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HOME

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GARDEN PARTY



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features

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A couple enlists designers Liles Dunnigan and Zandy Gammons to update their home using a color palette of blues and greens.

The designer opted for custom linen Fabricut slipcovers for the Ethan Allen Somers Windsor side chairs. A Contemporary Rustic Dining Table by Woodland Creek sits atop a custom area rug from Eatmans Carpets & Interiors.

INTERIOR DESIGN BY
SANDRA MONCADA-MAINZ
TEXT BY **LINDSAY M. POWELL**
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THE GREAT INDOORS



WHEN A RALEIGH FAMILY
BUILDS A CUSTOM
HOME IN THE NORTH
RIDGE NEIGHBORHOOD,
THEY ENLIST DESIGNER
SANDRA MONCADA-MAINZ
TO HELP BRING THE
OUTDOORS IN.



A sculptural staircase with a simple iron railing flanks the entry of the home. The wall sconce from Kuzco Lighting brings a contemporary element to the space, while the striking Chute multi-pendant light floats above. **OPPOSITE:** The floor-to-ceiling armoire-type cabinetry with its mix of solid and glass doors keeps the kitchen feeling light and airy. The black Ascendra cabinet pulls by Top Knobs were purchased at Bird Decorative Hardware & Bath.

Two Prescott Pendants by Tech Lighting float above the Taj Mahal leather quartzite kitchen island. Moncada-Mainz had her client's West Elm barstools recovered in Schumacher Emile fabric.





Longtime Raleigh residents had reached the stage in life when their three children were beginning to trickle off to college. Ready for a new home that would suit their changing lifestyle, they found the perfect location in a golf course-adjacent lot beautifully situated in Raleigh's North Ridge neighborhood.

They hired Frazier Home Design to design a custom home that would take advantage of the property's stunning views and allow for effortless entertaining with an open floorplan. Once the home, built by Blue Heron Signature Homes, was ready, they called on Sandra Moncada-Mainz of Couture Haus Interior Design. She was the only designer they wanted to work with.

The devoted clients had worked with Moncada-Mainz on their previous home and knew from experience that their creative partnership worked. "We just complement each other very well," explains the homeowner. "She comes up with things I never would have thought of. It's like she reads my mind." While it would have been easy to replicate the modern-farmhouse style of the previous home that they had loved, the clients wanted to incorporate a more contemporary aesthetic into the interiors this go-round.

"The home is designed to bring the outdoors in, so they wanted minimal furniture and to keep everything simple with beautiful details throughout," Moncada-Mainz explains. The designer focused on striking features to complement the open-concept layout, like the sculptural



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—SANDRA MONCADA-MAINZ



staircase with its simple iron railing and the dramatic LED pendant light reminiscent of a wind chime that floats above it. With most of the rooms having beautiful views or access to the outdoor space, pool, or golf course, she prioritized furniture placement to create a seamless indoor-outdoor flow. "We designed the house specific to the lot, and we love the outdoor space," the client adds.

But it's the kitchen that is the true centerpiece of the home. The Taj Mahal leathered-quartzite countertops and backsplash are the standout features. "We opted for floor-to-ceiling armoire-type cabinetry on one side," Moncada-Mainz explains, "mixing solid and glass doors to keep the space light and airy." The facing side features matching floor-to-ceiling cabinetry to conceal the refrigerator and freezer, keeping the look clean and beautiful. Floating shelves flank the range hood and sculptural windows.

Adjacent to the kitchen sits the scullery, which was designed to house anything that would detract from the

kitchen's beauty—although the scullery is no eye-sore. Moncada-Mainz paired dark Dekton Kelya countertops with a milky, glazed porcelain-tile backsplash that sets off the matte-black swing arm light. Pantry goods and kitchen appliances neatly line the white shelves that wrap around to the stainless-steel sink with its pull-down faucet.

The open-concept common space flows from the kitchen to the less-is-more modern-farmhouse dining room, then through the glass accordion doors to the patio and into the family room. Designed with ample seating for the whole family, the family room features Society District Slate tile in matte to surround the fireplace—the focal point of the room. Just off of the family room sits the billiard room, with its walls lined with textured Rivets wallpaper by Phillip Jeffries. An oval suspension chandelier illuminates the billiard table below. "I love the billiard room," the designer admits.

Moncada-Mainz created a calm and serene bedroom with a muted colorway. The Sherwin-Williams Sea Salt wall



The Society District Slate tile in matte surrounds the fireplace that serves as the focal point of the family room. The Grace Chandelier by Tech Lighting hangs above the Huntington House sectional from Furnitureland South. The custom window treatments are Trend in Aqua by Fabricut. **OPPOSITE:** The Phillip Jeffries Rivet wallpaper in Bronze on Jute provides a textured backdrop to the billiard room. The Eerie Linear Suspension Chandelier by Kuzco Lighting lights the billiard table below.

The swing arm light by Innovations is set off by the scullery backsplash, which the designer lined in a glazed porcelain tile in Remedy by Daltile. The Kohler sink in a stainless-steel finish and the Milton faucet by Moen sit atop the Dekton Kelya countertops by Cosentino. **OPPOSITE:** Moncada-Mainz chose a Pastoral Dining Chandelier by Framburg and a Large Cone 1 Light Swing Arm light by Innovations to illuminate the mudroom. Custom Roman shades by Schumacher lend privacy to the space.









color allows the golf-course view to shine as the focal point through the large windows. Wood beams adorn the high ceilings, bringing warmth to the space, and the stainless steel and crystal chandelier serves as a striking contrast.

Off the bedroom sits the spa-worthy master bath with its Silestone Calacatta Gold suede countertops and porcelain-tile walls. Mosaic glass tiles adorn the walls of the walk-in shower with a brushed-nickel showerhead and a long built-in bench. "Sandra came up with the tile design, mirrors, and lighting," the client says. "I knew what I wanted but I didn't know how to pull it all together."

"I love these clients because we are always building on each other's ideas and trying to make the best house possible," Moncada-Mainz says. She helped her clients realize their vision of a home that would welcome their children back in the future and function for them as they transition into life as empty nesters. "I love my kitchen and I love that I can stand at that island and see everything that is going on in every part of the house and the outdoors," the client says. "No matter what's going on in the house I can be in the kitchen and still be a part of it." ♦



OPPOSITE: The designer selected a mosaic glass tile by Daltile for the shower wall, ceiling, and accent band. Ambassador Wanderlust porcelain tile in a matte finish line the side walls. The Moen faucet and Kohler sink are lit by the Traverso sconce above.

LEFT: For the guest bathroom, the designer chose the Modern Hearth porcelain tile by Daltile and had it set in a herringbone pattern. The Retro Hex floor tile in matte-black set with matching grout provides a welcomed contrast. The handheld showerhead is by Moen.

RIGHT: The large windows of the bedroom frame the picturesque view of the golf course. Wood beams add warmth to the muted color palette. RH bedding and a custom bolster covered in Anna French fabric adorn the upholstered Ethan Allen bed.