

TRIANGLE URBAN

# HOME

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2013

CELEBRATING INSPIRATIONAL DESIGN AND PERSONAL STYLE

Jim Schmid Photography



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# EXTURIZED

By Anne Marie Ashley

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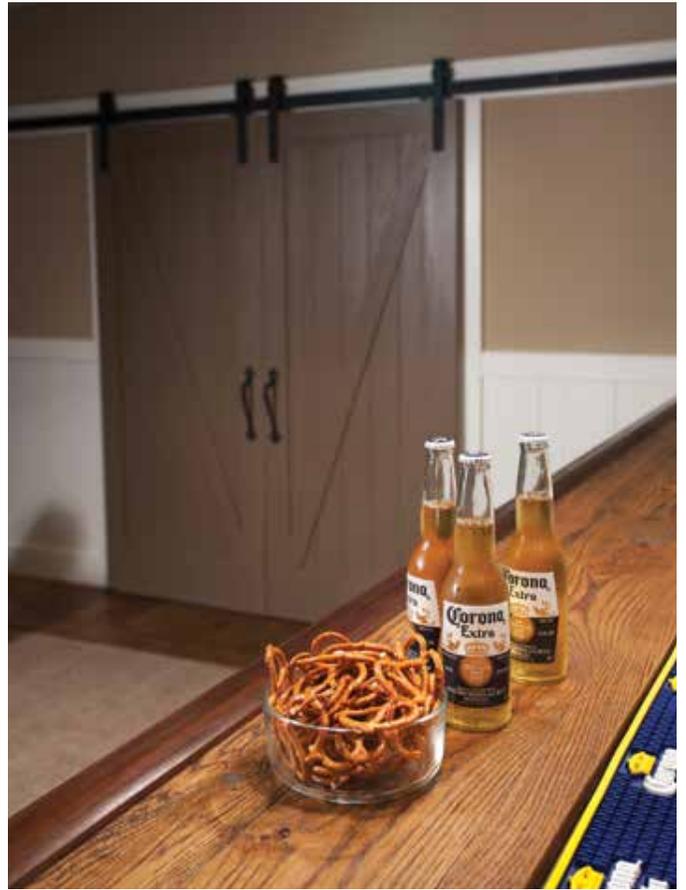
**W**hen John and Lauren Mayr came together to build a home for themselves and their 7-year-old daughter, they approached it with one general goal and took it to their designer: “We want a bad ass house.” Luckily, Vicky Serany of Southern Studio Design knew exactly what they meant, and together, they began building and decorating the home of the Mayrs dreams.

Fleshing out what a “bad ass house” would look like came down to knowing exactly how they planned to live in their home. “We wanted a home that was classic and rustic,” explains John. “One that we can easily entertain in, but is also an ideal place for our daughter and her friends to retreat to for fun as she gets older.” The location of the lot was perfect for the Mayrs. Nestled in a smaller neighborhood

with open spaces, the home sits within walking distance to Umstead State Park and a stone’s throw away from a veterinary school. “It’s great to be near a main road in Cary, but pull off the highway into a country setting where you can see horses, cows, lambs and goats every day,” says John.

With their lifestyle and interests in mind, John and Lauren built many parts of their home for specific use. The sauna/ yoga studio was perfect for relaxation and meditation, something Lauren incorporates on a daily basis, while the outdoor living area and upstairs bar were a perfect fit for John. “We like to practice a healthy lifestyle and have spaces designed for hobbies and interests,” says John. “It’s our family that truly influences our style.” The large dining room is perfect for dinner parties, and the cozy keeping room off the kitchen nurtures family time and lingering Sunday breakfasts. The craft room allows Lauren to do beading while her daughter draws or reads, complete with a secret door that hides John’s collection of electronics and home automation equipment.





Working directly with the builder, Alan Blankenship of Blankenship Custom Homes, and the team at Kitchen and Bath Galleries, Vicky had the unique opportunity to design from start to finish. “We worked from the very beginning of the construction process and systematically selected each detail of the design,” recalls Vicky. “From cabinetry to lighting to the finishing touches of hardware.”

Drawing inspiration from the relaxed and rustic feel of the structure, Vicky worked with Lauren to create a design flow full of earthy tones and natural elements. Exquisite wood and stone work mix easily with leathers, linens and custom fabrics to create a cohesive design. Entirely custom pieces made by Southern Studio were combined with showroom finds and unique accessories to create a tailored, yet comfortable atmosphere. “A beautiful and functional

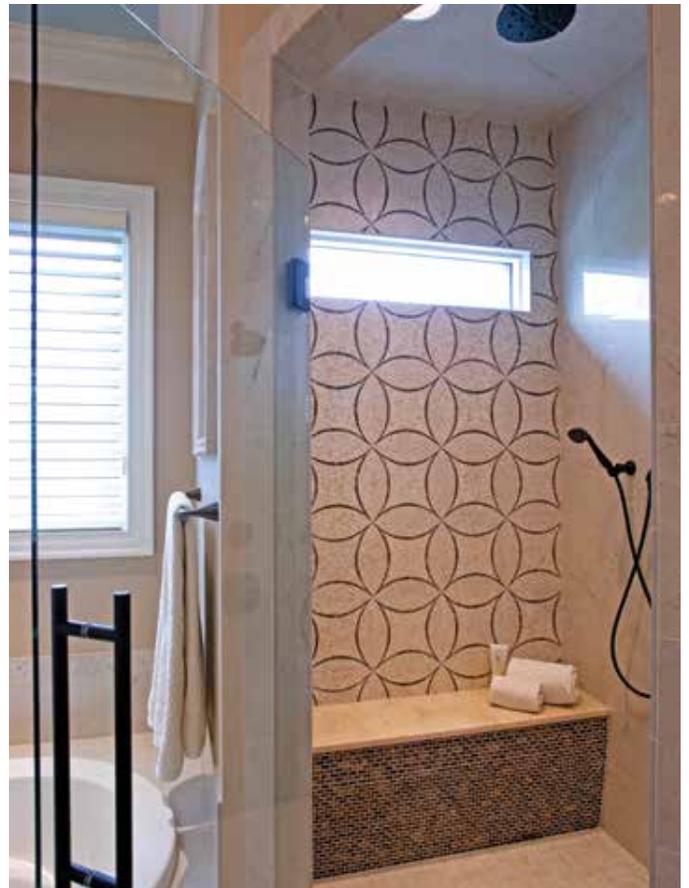




interior developed by combining individual design elements with intention and purpose,” suggests Vicky.

In a few trips to furniture market in highpoint with Vicky, John and Lauren were able to choose items for their home that fit their vision to a “T”. “My best advice,” offers John, “is to take your time and surround yourself with experts!”

When asked what is their favorite room in the home, John easily pinpoints the rec room. The comfortable couches, bars stools and multiple TVs are perfect for entertaining while the custom barn doors help avoid too much of a man-cave look. Vicky adds, “This home has so many favorite spaces, it’s unfair to choose just one!” ❖





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