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RECIPES,
AND DECOR

EASY FREEZY FUN POPS p.136

transforming trifecta

A designer's most powerful devices—pattern, color, and texture—renew a more than century-old home for its young North Carolina family.

BY CANDACE ORD MANROE

PHOTOS ROB BRINSON | STYLING FRANCES BAILEY



Designer Laura Casey chose textural Phillip Jeffries wallcovering and happy blues and spring greens to energize this old home's new family room. A mix of materials and textures rounds out the space—a pair of circle lamps spars with blue suede X benches.



AIM HIGH
Hang curtains from the ceiling to balance an oversized window.

GET GLOSSY
A high-gloss sheen spices up a neutral coffee table.

Pattern steps into the limelight in the family room—large spirals on the curtains make a playful statement, while bobbin chairs introduce subtle, round pattern in wood. In the formerly marbled entry (*opposite top*), the new wood floor's geometric stenciling scrubs off any chill. A media center (*opposite bottom*) is dressed up with swirly overlays that are easy to tack or glue on, then paint.

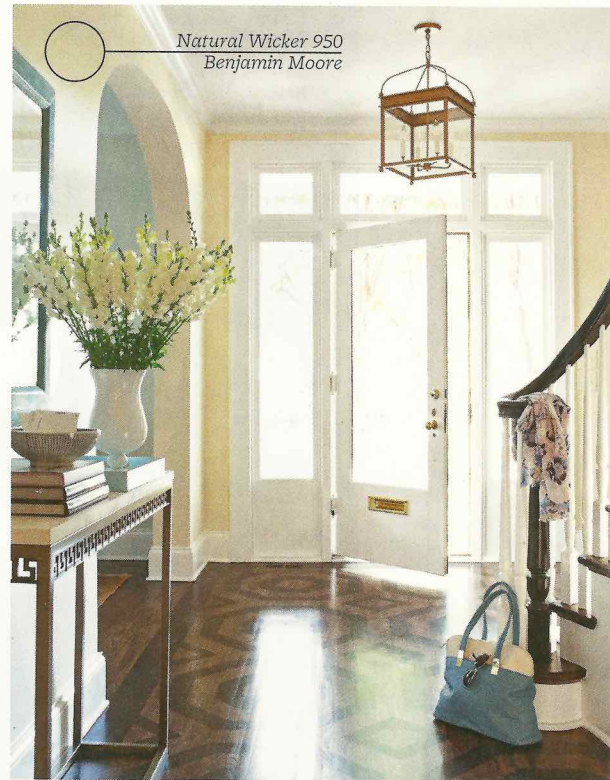


IT'S ALL IN THE DETAILS.

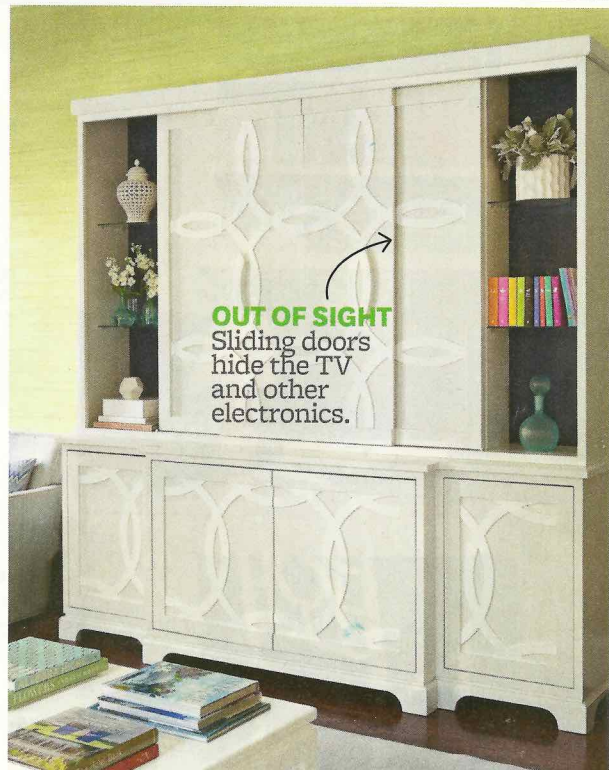
And for North Carolina designer Laura Casey, no detail went unnoticed in her renovation of a young family's 1910 home in Charlotte. "Every room has some different elements, some small choices, that give the house cohesiveness," she says. "They're what make the transitions easy from room to room."

Pattern, decorating's power hitter, takes the role of MVP in connecting the design details, and it's never used the same way twice. In the entry, pattern debuts with a splashy geometric design stenciled onto warm wood flooring. From there, the new family room—part of an addition by architect Matt Benson—takes its turn in the spotlight. "That huge steel-frame arched window is pretty strong, so the curtains make the boldest pattern statement to keep it balanced," Casey says. The kitchen gets its moment with the funky laminated fabric on the banquette.

Casey didn't limit her vision to looks. "I thought through how the family would use every part of the house," she says. "You can live with great style, but if it doesn't function well, it's not great design." For example, the banquette's below-seating storage drawers open at the sides for easy access. "Who wants to crawl under a table every time they need a place mat?"



Natural Wicker 950
Benjamin Moore





EASY-CLEAN

The banquette fabric is laminated—genius!



“The patterns in the office area and kitchen banquette work together because they have **SIMILAR BASE COLORS**, yet the patterns are different sizes and shapes.”

Laura Casey

Built-in glass-front cabinets provide storage and visual interest on the banquette wall (above). A mix of geometric patterns in the same blues and greens as the banquette gives the built-in desk (left) a happy balance of looks and smarts.



STEP ON IT
Select carpet with a subtle pattern.



Laura Casey

HAILS FROM Charlotte.

MY STYLE "Classic, tailored, fresh, comfortable, colorful, and highly personalized."

SIGNATURE TOUCH

"I never repeat a fabric, rug, accessory, or piece of furniture that I've used with another client. Everything is chosen with intention for that client."

MY FAVORITE TREND

"The movement toward more color in kitchens and bathrooms. I also like seeing brass and gold tones in lighting and kitchen and bath hardware."

WORDS I LIVE BY

"Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication."

"I try to keep things **SIMPLE AND STRAIGHTFORWARD.** I prefer spaces not to be cluttered or overdone."

Laura Casey

"Ode to Matisse" fabric covers the duvet (above). The solid green headboard, bed skirt, and trim on the curtains keep the focus on the fabulously fun duvet. "These stayed solid and simple to create a nice balance," Casey says. Shapely pattern plays out on the vanity mirror (right) and the small black and white floor tiles, which look original but are new. ■

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