, and the concrete flooring.

With such a large amount of glass and concrete, a space could feel cold and unwelcoming. Instead, the Burnetts’ home is cozy, warm, and cabin-like. The interior design tells the story of their life together using pieces from their global travels. “A lot of our furniture has traveled quite a lot,” Vanessa says, from destinations including China, Taiwan, and South Africa. Furnishings were reupholstered and repainted to serve a new use for the Burnetts’ summertime lake retreat. These personal touches tell the family’s shared history while making space for new lake house memories to come. **ah**

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PANTRY

From Good to Great

On the grill or in your kitchen, take a rack of ribs to the next level with The Great Eight

by Jonathan Ammons photography by Forrest Clonts



Who doesn't love a good rack of ribs, fresh off the grill and tender to the bone? But as we all know, it can be an all day affair to pull out the grill, fire up the charcoal, and slow cook that rack for two to three hours. It's time consuming, laborious, hot, and worst of all, weather-dependent.

I love grilling out for a crowd of friends, but it shouldn't always have to be such a big production to make a rack of ribs for date night or dinner for you and the kids. Consider swapping out that grill for a stock pot or a pressure cooker for a quick path to tender ribs that practically fall off the bone. It just takes a few simple steps.

Beyond the method you choose for cooking ribs, the real dealmaker or breaker is often the dry rub and sauce one chooses. There's no easier way to ruin a good rack of ribs than with a stale dry rub or a generic barbecue sauce. Greenville local Ryan Lindemer began making his

barbecue sauce—The Great Eight—as a hobby, but it has quickly grown into a job, even earning him a top ten finish in the Kansas City American Royale, an annual national sauce competition.

"I was doing it for fun, and then I took some samples to work, and in one day I had sixty orders," Lindemer says. "That support from family and friends showed me I could take it a step further."

The Great Eight Original Sauce is a simple combination of eight basic ingredients that result in a fresh, vibrant sauce, and The Great Eight Dry Rub is deep and flavorful. They combine to make the perfect rack of baby back ribs. The secret, according to Lindemer, is balance. "The idea is you get notes of sweet, savory, sour, and I like to play with different flavors to create well-roundedness," he says. "That keeps things as flavorful as possible."

Ribs require a slow cooking process, something that can take hours in a smoker or grill but can be simulated

ZEPHYR

Roma Island

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much faster with steam. By steaming ribs in a stock pot or pressure cooker, you can maintain consistent temperature in a sealed environment while also ensuring that your meat doesn't dry out. Just finish them off with a few minutes under a broiler or with a crème brûlée torch to achieve that nice charred skin. It's way faster and easier than firing up the grill, not to mention that the rain can't ruin your dinner plans since this entire process can be done in the kitchen.

While you've got that dry rub handy, remember that it's good for a lot more than just seasoning meat. Try tossing cauliflower steaks with it before throwing them in the oven for a tangy vegetarian entree. Or consider melting some butter and simmering the seasoning before tossing with some roasted potatoes for a decadent and flavorful side dish. It's also a great way to spice up your scratch mac and cheese by including a little of that dry rub when making your béchamel. Just remember that dried spices like chili powder, garlic, mustard, and cayenne need a little heat to really bring out their flavor. **atH**



Melissa MORRELL
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Steamed Baby Back Ribs

- 1 rack of baby back ribs
- The Great Eight Dry Rub
- The Great Eight Original Sauce
- Worcestershire sauce (optional)
- Apple cider vinegar (optional)
- Apple juice (optional)



The Great Eight sauces and rubs are available at area butcher shops and markets. See the full list of retail outlets, along with more recipes, at thegreateightsauce.com.

Instant Pot Method:

1. Begin by trimming the excess membrane at either end of the rack of ribs. It may also run down the underside of the rib, so trim that as well. Generously apply the Great Eight Dry Rub, rubbing it gently into every inch of the meat. Place the ribs in a bag and allow it to marinate for at least an hour and up to 48 hours, until the rub has begun to be absorbed by the meat.
2. Place the steaming rack in your pressure cooker pot, adding enough water to cover the bottom of the pot but not enough to touch the base of the steamer. Dash in a few glugs of Worcestershire sauce so that your steaming liquid has a little flavor. Feel free to use a little apple cider vinegar if you prefer vinegar-flavored barbecue ribs, or substitute the water for apple juice if you like a sweeter rib. Add the rack of ribs, wrapping them in a semicircle with the arch of the bones pointed inwards so that the meat is at the core of the circle.
3. Seal the pressure cooker, seal the steam vent, and set the cooker to high pressure, cooking for 25 minutes. **IMPORTANT:** after 25 minutes, do not manually release the pressure valve. Allow a full natural release of the pressure, which should take an additional 15-20 minutes.
4. Turn on the broiler in your oven and move the rack to a close position to the broiler (within six inches). Brush the ribs with The Great Eight Original Sauce, and place them under the broiler for around 10 minutes or until the tops of the rack begin to brown. Or, alternatively, blast them with a crème brûlée torch, blowtorch, or Searzall.
5. Plate and serve your ribs, allowing guests to add more sauce if desired.

Stovetop Method:

1. See above step 1
2. See above step 2, but follow instructions using a stock pot or large Dutch oven. Place a penny in the steaming liquid. The penny will rattle as the pot boils and will stop making a sound if you run out of steaming liquid, in which case, add more liquid.
3. Cover the pot and bring liquid to a boil. Reduce to a simmer over medium heat, and steam covered for 45 minutes, until the ribs are just beginning to fall from the bones.
4. See above Step 4.
5. See above Step 5.



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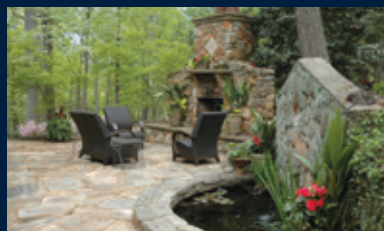
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CHRONICLE

Tag Sale

An essay about what we take with us and what we don't

by Stephanie Burnette

Antiquing was my parents' hobby, which suited my father, a voracious reader of history, and my mother, with her good eye for design. As they transitioned into retirement, a hobby turned into a small business, Great Finds Estate Sales.

Dad became certified as an appraiser, which led them into the world of tag sales in Greenville, Atlanta, Savannah, and the like. Their clients were a mixed bag of couples downsizing or getting divorced or children of someone who passed away, but one thing was constant no matter the estate: you could never guess what would sell right away and what wouldn't.

I worked at some of the sales, either helping set up or at the checkout table, and though we watched the world transition into the digital age from pricing to methods of payment, many things remained exactly the same.



Families are sentimental about strange things. You would think jewelry would be fought over, or sterling flatware or family portraits. No, often no one wanted these things, and they were succinctly priced for sale, but vehement argument would ensue over kitchen implements like Mom's wooden spoon, a chipped pitcher, or a single Christmas ornament. When it comes to what we keep, it's the memories of an item rather the thing itself, regardless of value. It was consistently something held often, maybe even daily, by people well-loved that was cherished.

Art is wholly undervalued. Everyone thinks their art is worth way more than what it could sell for; either it was overpriced to begin with, or it's fallen out of style, or its framing is horrifically dated, and the list goes on. Dad had a catchphrase that signaled a work of art was not gonna sell for big bucks. "Did you enjoy having this in your home?" he'd ask. It was hard not to laugh when you heard the question posed and yet it shifted the focus to what is important about the home: living with things that bring you joy.



Air the family secrets. There's nothing like an estate sale to unearth skeletons in the proverbial closet. My parents discovered all sorts of sordid stuff, from child pornography in an attic (leading to an FBI investigation) to unexpected documents like adoption papers. Oops. They even mistakenly threw away a cookie tin of cremated ashes left at the top of a pantry. Families are nuts, so spill all the stories while you're around to offer context and appropriately share the evidence. Don't leave the unexpected for strangers to discover.

It's just stuff and sometimes it's valuable. Tag sales are a sobering realization of the dollar value of household contents if liquidated all at once. But every now and then, the need to sell something intersects with a hot market for that very item and jackpot. My parents once unearthed a shabby desk in a mudroom that sold for \$48,000; it was a promotional prize from Snow Soap back in the day. And there was a huge gaudy antique bed bought by a dealer, sold to a decorator, and placed in a celebrity's home for about the price of a luxury car. Sometimes luck strikes and the story becomes as good as the payout.

I watched my parents dissolve estates large and small, but what I enjoyed most was seeing the cadre of obsessed shoppers that culled the tag sale ads, first in the newspaper and then later online. The groupies, as we called them, would stand in line, coffee in hand, before daybreak and later squeal with delight over a treasure procured. The hunt was as fun for them as any purchase, and it never got old to witness.

Thinking back, I believe my parents were always meant to have this second act in life. My childhood home was filled with collections, so when they got "in the business," they fit right in. I recall visitors to our home asking my father the value of something perched on a table or hanging on the wall and he always gave the same answer: "It's worth nothing because it's not for sale. You can't walk around your house counting dollars."

It's a value I carry with me to this day. **ah**





“The More Things Change...”

There is a common French saying that just sounds so much better in French than in English: “plus ça change, plus c’est la même chose” – the more things change, the more they stay the same. This adage is true in much of life, even in an age where things are changing in areas that seemed permanently stable even a generation ago. For instance, family gatherings are still a thing even though the nuclear family is as quaint a memory as reruns of Little House on the Prairie or Happy Days. And when the family gathers, it still congregates in the kitchen just like it did when we visited my Calcagno grandparents fifty years ago. But kitchens have changed since then, and one of the most noticeable change is the kitchen island.

My parents’ kitchen when I was a boy was somewhat of a magazine photoshoot: it had stainless steel appliances, a lazy-Susan in the pantry cabinet, and state-of-the-art Formica countertops (OK, this was the 60s). But it didn’t have an island. None of the kitchens in my friends’ homes had an island, either. So when my parents purchased a 150-year old farmhouse, and my dad proceeded to build his own kitchen island (we’re in the 70s now), it was amazing! So much more storage and counterspace! But as progressive as my dad was (in kitchen cabinets, that is, and precious little else!) his island did not have a bar for informal dining. So much farther to go!

Now kitchen islands are de rigueur (this article sponsored by the French language) and are often the artistic focal point of the entire kitchen. Overhang bars for informal dining, island posts for accent and support, furniture-style trim and moulding, and elaborate quartz or marble countertops. Islands now shelter not only the dishwasher, but the beverage fridge and a microwave drawer. The latest thing is two islands: one for additional food preparation (often with a prep sink) and the other for informal dining. Give AJH Renovations, LLC a call today and let’s start the conversation about getting your kitchen ready for the immutable family gathering, especially with the holidays fast approaching!

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A WARM



WELCOME



The open-riser stairwell, along with contemporary furnishings and eye-catching lighting, complement more traditional elements in the home.

THE KIRCHHOFERS ENJOY FAMILY TIME IN DILLARD-JONES' WINNING DESIGN

by **Beth Brown Ables** photography by **Inspiro 8 Studios**

Jamie Kirchhofer begins her mornings gazing over the still waters of the lake cove, sipping coffee on the porch of her family retreat on Lake Keowee. The peaceful tranquility lends itself to quiet reflection and reverence, something the Kirchhofers longed to share with their growing family.

In late 2019, Jamie and husband Bruce began dreaming of a place for their family to gather with their six, soon to be seven, grandchildren. A space apart where the little ones could be away from screens and distractions and immersed in nature and play. Avid golfers, the couple was immediately drawn to the Cliffs communities on the clear waters of Keowee, and the idea of boating to not one, but two immaculate golf courses sealed the deal.

The couple, originally hailing from the suburbs of Chicago and more recently Nashville, currently split their time between Florida and South Carolina, and find the foothills along Lake Keowee mild enough in summer and fall.

Dillard-Jones, a design/build/dwell corporation, ensured a seamless experience, even as the Kirchhofers oversaw most of the construction process remotely. “It was so seamless, the team was so easy to work with. They take pictures each week, and you can go online and check in remotely.”

Jessica Smith, vice president at Dillard-Jones, says that is by design. “Our Design-Build-Dwell approach was created to give our clients peace of mind,” she says. “Even if they aren’t local, they feel connected to the process.” The family was also able to make four site visits to see the building process in person.

The home’s design is tranquility realized. The welcoming charm of the arched front doorway and English cottage facade opens to rooms decorated in soothing hues and minimal lines. “We loved the design for so many reasons,” Jamie shares, “but especially that each room has an uninterrupted view

of the water, from the great room to the kitchen—even the laundry room looks out on the lake.” Nothing hinders this focal point, window treatments are light and airy.

A gabled roofline, arched doorways, and stonework accents lend a timelessness to the home’s design. “It was really important to me that our home was welcoming and warm, and that it will look as good today as it will decades from now,” Jamie continues. She put extra thought into the foyer, knowing that the first impression needed to be inviting and hospitable. Choosing dynamic artwork from Breckenridge artist Kristof Kosmowski fills the space with tranquil shades of blues, while the front door’s archway bends and softens the more modern lines of the space.

The Dillard-Jones team brought the Kirchhofers’ vision to life, framing the living room windows with airy curtains to keep the focus on the lake view and outfitting each bedroom with ample king-sized beds and ensuite bathrooms for luxury and convenience. The color scheme is light and cool with hues of gray, blue, and white, complementing the transitional lines of the contemporary furnishings and an open-riser stairwell alongside more traditional elements like the rustic stone fireplace and exposed wooden beams in the living area. The kitchen is light and open, ready to host and take care of the family for years to come. “

“Nothing gets lost in translation when our architects, interior designers, and construction professionals hear the same thing directly from our clients and then we are able to work together to make it a reality,” says Smith.

While the design is a hallmark of the home, its use is of the upmost importance for the Kirchhofer family. For Jamie and Bruce, when the home is filled with family and children, it’s then that their lake home feels most complete. **atH**

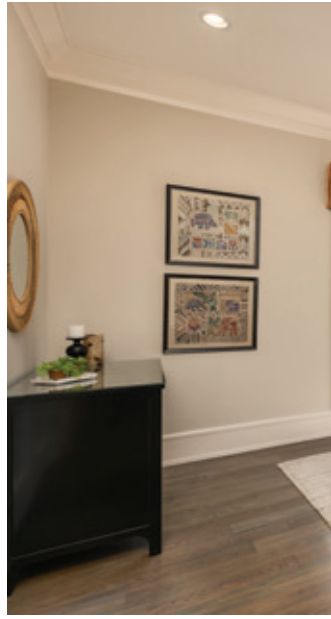
DID YOU KNOW?

Dillard-Jones recently won a Best Overall Bridge Award in its category from the Home Builders Association of Greenville, which recognizes excellence in craftsmanship. “We have a lot of pride in their work and truly believe they deserve all the accolades,” homeowner Jamie notes. “They are such a hard-working, dedicated team. It’s well-deserved.”





The bright, airy kitchen includes exposed wooden beams, glass door cabinetry, and plenty of natural light, along with convenient seating for friends and family to gather.





Timelessness, minimal lines, and soothing colors were used throughout the home, including in the serene master bath, awash in tranquil hues; the bedrooms, which all feature king-sized beds and scenic views; and the entry, which makes a strong first impression with artwork from Kristof Kosmowski and a uniquely painted ceiling.

The porch is the ideal place to gather any time of day and in any season, offering ample seating, a convenient cooking area, a soaring ceiling, a stacked-stone fireplace, and, most important of all, unparalleled lake views.





“We loved the design for so many reasons,” Jamie shares, “but especially that each room has an uninterrupted view of the water, from the great room to the kitchen—even the laundry room looks out on the lake.”

—Jamie Kirchhofer



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TREASURE

The Treasure Within

A tea caddy has a place in today's home

by Lynn Greenlaw photography by Eli Warren



1.



2.



3.



4.

1. Walnut footed with brass handle and lock detail. Interior has three metal containers.

2. Unique silver-plate faux tortoiseshell scuttle design.

3. English shagreen (sharkskin) octagonal metal.

4. Sterling silver monogrammed caddy with sterling silver teaspoon.



5.



6.



7.



8.



9.

5. Black and gold papier-mâché with pearl inlay.

7. Faux marble with intricate detailing.

6. English rosewood with lion's head side handles.

9. Faux tortoiseshell with gold metal detailing and two interior containers.

What is a tea caddy? It has nothing at all to do with golf. Different spelling and very different uses. This kind of a caddy was meant to hold loose-leaf tea. Brought to Europe and England from China in the 1600s, tea was very expensive and was consumed only by the very wealthy members of society. When introduced to English society in 1662 by Catherine of Braganza, the queen of Charles II, tea drinking became quite fashionable.

Originally known as tea canisters and made of porcelain with blue and white decorations and a ginger-jar-like form, the name shifted to caddies in the 1800s. It is thought that the name came from the word "catty," which referred to a Chinese pound that weighs 600 grams. This was the unit of measurement used to sell tea.

Once the precious tea spread throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, owners began to commission caddies that were made of various materials including wood, metal, tortoiseshell, pewter, brass, or copper. Chippendale and Hepplewhite were two of the most sought-after tea caddy designers and producers. The earlier caddy styles had two or three sections inside that were fitted with metal containers to separate the black and green teas. Some also had a third box or a glass that would be used to mix the teas or to hold sugar. Because of the value of the precious tea held within, many caddies included a lock to keep the contents safe. The key belonged to the lady of the home, and she always kept it with her.

Today, we have tea in tins, boxes, and tea bags. Not nearly as attractive or collectible as an antique or vintage tea caddy. Plus, the older caddies are wonderful decorative items for home decor. And they will forever have a place in history that can lead to interesting discussions about their origins. [GH](#)

The caddy gems shown here are from The Rock House Antiques. Vintage and antique caddies can also be found online at [IstDibs](#), [Chairish](#), [eBay](#), and [Etsy](#).

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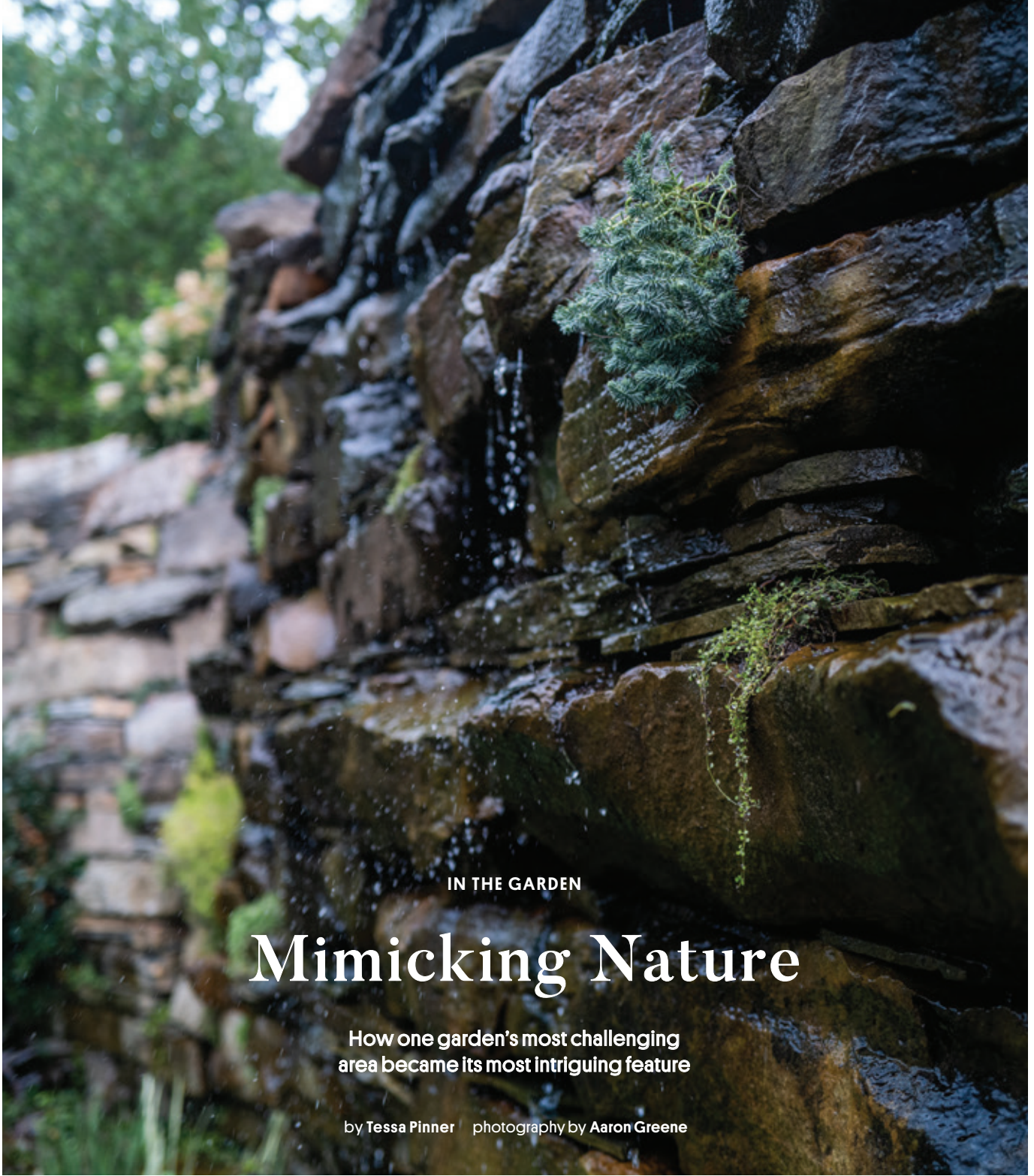
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IN THE GARDEN

Mimicking Nature

How one garden's most challenging area became its most intriguing feature

by Tessa Pinner | photography by Aaron Greene

A steep lakefront property with its requisite layers of retaining walls provided designer Dabney Peeples with an opportunity that he had wanted for decades. The team at DabneyCollins designed the main driveway to curl up and over the property's highest point before embracing a plunge towards the water, but with this dramatic gesture also came one drawback: the very point of arrival coincided with the largest, most visible section of retaining wall. "There was one piece of wall that your eye would continually hit on," explains Dabney. "I don't know of any single plant that would have given enough interest to balance out the scale of the wall and provide an appropriate counterpoint to the lake view opposite."

IN THE GARDEN

His answer: a vertical garden on a rock face, with a bog garden at its foot. “The feeling of being at the source of something has always been exciting to me,” he continues. “How dynamic would it be for guests to arrive and see water trickling out of the huge wall as it does out of rock faces in North Carolina near the Blue Ridge Parkway?”

Mimicking nature requires time and effort. Multiple wall layers consisting of a poured-in-place concrete wall, waterproof liner, and a visible boulder wall fixed to the concrete with rebar, mortar, and geotextile complete the construction. “That one required some brain cells to make happen,” quips project engineer Nathan Newsom. Water flows from seven separate water sources hidden in the stone, all calibrated at different volumes. It was important that the wall not present a flat face; setting the stones at varying depths creates an unpredictable, interesting water flow. “The crew put a tent up for me for two months to sit and direct the process,” remembers Dabney. “I picked every single stone for the drool wall; five kinds of stone—dressed, sedimentary pieces, and rougher pieces. It was a huge amount of trouble to look really simple and elegant.”

“How dynamic would it be for guests to arrive and see water trickling out of the huge wall as it does out of rock faces in North Carolina near the Blue Ridge Parkway?”

—Dabney Peebles



Sarracenia
(carnivorous
pitcher plants)





Dabney Peeples designed a vertical garden on the rock face, with a bog garden below—essentially a marsh with plants that thrive in standing water.



The combination of sun and constant moisture creates an opportunity for pioneer plants to colonize, and in the mountains, there is often a bog at the bottom. A rock strip divides the two in-ground planting zones. The kinetically wet area at the bottom of the wall is essentially a marsh, and the plants selected needed to be ones that thrive in standing water. The light splash zone in front is the bog, which requires a high water table and low pH. Specialty farm Marble Branch provided the carnivorous and bog plants for the project. Grower Mark Reinke has bred and sold rare plants for decades, and interested gardeners can find him each weekend at downtown Greenville's Saturday Market.

When asked about the experience of constructing the bog garden, project manager Skip Briggs smiles. "The bog was fun because I've never built anything like it before, and this was my first experience capturing Dabney's vision and making it reality. Small details like the sedums and the moss give it a feeling of natural age. It's nice to see the evolution of what it looked like when we built it two years ago to what it looks like now." ❧

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Long Weekend on Las Olas

Las Olas District, Fort Lauderdale photo courtesy of Visit Lauderdale



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by Stephanie Burnette



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DETOUR

The district around Las Olas Boulevard is a destination all on its own and makes a lovely long weekend. Las Olas is known for its galleries and there are a bunch to browse, many with international leanings or pop art sensibilities.



The Galleries:

Start at New River Fine Art, End at Chic Evolution in Art

There may be no finer place to idle away a morning than at New River Fine Art. It's a gorgeous white gallery with breathtaking art and sculpture from contemporary artists as well as those considered masters. Their team acts as both agents and curators to locate exactly what you're dreaming of adding to your portfolio.

ABRA Gallery hangs collections from living artists producing colorful work designed for interiors. Nearby Effusion Gallery leans towards pop art; its playful approach belies sought-after artists, and Marco Magdaluyo can guide you towards a thoughtful purchase. Daniels Antiques showcases model boats, restored telescopes, and maritime goods ready to grace a tasteful room.

Chic Evolution In Art showcases renowned international art, from the playful to the controversial. Time spent here offers fantastic selfies and thoughtful repose. They also have two galleries in Georgia.



TOP LEFT & RIGHT: CHIC EVOLUTION IN ART GALLERY, PHOTO COURTESY OF VISIT LAUDERDALE;
BOTTOM: NEW RIVER FINE ART, PHOTO COURTESY OF NEW RIVER GALLERY



The Shops: Start at Ann's, End at Tommy's

A florist shop called Ann's includes gifts for the home, a coffee bar, a cocktail bar and a Moët & Chandon champagne vending machine. Grab a split with a cup of joe and perch on the patio like a local.

The Las Olas Yeti store offers every Yeti product, by color block, and is an Instagram-worthy stop. Across the street sits Candle Land, with its trendy candle making stations and hands on approach. Carroll's, open since 1937, carries impressive estate jewelry and sterling serving pieces. Ask for the expertise of gemologist Emily Borens to nab your next heirloom.

A flagship location of Tommy Bahama will rebrand the shopping experience; the corner retailer includes a fresh café and a very fun indoor/outdoor bar with live music daily.



BOTTOM: CARROLL'S JEWELLERS; PHOTO COURTESY OF CARROLL'S JEWELLERS; TOP: ANN'S FLORIST AND COFFEE BAR; PHOTO COURTESY OF VISIT LAUDERDALE



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Stranahan House, photo courtesy of Visit Lauderdale

Visit Fort Lauderdale's First Home

The Stranahan House is a historic home museum. Set on the river, it offers a glimpse into the history of Fort Lauderdale and its dependence on trade utilizing its riverways. Frank Stranahan is considered the town's founding father, and his wife Ivy Cromartie was its first schoolteacher. The two-story home is the oldest surviving structure in Broward County and its architecture and gardens are well worth a visit.

In front of the Stranahan House is one of the free LauderGO Water Trolley stops on The Riverwalk. Hop on to see the Las Olas district by water 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. [aH](#)



Sleep, Eat, Sip, Repeat

The Hyatt Centric Las Olas (pictured above) is art-centered and reads modern Florida chic. The boutique hotel is an easy walk to galleries and the riverfront.

Chef Greg McGowan is at the helm of its restaurant, Harborwood Urban Kitchen + Bar; it may only be topped by Room 901 (pictured left), a secret cocktail club by reservation only, with three seatings Thursday through Sunday nights. Fine spirits lovers, start drooling now.

A great day on Las Olas Boulevard starts at Pan'E Dolci for pistachio cannoli and espresso or head to LBC for massive crepes with traditional crisp edges for brunch or lunch. Happy hour is a convivial scene at Louie Bossi's. Lobster Bar Sea Grille is a treat for the seafood-leaning, and its gilded interior is gorgeous, perfect for date night.



photo courtesy of Hyatt Centric Las Olas



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by **Brendan Blowers**
photography by **Inspiro8 Studios**





“Once you go through the front door, everything is contemporary.”

—James Speer

The rise in demand for transitional-style homes in the Upstate coincided with the steady population increase of Greenville and the surrounding areas. Transitional homes are often characterized by their touch of traditional elements blended with newer aesthetics for a livable luxury that remains adaptable over time. The Aurora, CarsonSpeer’s 2022 Bridge Award winner for best overall home in its category, is a fine example of transitional design built to suit a young family buying their first home.

When the Vargas family purchased their lot in Greenville’s Hidden Hills, past the golf course and through a gate in Chanticleer, they were excited to work with a builder who could create a home that would suit their needs today and their needs decades down the road.

“The first thing that stuck out to me was they were super organized,” said owner Jan Vargas, who was impressed by CarsonSpeer’s attention to detail when they discussed how the home would be planned. “They’re both huge perfectionists, which appealed to me a great deal.”

James Speer, partner and custom home builder for CarsonSpeer, was equally excited to work with Jan and Mary Vargas. “Their style is more modern,” Speer said. “Most of the houses in the neighborhood are more traditional, so we made the roofline a more traditional shape, but once you go through the front door, everything is contemporary.”

CarsonSpeer brought in MHK Architecture and ID Studio Interiors to round out the design-build team.

Once construction started in February of 2020, it was easy for the Vargases to visit the site on their own, since they were renting nearby. “Going out to see the house was something to do during the pandemic,” Vargas said. “It was one of the activities we could safely do and social distance.”

The Vargases told Speer they wanted a home flexible enough to accommodate kids in the future, so it was almost fate when Mary Vargas became pregnant during construction. The couple now have two young children.

The Heirloom Companies designed the white oak treads and cable rail staircase to include custom baby gates. The room at the bottom of the stairs is currently used as a kids’ playroom, but plumbing and additional features were placed for it to one day become a downstairs bedroom with an en suite bath. There are four additional bedrooms upstairs.

Off the primary upstairs bedroom suite is an outdoor walkout with a clear view of the northern sky. “The reason we named the house Aurora was because Jan loves space and loves to take photography of the night sky and use his telescope,” Speer said.

Indoor/outdoor living was another prominent theme. A downstairs cocktail bar has both exterior and interior seating and opens to the patio with glass accordion windows. A tongue-and-groove stained cypress ceiling and brick walls continue the exterior elements inside. There’s a butler’s pantry on the other side of the interior bar wall.

ID Studio had the entire house painted in Sherwin-Williams Repose Gray. A neutral palette allows splashes of color to come from a variety of art and furnishings—while maintaining a clean, consistent flow to the open floor plan.

The home has an abundance of natural light, modulated by motorized shades. The direct vent gas fireplace in the living room is brick on the outside and completely surrounded by windows. “Their house is on a slab, so we could run all of the chases and conduits we needed for electrical and gas,” Speer said. A frame television is mounted above the fireplace.

Floor space was maximized and kept flexible by using moveable furniture for most storage areas, such as under the stairs; however, CarsonSpeer designed and installed custom painted maple cabinets in the kitchen.

The exterior is a combination of sanded brick and natural stone, with fiber cement soffits and banding to tie everything together.

With more than 4,000 square feet of refreshing adaptability, this residence fits its established surroundings while providing a modern family with all of the desired contemporary comforts. **CH**





The custom fireplace is direct vent gas with an exterior brick wall and an interior composed of long-format linear tiles. A frame television embedded over the flames can display art or any form of network entertainment.





The kitchen is minimal with smooth, clean lines. Carson Speer worked with ID Studio Interiors to design and build the custom maple cabinetry. Special brushes were used on the finish to enhance the look of the rich wood grain.



The interior of the bar area wasn't supposed to have seating, but during a final walk-through, the homeowners realized the advantage of having bar stools on either side. The exterior brick is carried through to the inside bar walls for a seamless indoor/outdoor experience when opened up.



Shelving connects the master bath to an upstairs laundry, so folded towels in the laundry room can be accessed from the same shelf on the bathroom's side. Large format porcelain tile in the master bath extends into a zero-entry shower with a linear drain.

The upstairs primary suite offers a peaceful retreat from the open connectedness of the rest of the house. Evening access to the walkout balcony provides an ideal northern view of an abundance of heavenly stars.



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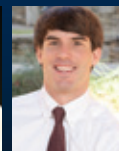
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In Good Taste

Interior designers and decorators chime in on what homeowners do wrong in the entry

by Stephanie Burnette



We queried local design experts about one topic this fall: the mistakes we make in an entry. The question garnered our largest response yet for our quarterly installment. From first impressions to making a bold statement, the next several pages are a treasure chest of professional how-to. You could call it tricks of the trade or simply that good taste never goes out of style.

“Sometimes, homeowners fear showing their authentic selves in a foyer. It is the first space that a visitor sees and should introduce the true taste and loves of the homeowner. From using a favorite paint color, a piece of art, a wallpaper, the foyer sets the stage. Always strive to make an authentic introduction.”

—Louise Hane, Louise Hane Interior Design

TRADE FOLIO

Always try to have a unique and special mirror hung in an entry. A final flash on entry or exit is always a great detail.

-**Sandra Cannon**, Sandra Cannon Interiors

Because entries are more of a pass-through, people tend to oversimplify the space. I love to have a sideboard or console with storage and a large piece of art or a mirror to give it a wow moment. Adding accessories make it feel warm and lived in.

-**Peden Wright**, Peden Wright Interiors for 4Rooms

The biggest mistake we see homeowners make in an entry is not correlating the room to the design in the rest of the house. The foyer/entry should offer a sneak peek into the other main rooms of the house, creating continuity with the rest of your home.

-**Ashley Arata**, Old Colony Furniture

Spend the money to make a foyer fabulous. Also, as with any room, a vintage or antique piece mixed in breaks up the feel of everything being perfect and new.

-**Caroline Brackett**, Caroline Brackett Studio of Design

Use different flooring in the entry than the rest of your home to sweep those who enter off their feet. If you're stuck with hardwoods, sand them down and create a diamond pattern with stain and paint. I love a natural stone or handmade tile in the entry that will age well over time.

-**Kelly Ford**, Ford Interior Design

No matter if large or small, the entry can play a major design role in your home. We love dramatic lighting and a beautiful rug or tile inlay that emphasizes the space and creates a welcoming and inviting area.

-**Ashley Diggelman**, Nandina Home & Design



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BY EMILY BOLT

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▲ Layers of art, furniture, accessories, and, in some cases, textiles will provide the warm welcome you hope for.
-Amanda Louise Campbell, Amanda Louise Interiors

We usually come in the house with a bunch of stuff. Always make sure there is an attractive place for keys, sunglasses, your purse, and the other items you shed when you come in the door.
-Vandy Schaefer, Fowler Interiors



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▲ Most often we find that homeowners simply neglect the entryway. There is a tendency to reuse leftover furniture pieces or to skimp on purchasing items. Quite often the homeowner also does not select proper lighting. Whenever possible, we use lamps that provide a welcoming ambiance along with a stunning chandelier.

-Carey Taylor, C. Taylor Interiors

I do think the entry should be a place to take risks and be bold, whatever that means to you. It's likely the space you spend the least amount of time in, so take a risk and make it memorable.

-Whitney McGregor, Whitney McGregor Designs ▼

“Stop forcing accent walls in the entry, especially an open entry, and don't add shoulder-height wainscoting; it makes adding mirrors, art, or color tough to navigate. Instead, utilize sconces and wild art hung in creative ways without fear in a foyer.”

-Everett King, Everett King Consulting ►

TOP LEFT PHOTO COURTESY OF CAREY TAYLOR

TOP RIGHT PHOTO COURTESY OF WHITNEY MCGREGOR

BOTTOM PHOTO BY EMILY BOLT





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COMPOSITION

Woven in Time

Jerry Maxey combines his artistic passions to craft dramatic baskets

by Faith Adedokun
photography by Eli Warren

Unaware then of the foreshadowing, Jerry Maxey grew up working in his father's upholstery shop, restoring furniture and caning chairs. His love of process and craft started at an early age. So, unsurprisingly, thirty-five years ago, having moved to Greenville, he embarked on a journey to keep creating in whatever ways he could.



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“I started off working with wood, but at one point, I found myself in an apartment in Greenville and didn’t have access to any shops, and I was going crazy until a friend of mine gave me a book of basket patterns,” he says. “I made a couple of baskets out of the book, and I just got obsessed with it.” But his newfound passion for basket weaving couldn’t eclipse his love of woodworking. Eventually, Maxey returned to working in wood shops, allowing him to marry the two seemingly disparate crafts, seamlessly blending lathe-turned wooden bases and rims for his rattan and seagrass cord baskets.

Though now each basket holds the unmistakable fingerprint of his elaborately woven, wood-adorned designs, it didn’t start that way. Maxey’s earliest baskets were completely rattan and seagrass cord. But after gaining inspiration from an artist who wove “barnacles” onto found pieces of driftwood, Maxey began salvaging his own wood from downed trees and other found places to create bases for his signature pieces.

Later, he would master the complex process of including lathe-turned rims, which he describes as a highly technical and skilled process. “Attaching the rim to the top is a real challenge because you have to weave the opening of the piece into the precise size of the rim. It took quite a bit of practice, but eventually, I figured out a way to do it, and that’s my contribution to the art of basket weaving.”

In creating his designs, Maxey continues to learn and experiment with the ways and means of executing his pieces. Employing a technique called wicker-weaving, Maxey uses a predetermined number of vertical spokes attached to his wood bases and rims that are shaped and interwoven with horizontal elements of dyed seagrass cord or rattan called weavers.

And though the art of basket-making is among the oldest forms of functional and aesthetic art in the world, Maxey’s baskets are far from simple in their design or execution. “There’s a lot of math involved in making these designs. For this piece that has vertical stripes on it, as I go around, each



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“Attaching the rim to the top is a real challenge because you have to weave the opening of the piece into the precise size of the rim. It took quite a bit of practice, but eventually, I figured out a way to do it, and that’s my contribution to the art of basket weaving.”

—Jerry Maxey



weaver lands back on top of itself. And the colors stack up and make a stripe. That is because it’s thirty-two spokes, and I’m using four weavers. Thirty-two is a multiple of four, which means that each weaver comes back to the same spot and makes a stripe. But if I had thirty-one spokes and the same four weavers, it would make a spiral because each time it came around, it would be one off, so it would spiral its way up. It certainly takes time to learn these things.”

For Maxey, this is an experiential art form as much as a planned technical one, sharing that sometimes his creations move with a mind all their own, creating patterns or elements that often catch him by surprise. But understanding his process, it’s no surprise these unexpected creative elements occur. Maxey, who spends time meditating daily, often finds his mind filled with thoughts on basket patterns. “I think, ‘I wonder what would happen if ...’ and that’s what gets me going.”

And like any true fanatic, he is not content to solely turn those moments of meditative inspiration into production for his business but also into active engagement in keeping the ages-old tradition alive by sharing his skills and knowledge with others, teaching workshops and classes on basket-making.

Though these days, the semi-retired Maxey has slowed down on shows and production, he’s still using the same medium he did all those years ago in his father’s furniture store to expand his ideas for where his work might lead him. “There’s a structural integrity limit that, once I get to a certain size, it just becomes too flexible,” he says. “But I keep wanting to explore metal spokes that I can shape so I can go even bigger and more spectacular,” he says. He and his fans are excited to see the results of this exploration. **CH**

Jerry Maxey’s work has earned numerous awards at festivals including Atlanta Dogwood Festival and Artisphere. His pieces are currently for sale at The Lucy Clark Gallery in Brevard and on his website at jerrymaxey.com.




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STYLED

Nursery School



Realtor Taylor Mitchell created a nursery that fits her family's style and budget

by **Stephanie Burnette**

photos by **Chelsey Ashford Photography**

Taylor and Connor Mitchell bought their first home in Overbrook Historic District three weeks before the pandemic sent everyone home. The 1940s bungalow offered the young couple plentiful opportunity to make the house their home, and sheltering in place certainly sped up their decorating timeline.

They welcomed their son, Jackson, this past spring and created a nursery big on sentimental details, and some hard-earned sweat equity made it magazine-worthy. We asked Mitchell to pass on her best DIY decorating ideas with our readers.



STYLED

What did you want your nursery to feel like?

The previous owners set up this room as a nursery, but it was a little girl's room with lots of pinks and reds. When we found out we were having a boy, we knew we wanted to cover their wallpapered accent wall with a different color scheme. Once I found the wallpaper, Paradise Palm Coastal Blue Botanical by NextWall, the theme became what I call "Blue Safari." I wanted a lot of the furniture to stay neutral so that we could reuse it for another baby. I also added natural textures like the rattan baskets and planter, and natural wood frames and a personalized sign.



What furniture did you already have, and what did you buy?

We had all the furniture but the crib and glider. I love to repurpose what I already have, and I have fun with DIYs. I painted the chest of drawers and nightstand and swapped out the hardware to match the new lamps and curtain rod. The white

changing table was previously used as our primary bedroom dresser; the pull-out baskets are easy to store things like diapers, extra wipes, bath supplies. I chose this glider because I knew I wanted it to rock and recline. It's Carter's by DaVinci Arlo Recliner and Swivel Glider.

What turned out better than expected?

Wallpaper can be really tricky, and this was my first time using peel-and-stick wallpaper. It was so much easier and turned out just as great, even with a complicated pattern to line up. I found it at Home Depot.

Did you use a designer?

No, I did it all myself with some Pinterest inspirations. By repurposing what I had, I did it for a low cost. All of the small details that really pulled it together, I found at Home Depot, Amazon, or Etsy. Nothing broke the bank!



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What elements are sentimental in the room? ▶

There is a painting on the chest of drawers called “Daddy’s Caddie” by Barbra Shipman that was in my husband’s room when he was little. My mother-in-law reframed it and gifted it to us at our baby shower. My husband and I are both big golfers and hope Jackson loves to play one day, too. A porcelain elephant was my mom’s as a kid and there’s my husband’s personalized baseball glove from high school.

How did you pick your son’s name?

He is the first grandchild in both of our families, so we thought it would be special to name him after important male role models in our lives. Jackson is after my husband, Connor Jackson Mitchell, who was named after his grandfather, Clay Jackson “Jack” Mitchell. Keller was my late grandfather’s middle name.



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Award-Winning Reads

When you're on the hunt for your next good book, prize lists are a good place to find inspiration. Pulitzer Prizes are given to American authors and address American life and culture; the Booker Prize is the much-celebrated British equivalent. The National Book Award is awarded to US citizens, but isn't limited to stories of American culture. Essentially, if you see one of these shiny gold medallions on a [freshly reprinted] book jacket, you've chosen well. Here are a few of my favorites.

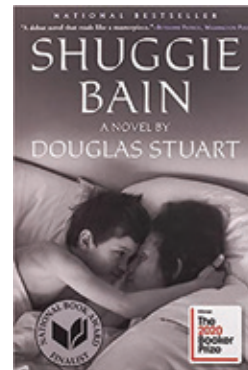
by **LINDSEY DELOACH JONES**



THE NICKEL BOYS, Colson Whitehead

The Pulitzer Prize, 2020

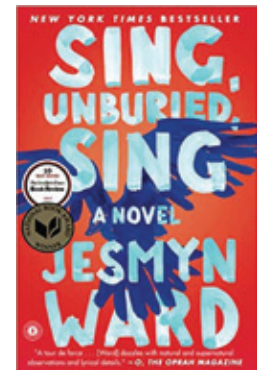
Based on real-life accounts of abuse at the Dozier School for Boys in Florida—a place Whitehead calls a “pain factory”—this novel follows Elwood Curtis, a fictionalized Black teenager committed to the reform school for an imaginary offense. The actual institution operated for more than a century before finally being shut down, but Elwood’s story takes place in the early 1960s. Admittedly, *The Nickel Boys* is not a book for everyone; you’ll need a strong stomach and an even stronger commitment to staring down the truth of America’s haunted past.



SHUGGIE BAIN, Douglas Stewart

The Booker Prize, 2020

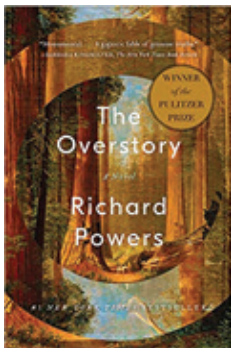
Though not for lack of thought, I can’t explain why I or anyone would be drawn to a novel as sad as *Shuggie Bain*. Even the author’s rhythmic, often breathtaking prose is insufficient to explain why this painful story of little Shuggie and his mother Agnes resonates so deeply. Set in 1980s Glasgow, Shuggie finds himself on the outside of everything: the neighborhood boys, his mother’s addiction to alcohol, their squalid flat, even himself. Until the end, though, he remains a bulwark of hope in a dark world. This story will tear through you, and you will be better for it.



SING, UNBURIED, SING, Jesmyn Ward

National Book Award, 2017

Having also won for her novel *Salvage the Bones*, Ward took home a second National Book Award in 2017 with this Southern Gothic story of a fraught-from-the-start road trip north from Mississippi. Heavy with poetic language and imagery, the novel is anchored by teenage Jojo, who wrestles his toddler sister in the backseat while his meth-addicted mother and her friend navigate drug deals, gas stations, and police stops. Largely inside the space of a sedan, *Sing, Unburied, Sing* tackles profound intergenerational trauma—but shines a light, too, on the unshakeable love inside a family.



THE OVERSTORY, Richard Powers

The Pulitzer Prize, 2019

This is an epic novel—and I’m not using that word the way my eight-year-old does. With nine central characters (and that’s only accounting for the humans; you’ll grow attached to more than a few trees) and a sprawling timeline, *The Overstory* is a true epic, interested not only in the fate of its characters but of humankind. Powers makes it clear he aims not to entertain but to wake us up to the harm our greed and ignorance are causing the natural world, yet polemic is wrapped in a story both rich and compelling. You’ll come away with an enlarged awareness and may, like I did, find yourself spending significantly more time staring up at the trees.

THRESH & HOLD, Marlanda Dekine

New Southern Voices Poetry Prize, 2021

Published by Spartanburg’s Hub City Press, Dekine’s most recent poetry collection has received national recognition for good reason. Vigorous and unflinching, the poet reckons with their Gullah-Geechee heritage and forges, as if through incantation, a new identity as a Black and queer body. With an almost palpable sense of southern place, Dekine offers up a poetic voice that is at once accessible and transcendent. Check it out—this award winner is as local as local gets.

Lindsey DeLoach Jones teaches creative writing as the writer-in-residence at the South Carolina Governor’s School for the Arts.



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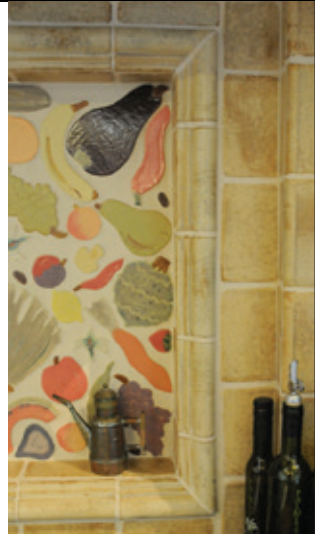


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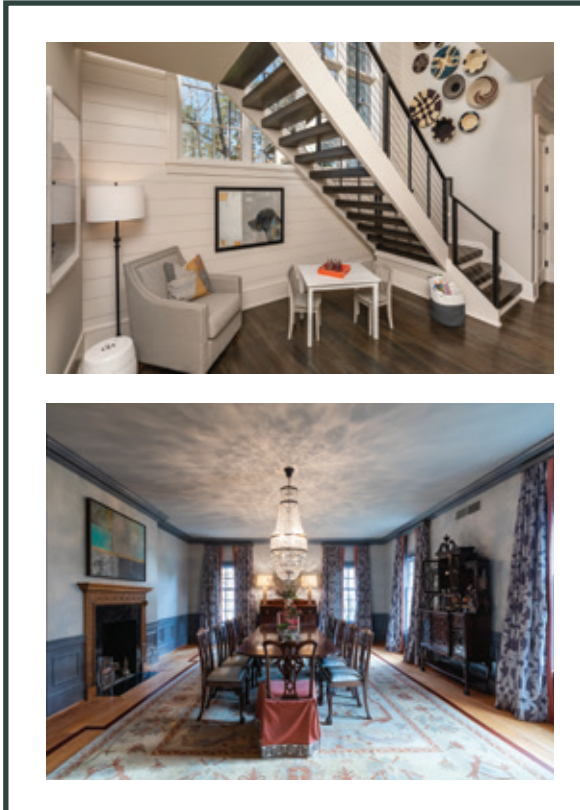
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