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HOME DESIGN



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World Charm

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renewing OLD WORLD charm

By Laura Jackson
Photos by Lissa Gotwals

Just five miles north of Pittsboro and 11 miles south of Chapel Hill, lies a captivating little town on the banks of the Haw River. It's a nostalgic place that comes with the popular description, "Once you get that Bynum mud between your toes, you'll always come back... and that's exactly what has kept it going since the 1800s." It's the same place where a young couple embarked on a great adventure—bringing their 1874 classic home respectfully and beautifully into the 21st century.

BECAUSE THE ORIGINAL GOALS OF THE PROTZMANS' real estate search included finding acreage, privacy and a home with some age and character, the property in Bynum fit perfectly. Its gorgeous 150-year-old oak trees and easy walking distance to the Haw River only added to the allure.

Knowing from the start that preserving the spirit of its history, while adding the necessary modern updates presented challenges, they moved forward with determination. "Luckily, the craftsmen in Chatham County in the 1880s knew what they were doing, so the bones of the home were in incredibly good condition," explains Alys Protzman, homeowner and interior designer. Some of the needed changes included opening up the home to the back











of the property to allow for better views and a larger kitchen and family room, as well as adding a screened outdoors living room. As is usually the case with older homes, all of the bathrooms and utilities also needed a redo. “Basically, we wanted to hold on to all of the amazing charm and detailing, but essentially it was a total gut job,” she adds.

Discovering BuildSense was the Protzmans next great find, who helped transform their dream into a reality. Alys describes her initial meeting with the team, “They were honest and straightforward, and

unafraid of the snake skin hanging from the rafters in the basement,” she laughs. “As an interior designer (Alys Design), it was a lot of fun working with another design team. I appreciated their expertise with quality trades people and integrating the best quality and efficient utilities and systems into our old 1880s fixer-upper.”

While BuildSense’s website displays more of their amazing contemporary work, their strong design history with historic preservation became evident from the start. “Their request to respect the charm of



the home, yet live with the space and style of the 21st century was a perfect challenge,” explains Erik Van Mehlman, BuildSense Partner and Design Lead.

Taking cues from the home’s original form to determine the needed architectural changes translated to extruding the gable roof forms both out and up to provide wonderful wide open space in the kitchen, living and dining areas, as well as the new second

floor master suite. Large expanses of glass doors and windows in the new addition visually and physically opened the home to the yard, pond, cottage, pool and garage. Working with Trent Lloyd Design on the landscaping completed the big picture of the property, and in the transition area between the home and yard is an expansive wrap-around porch creating a breathtaking extension of the indoors to the outside.

As you enter the renovation today, you are immediately greeted with open, airy and refreshing light-filled space throughout. “We thrive on providing quality space, volume, circulation and most importantly, daylight. You will see those as common elements among all our design work, whatever the style,” said Mehlman.

An appealing Southern warmth and hospitality seems to permeate each mesmerizing room of this home. Alys describes her interior design motivation, “For me it’s all about family, comfort, history and fun. With two kids under three, my style has to be bulletproof. I believe in surrounding yourself with the things you love and realizing there is no right and wrong answer with decorating. Experiment!”

Alys also believes in using accessories to add pops of whimsy and color, “I love supporting independent retailers, thrift stores and antique fairs more than buying new catalog items. Each item has a history and tells a story – and all of them are great conversation starters.”

Describing her favorite room is easy. “We LOVE our screen porch. Even though I’m pretty proud of the design and furnishings, the showstopper is really our view and nature’s little symphony going on outside. Our children heard their first owl out there the other evening,” she says. “It’s a pretty magical spot.” ❖

floor master suite. Large expanses of glass doors and windows in the new addition visually and physically opened the home to the yard, pond, cottage, pool and garage. Working with Trent Lloyd Design on the landscaping completed the big picture of the property, and in the transition area between the home and yard is an expansive wrap-around porch creating a breathtaking extension of the indoors to the outside.

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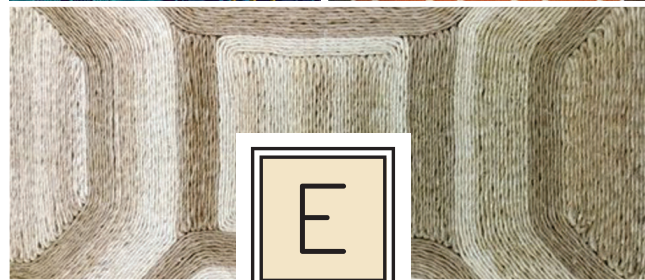


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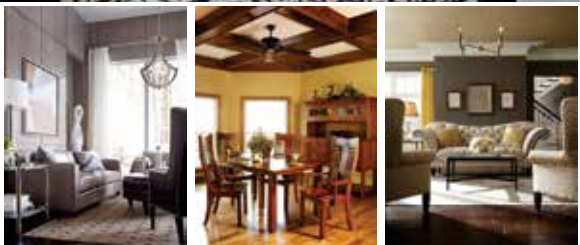
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SPACES WE LOVE

Well-designed kitchens transcend their function and become a place where families gather and the home feels complete. This kitchen built by Ruffy Homes and designed with Judy Pickett of Design Lines LLC does just that... and it's a space we love.



“The goal was to design a home that was a family haven,” explains Jon Ruffy. Seating at the table is comfortable and varied for both adults and children and the neutral gray and white palette is the backdrop for bright color accents; a perfect combination of form and function.

“The client was confident in their style and clear in their vision for their new home, which made my job as designer easier.”

– Judy Pickett

Key Design Elements:

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www.nuevoliving.com.

Italian White Carrara Marble Countertops,
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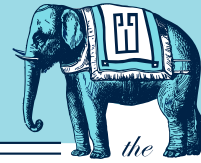
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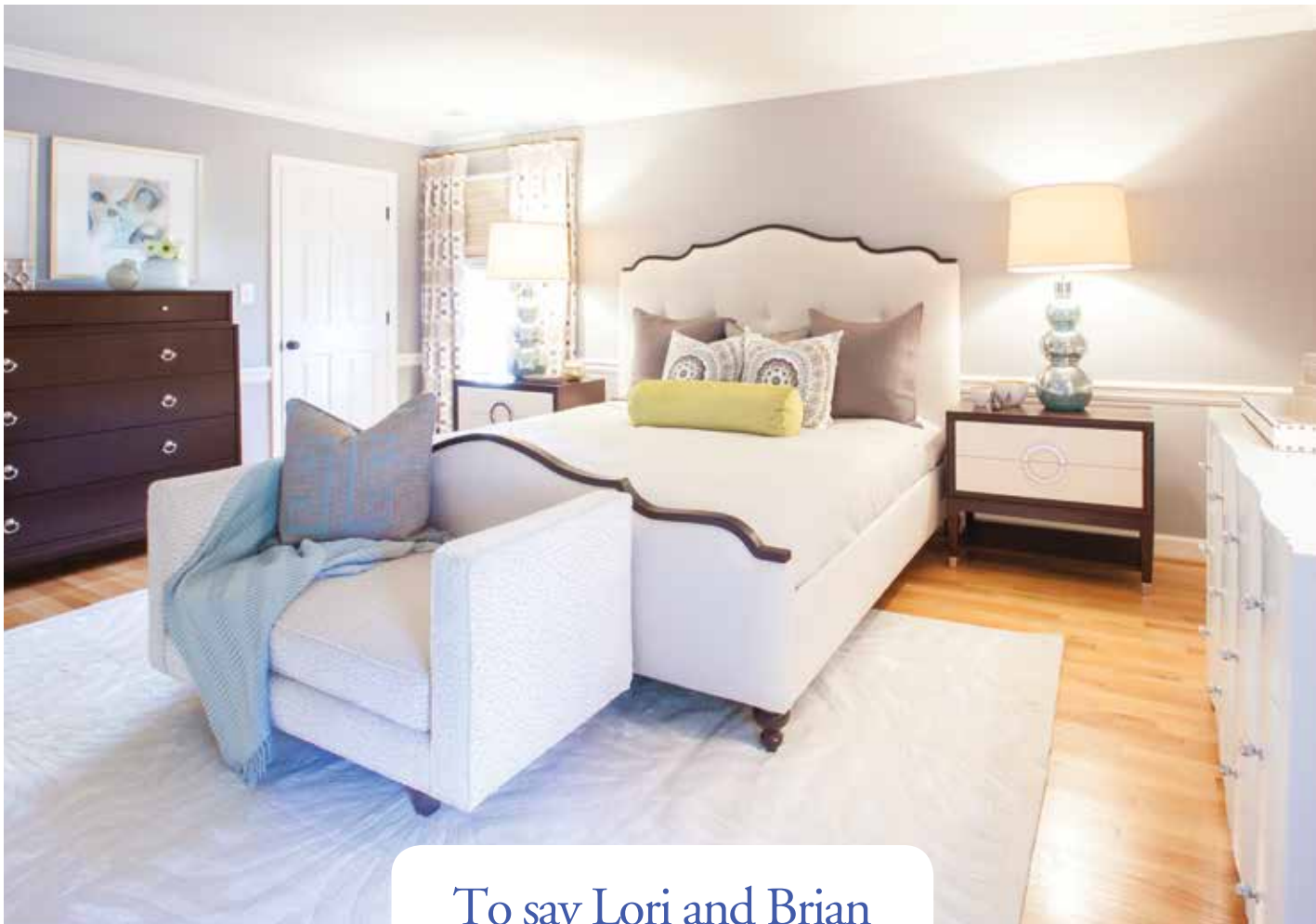
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COHESIVE VISION

By Brandy Snow
Photography by Mckenzie France





To say Lori and Brian Crowder’s vision for their renovation remained steadfast throughout the project would be far from the truth.

IN FACT, THE FINAL DESTINATION landed the family in a completely different mindset than where they began, and their change of heart is a testament to what true, introspective design work can achieve. The Crowders purchased their 1980s-built home for its quiet cul-de-sac location and good structural bones. Though the appearance was dated, they dreamed of implementing a design overhaul that not only upgraded the aesthetics but also increased the functionality of the home to best accommodate the needs of a busy couple and three small children. Originally, Lori and Brian called on designer Beth Keim at Lucy & Company with a singular project focus – to turn their rarely used formal living room into a comfortable home office. However, not too long into the process, the Crowders changed course completely and felt moving was their best option. It wouldn’t be the last redirect, though.

“After the Crowders decided to move, I began staging the home for market, and it gave them pause to reconsider,” says Beth “I had begun taking a designer’s eye to each and every room in the home, which then began to take on new life as they saw the colors and pieces I was bringing in. Not long after, the move was off the table!”

Now, a year later, the full renovation is nearly completed and has realized a complete transformation of each interior space and facelift of

the exterior.

When Beth began working on the home office, she selected a desk as the centerpiece of the design and then added a comfortable seating area to increase versatility of the space. In its close proximity to the entrance foyer, Beth incorporated multiple textures,

patterns and finishes to add warmth and interest. “The office features grass cloth, window treatments, textured bamboo blinds and a large area rug that invite you in to the space. This also became the springboard for our color palette throughout the cohesive home design.”

One specific design element that excites Beth, which she also incorporated into the Crowders renovation, is the re-birth of wallpaper. “With so many patterns, textures, colors and styles, you would be hard-pressed not to find something to love. Wallpaper can cover the entire room or one accent wall, and it adds character and depth. Wallpaper has a huge presence in most of the designs I create, and Lori and Brian have even jumped on the bandwagon as I continue adding complimenting papers in various rooms.”

She says good design is about achieving such cohesiveness in the aesthetic. “Having a color palette that continues throughout the home is important as well as a continued ‘style.’ I love the collected, eclectic look, mixing time periods, styles, textures and scale as it creates visual



interest and makes it personal. For one-of-a-kind pieces or artwork, I enjoy shopping locally.”

Beth advises all homeowners interested in redesigning their homes to always look first at the big picture. “Impulse buying is the biggest mistake made. It’s important to first think about how each space will flow into the other and choose your pieces, colors, fabrics and rugs as a whole before shopping. It can be daunting to ‘design’ the entire home on paper first, but it will make the process much easier while also reducing costly mistakes. Hiring a good designer with knowledge and experience can alleviate that stress.”❖



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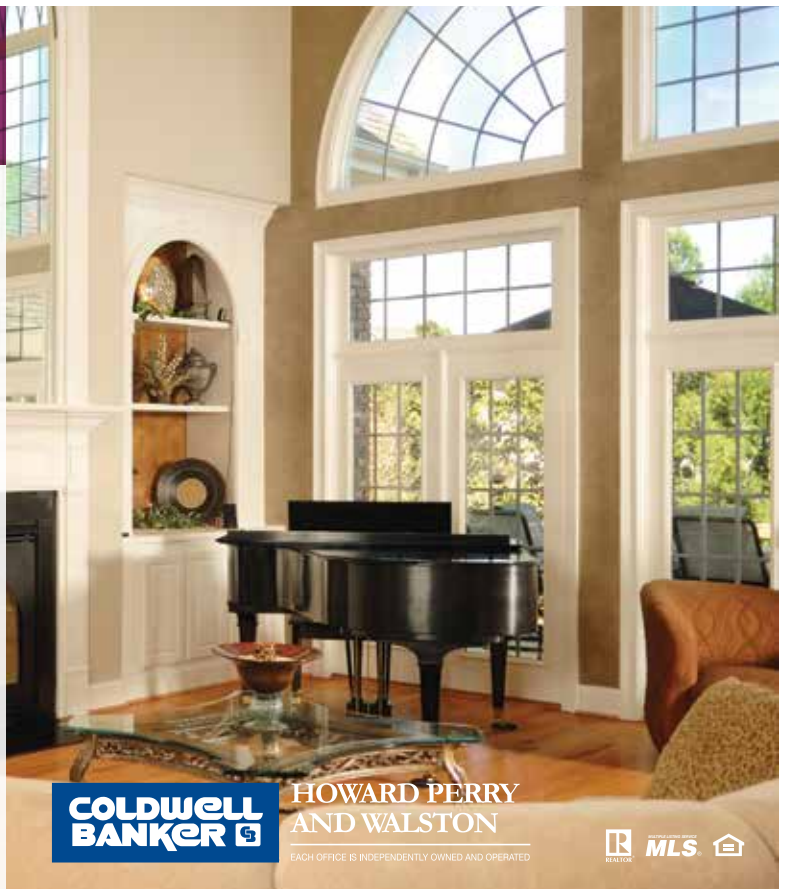
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single family modern

By Anne Marie Ashley
Photography by Dustin Peck

When your husband is a custom homebuilder, finding the right home for your family is as easy as building the perfect one.

MOLLY AND WARD RUSSELL found the ideal lot on Beaufort Street and fell in love with the historic area and comfortable feel of the neighborhood. Since Ward is the president of Legacy Custom Homes, designing and building the home with his team was a natural choice and they got straight to work. Over the next year, they completed the build and design of the home and when it came to choosing an interior designer, it was also an easy process – the recommendation couldn't have come from a more reliable source...their family.

Having seen the work Susan Tollefson did for her brother and sister-in-law, Molly felt confident that she would do an equally amazing job on her home. Molly, Ward, their two girls and

Susan all collectively decided that their home needed to have an unpretentious, comfortable feel, but with a more modern pizzazz than their previous home. "I am definitely more non-traditional in my own personal taste," offers Susan. "Molly has a great eye and an open mind and what's more fun than clients that embrace my quirky style in their own look?" Susan adds that the base of the living area downstairs needed to be neutral, but that color was to be added through fabric, accessories and art.

Pulling from a mix of antique stores, designers and local artists, Susan created a comfortable, but sophisticated look that was full of personality and thoughtfully put together. "My motto with clients is 'if you love it, we can make it work,'











explains Susan. “I like using personal things of clients – I think the stories behind those ‘things’ are what makes them interesting, not the accessories themselves.” A local designer, Louise Gaskill Company, created the unique dining room and living room chandelier fixtures, offering a bespoke look that’s often hard to find in new homes. “She buys vintage lighting and glass, takes it apart and uses different pieces and custom finishes to make beautiful lamps and chandeliers,” says Susan, adding that each piece is a one-of-a-kind gem. The team also wanted to use some of the family pieces that belong to Molly and Ward. Molly’s Uncle, for example, finished the vanity piece in the powder room and the corner cabinet in the living room was passed down through Ward’s family.

“You do not have to have one color that ‘flows’ into every room,” advises Susan. “You can mix it up. I think the goal is to make every room have its own personality and purpose. Maybe you need a really dark room where you can escape and feel cozy, or a happy room with lots of color when you need to feel energized.” When it came to the bathrooms, Susan employed one of her design tips by keeping it classic. “Marble and white never go out of style,” she advises. She also isn’t afraid to mix metals, giving permission to use chrome faucets and natural brass door hardware in the same space. “I PROMISE it’s ok! It makes everything more interesting and not so cookie cutter.”

When asked what her design secret is, Molly is quick to say that it’s Susan. “Susan is the best kept secret in Raleigh! What she says, I do. I want my house to feel comfortable but fun.” What’s the secret to design? Just a couple rules of thumb – if you love it, buy it, display in threes and fives and don’t be afraid to mix it up. “Mid Century modern Lucite looks great with a classic Pembroke side table,” says Susan. When it came to the living area and kitchen being open to each other in one long room, Molly says it’s one of her favorite spaces in the home. “It’s the hub. It’s an area where we can all be together – whether we’re watching a movie, cooking a fun dinner or just relaxing. It’s sophisticated *and* family friendly – that’s a win-win.” Susan chimes in saying that she loves all the spaces, but the kids’ study room is funky and cool and she particularly loves the master bathroom. “That wallpaper is off the chain!” ❖





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TRENDING



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The 2015 Kitchen:



NKBA

What's In : What's Out

By Anne Marie Ashley

For over 52 years, the National Kitchen and Bath Association (NKBA) have been tracking the latest trends and innovations in the kitchen and bath industry. Their research is compiled into a survey identifying these emerging trends, and released each year so that NKBA members can translate these designs into beautiful kitchens and baths for their clients. Here's a snapshot of what to expect in the 2015 kitchen design year.

top 10 kitchen trends

- ❶ Clean, overall contemporary feel.
A fusion of styles and multiple colors in one kitchen.
- ❷ European-style cabinets.
- ❸ Multiples of appliances in one kitchen.
- ❹ A rise in steam ovens.
- ❺ More statement furniture pieces.
- ❻ Outdoor kitchens.
- ❼ Fewer standard kitchen tables, replaced by counters or tall gathering tables.
- ❽ TVs and docking stations.
- ❾ Wine refrigerators.
- ❿ Focus on the user experience, from easy maintenance to accessible design.
Considering the needs of all users in the space, including pets.

▲ What's In

Transitional, Shaker and Contemporary Styles

Gray, White, and Bone Color Schemes

Painted and Dark Stained Cabinets

Trash/Recycling, Spice and Storage
Drawer Pullouts

Tall Pantries

Quartz Countertops

Glass, Porcelain and Stone Tile Backsplashes

Microwave Drawers

Convection Ovens

Steam Ovens

Induction Cooktops

French Door, Built - In
and Freezer Bottom Refrigerators

Integrated Dishwashers or
Multiple Dishwashers

Wood, Ceramic and Porcelain Tile Floors

Granite Composite or Stainless Steel Sinks

Pull Out, Touch Activated or
Water-Saving Faucets

Polished Chrome, Stainless Steel
and Satin Nickel Finishes

A CLOSER LOOK:

68

Percentage of NKBA designers installing energy saving appliances in their kitchen designs, with 42 percent expecting to install more in 2015.

38

Percentage of designers that specified water-saving faucets in the kitchen, with 23 percent expecting to install more in 2015.

50

Percentage of NKBA designers that installed an outdoor kitchen in 2014, up seven percentage points from 2013.

5

Percentage of designers who installed special accommodations to make it easier to feed pets in the kitchen, to gate pets and to store pet-related materials in 2014.

24

Percentage of retro or Mid-Century modern kitchens.

▼ What's Out

Country/Rustic, Tuscan and
Provincial Styles

Terracotta, Red and Brown
Color Schemes

Distressed, Light-Stained and
Stained/Glazed Cabinets

Appliance Garages

Wine Racks

Granite, Laminate and
Solid Surface Countertops

Painted Wallboard and
Laminate Backsplashes

Freestanding Microwaves

Freezer-Top and Side-by-side
Refrigerator

Vinyl and Linoleum Flooring

Porcelain and Solid Surface Sinks

Standard Faucets

Bronze/Oil-rubbed bronze and
Polished Brass Finishes



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Reinkmeier Rietberg

Cork

One of the most exciting trends in eco-design is the use of cork flooring. The same material used to plug your favorite bottle of wine is being produced as elegant and modern flooring. With a wide variety of shades and textures—including a glamorous marble-looking finish—this soft, durable and hypoallergenic option is perfect for many spaces in your home.

Cut and Loop Carpet

Carpeting is created by sewing strands of yarn into a backing material, creating thousands of loops. When the loops are cut, you get high and low pile carpet, often known as plush carpet and even frieze. When the loops remain uncut, you get a loop carpet, similar to Berber. When some loops are cut and some are uncut, you get a “cut and loop” carpet that can be made into intricate or simple designs, adding interest and texture to your carpeted floors.

Bamboo

Bamboo floors by Teragren are made from Optimum 5.5 Moso bamboo that's harvested between 5 1/2 and 6 years old. This maturity level produces flooring that is 25 percent harder than oak floors and 12 percent harder than maple floors. The light color is beautiful if left natural, but can be caramelized in a natural heating process for a deeper latte color. Bamboo flooring is made from grass and is a “green” option because it can be harvested from the same plant over and over again.

Leather Tile

Not only is leather tile warm, but it also welcomes nicks, scratches and spills, increasing character and patina with every one. This makes leather tile easy to maintain -- just dust, damp mop and wax as necessary. With proper maintenance it can last 50 to 100 years. According to architects and interior designers, leather is the ultimate splurge when it comes to modern flooring and options seem endless – from antiqued brown crocodile to metallic rattlesnake.

Concrete Stain

Concrete floors are not just for the garage. Dark stains give the concrete a glossy finish, dressing it up and adding texture to your space. Acid staining concrete creates intricate patterns and coloring to the floor, plus it doesn't fade, dull, crack or peel.

Glass

Glass flooring can be used as tiles with different materials in between the base of the floor and the actual glass tiles. The toughened glass can be frosted or clear, like windows and even lit from below for a glowing floor effect. ❖



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2015 Tile Trends

Plan a bathroom or kitchen redesign this year with four of the hottest trends in tile.



SOFT TEXTURES

While polished and high-gloss is still in demand, matte textures are making a comeback this year. Tile with a matte or semi-gloss finish lets you create a softer, more livable feel.

Wall Tile

Consider wall covering tiles. They let you put texture or patterns on the wall that rival the detail and softness of wall paper, without the mess.

Wood-Look Flooring

This year look for new trends in wood tile like:

- Longer planks from 36" to 48"
- Reclaimed, barn wood, or aged-looking wood
- Mixing materials like natural stone and wood-looks
- Parquet: creating geometric patterns with planks (no more linear)
- Square-based patterns
- Exotic looking hardwoods



MOSAICS

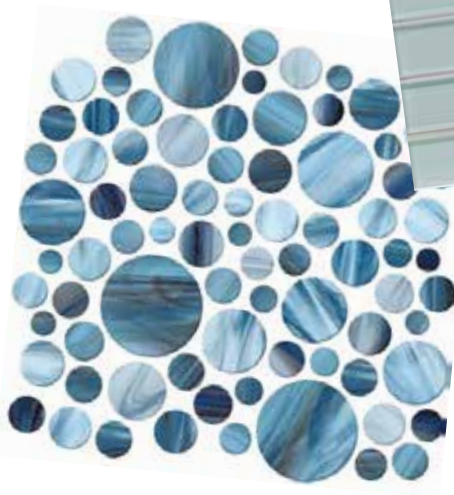
Mosaics are more than little glass chips; this year, they go beyond the traditional medallions or glass 1x1s.

Stone Mosaics

The specialty shape stone mosaics feature ovals, triangles, hexagons or marquise. Natural stone adds a hint of luxury or try limestone or marble. Offset the unique shapes with a complementary grout or match the grout to the tile for an understated effect.

Glass Mosaics

Multi-hued glass mosaics for the coming year have gotten away from the classic 1 x 1. Pencil tiles and metallic finishes expand the definition of mosaic in 2015.

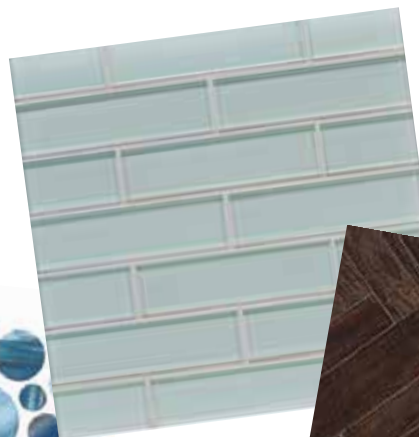


SUBWAY TILE

Love for Subway Tile grows stronger this year, a classic look that can be dressed up or down.

Subway Tile Gets An Upgrade

The classic 3 x 6 is always available in the perfect shades and finishes for your project. But consider adding a twist to your subway tile design. Go with a larger tile, vertical layout, or graphic design for a transitional retro look.



COLOR SHIFT

Gray continues to be the hottest color but clay, taupe and other neutrals are making a comeback, with soft blacks making a move to rival gray's popularity.

Add To The Palette

Classic neutrals will canoodle with pastel blues and greens as they join the palate. Peach, coral and purple will also become basic backdrops for the other elements in a room design.



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City Farm To Table

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations reports that 800 million people worldwide participate in urban farming through raising animals or growing fruits and vegetables, producing what the Worldwatch Institute reports to be an astonishing 15 to 20 percent of the world's food.

Urban agriculture has been gaining popularity on the heels of the farm-to-table movement. Whether it's a home agriculture experiment or a more organized, community-funded effort, more direct access to fresh vegetables, fruits and meat products through urban farming can improve food security and food safety. Plus, gardening can decrease levels of stress and increase overall mental health through connecting with nature.

Clearly there are many benefits to growing and cultivating your own whole foods, too many to mention here, but here are just a few ideas to get you started on the path to better living. Who says you can't get create your own farm-to-table inside the perimeter?

Planting Your Urban Garden

If you're going for the personal garden on your building rooftop, or in the smaller backyard of your city plot, a container garden is a great option. Container gardens must be deep enough to support root growth, ideally 8-12 inches. Remember to put some holes in the bottom for drainage, too. When choosing seeds, consider growing a bunch of herbs in a pot together. As for vegetables, almost everything will grow in a container.

Lettuce, peas and greens can be placed outside mid-April; everything else should wait until mid-May. Remember that over-watering is the most common mistake; always let the soil dry out and then fill it up. A great container option, along with more information, can be found at Food Map Designs and <http://stores.foodmapdesign.com>.

Community Gardening

If you're building a community garden, one that everyone can access to help grow, tend and harvest for a profit, construct the garden to accommodate children, the elderly and people of all abilities. Raised beds, wider paths, and benches can all be used to create a more usable space. For information on city farms in Charlotte, visit www.smallcityfarm.com and for community gardens, www.charmeck.org.

Coop

Interest in raising chickens has grown quickly in the last few years, accompanied by a resurgent interest in heritage breeds, pastured poultry and on-farm processing. Baby chickens can be purchased through one of many chick hatcheries or through your local farm supply store in the spring. You'll need a brooder to put your chicks in when they arrive; it can be



Kenneth Weikal Landscape Architecture



The Davis Enterprise



a commercially produced unit or a simple homemade item, but it must be big enough to hold the chicks to an age of 4-7 weeks. After 10 weeks, they should be between 3-5 lbs and ready for processing.

If you're keeping hens for eggs, they just need a comfy place to roost at night and lay during the day. For more information on how to raise and process your chickens, check out the American Pastured Poultry Association at www.apppa.org. ❖

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You will live with your kitchen for a long time, so make sure it works for the way you live and don't base it on some "mainstream" design style.

Are You Open to Open Concept?

There are several terms vendors throw around that seem to be overused. Terms like "unique solutions" and "state-of-the-art". The kitchen industry is guilty of it too with the term "open concept." However, you shouldn't feel compelled to accept the open concept for your home simply because everyone else does. It may be right for you, or it may be the wrong direction for the particular way you live and use your home. Stop and consider if an open floor plan matches your family's habits and lifestyle. After all, popular doesn't equal practical.

Installing gorgeous cabinets in a new kitchen is what we do best, but there's one thing we can't do – change people's (messy) habits. The kitchen is always visible in an open floor plan, so if you're one to shrug off the dirty dinner dishes until the next morning (no judgement!), the unkempt kitchen

may make your entire living space look messy and dirty.

A separate kitchen space may be helpful if you'd like to close the door until tomorrow's chore time or if you want to shuttle your dinner guests' dishes out of eyesight into the next room so they will feel comfortable lingering, unobligated to load the dishwasher. An enclosed kitchen also may be helpful if you need a quieter living space. Maybe the family members would like to watch TV immediately after dinner and not hear the dishwasher running?

Use your kitchen designer's training and education to good advantage. He or she can help you decide whether an open plan is right for you. If you decide it isn't, it is possible to maintain the flow of an open plan using selective screening and partitioning methods.



Consider these ideas:

- A multi-level island allows views from the kitchen into the other family spaces but restricts views of utilitarian kitchen functions at the cooktop or sink.
- Mid-height cabinetry, from 48 to 54 inches high, allows light to filter in but blocks unwanted views, even enabling some appliances to be installed into the cabinetry at a more comfortable height for use. Such cabinetry also provides drawer space for dinner plates and glasses, simplifying sight lines by removing upper cabinetry. Worried about plates and glassware sliding around in drawers? Manufacturers have new products that prevent movement, and some even have handles for lifting out stacks of plates.
- An interior window or “pass through” could solve your issues and provide a larger amount of wall space for furniture and appliance placement.

Regardless of your decision, it all goes back to your designer, who is trained to ask lots of questions about preferences and observe habits during a site visit. Some separation between the kitchen and other living areas can still provide the traffic flow and sight lines you need to be comfortable. You will live with your kitchen for a long time, so make sure it works for the way you live and don't base it on some “mainstream” design style.❖

Max Isley, Certified Master Kitchen & Bath Designer, has owned Hampton Kitchens of Raleigh since 1974. For your next project contact him at Max@HamptonKitchens.com or 919-554-2227. Hampton Kitchens is located at 6320-B Angus Drive in Raleigh. For more information, visit www.HamptonKitchens.com. Mary Liebhold, Certified Kitchen Designer, founded The Kitchen Specialist in 1989, after having designed kitchens in Los Angeles since 1978. Contact her at Mary@thekitchenspecialist.com or 919-490-4922. The showroom is located at 3407 University Drive in Durham. For more information visit www.thekitchenspecialist.com.



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From Topsail to Riverway and on to Still Water, we can awash as many rooms as desired using these soothing shades that I collectively call the “moody blues.”

The Moody Blues

In today’s hectic and fast-paced world, who really has time to endlessly and anxiously ponder over how to select paint colors for *one* room, much less an entire home? I have witnessed too many unfortunate souls suffer unnecessarily through this seemingly arduous process and while any designer could hastily come to the rescue, I have an easier and less costly resolution to this dilemma.

Step One

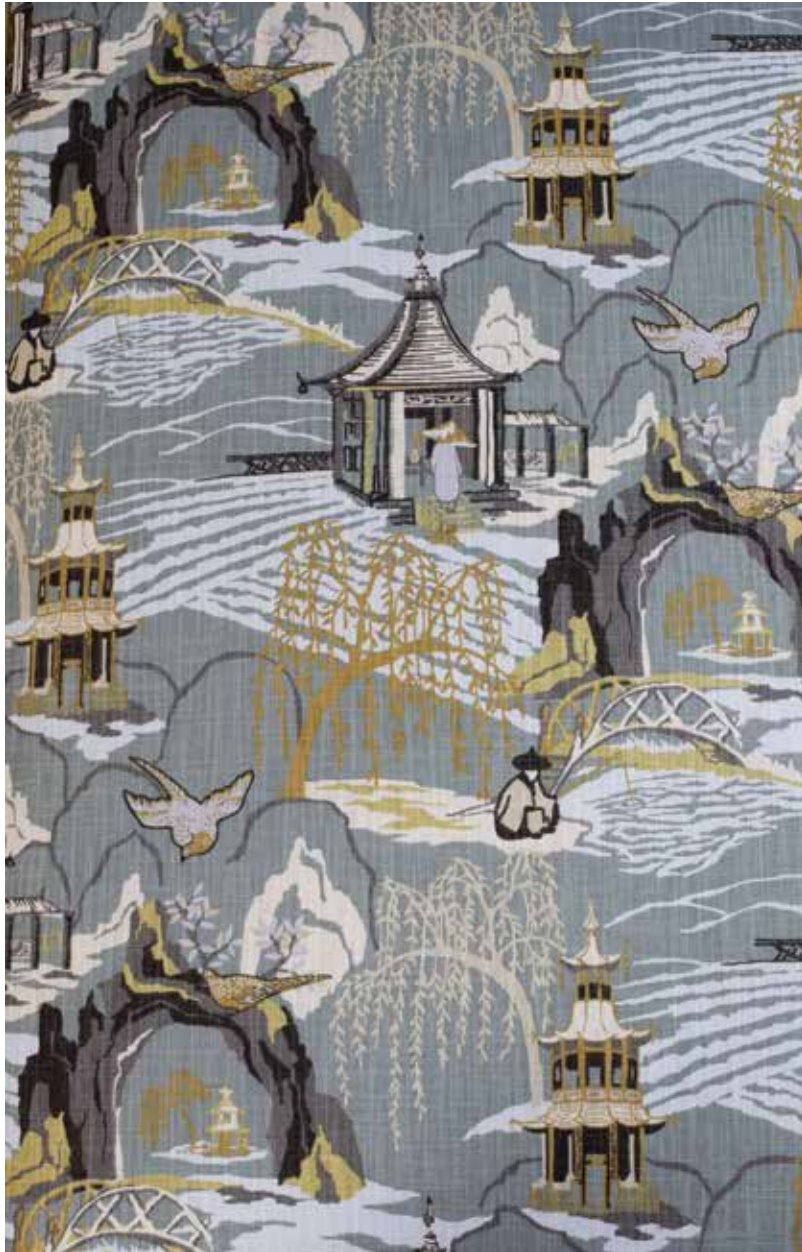
As I’ve mentioned several times in my writings to you, it is imperative to find a starting point when beginning any design project – rugs and fabrics will do the trick and as you can tell, a sea of

tranquil blues saturate our setting while accents of seaweed, oyster shell and pearl punctuate the look.

Step Two

Decide on one particular paint company. For our purposes here, I selected Sherwin Williams. Find the exact match of the base color in either your fabric or your rug. Adorning the fluidity of my Asiatic fabric, I choose to sail in that direction and head straight to a series of my tried and true favorites within the color deck. Simple as that, I find my first mate in *SW6221 Moody Blue!*





Step Three

If you look closely, you will see that now we have not only one, but seven hues of paint color selections that all flow together. From Topsail to Riverway and on to Stillwater, we can wash as many rooms as desired using these soothing shades that I collectively call the “moody blues” – as the sands move through the hourglass each shade takes on a slightly different aura and attitude. With that in mind, we can even use one single tone and subtly change the dynamic from one room to another. By tweaking the finish from flat or satin to semi-gloss or gloss we trick the eye into thinking it is a different color. Keep in mind that you can select from this palette for your ceiling color as well...or go bold with an accent color as mentioned below.

Step Four

This is the fun part! Go to the Sherwin Williams website and search one, if not all, of the seven hues. If you find, like I did, that many of the accent colors in the fabric are also identified as paint color correlates on the website, then your search is a success!

Coincidence? I think not!❖

Patrick Casey is the manager of Green Front Interiors and Rugs in Raleigh, a store offering luxury furnishings, rugs and designs. Visit the Green Front store at 2004 Yonkers Road in Raleigh, or call them at 919-754-9754. For more information, visit www.greenfront.com.



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I love the “make-over” factor, and to see just how many ways one kitchen can evolve.

EFFICIENCY & STYLE: The 2015 Kitchen

The one truth about kitchens is that they are forever evolving. During my time in the business I’ve seen these changes first-hand, ranging from small efficient galley kitchens to large open floor plans, from stained wood cabinets to light-color-painted cabinets, from paneled appliances to stainless steel appliances, from wood floors to tile floors, from laminate tops to stone tops to metal tops, and so on. It always amazes me to see the same kitchen, in the same house, with the same homeowner, remodeled every 10 to 15 years. I love the “make-over” factor, and to see just how many ways one kitchen can evolve.

Here we are in the summer of 2015, so let me give you a kitchen refresher on the latest trends we are seeing on our most recent blueprints.

The 2015 kitchen has **EFFICIENCY**. We are seeing commercial, utility-style sinks that are larger

and more functional than the typical residential sink. Microwaves are moving under countertops, to free up valuable counter space. Space is also being maximized through pullouts – trash and recycling bins are incorporated into cabinet systems, as are pantry areas to eliminate the traditional pantry closets. We are seeing more gas ranges, as they give an instant consistent heat versus their electric counterparts. A warming drawer is a modern day must-have. They are great for keeping food warm during parties or warming leftover pizza on the run.

The 2015 kitchen has **STYLE**. It is more common now to see elegant stone countertops. We are seeing a lot of white marble with flashy graining, such as Calcutta. Glass upper cabinets are more common, which display nicer dishes and wares and also add visual interest since most modern kitchens are open to the rest of the house.



Stainless steel is still the most popular when it comes to appliances.

Many elements of the 2015 kitchen **COMBINE** both **efficiency and style**. Larger islands seem to be standard now. Not only do they look great, they serve many functions. They provide a lot of storage, more work space, extra seating, and sometimes contain a practical second sink or even a stovetop. We are seeing a lot of efficient LED lighting, which looks great and uses less energy and puts off very little heat. An example is tape lighting over, under and inside cabinets with glass fronts. While the marble countertops are becoming more popular for style, metal countertops such as stainless steel and zinc are also gaining momentum for their sleek look and easy-care advantage.

Most modern kitchen trends embrace the combination of efficiency and sophisticated style. To me, it seems like these should always be the catalysts for a great kitchen. In 20 years, I'll let you know if this is still the case.❖

Will McKendry is vice president of Andrew Roby Triangle and has extensive experience in custom home project management focusing on style and craftsmanship. For more information visit our website at www.andrewroby.com or call 919-210-2928.





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