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**Whole-house update offers
multi-generational function from
kitchen to drop zone**
By Carrie Whitney

COUPLE LIVING in Florida and on the verge of retirement had purchased a home in a country club community in Davidson, N.C. The one-and-a-half-story house ideally suited their needs with all living spaces conveniently located on the main floor. As they prepared to make the move, there was just one catch – they would be bringing their grandchildren, who already lived with them, into their retirement house.

The homeowners found Charlotte-based designer Lauren Clement, owner + principal, Lauren Nicole Designs, through her website. Although they had not met her, the designer's custom paint line through Benjamin Moore – LND – impressed the clients enough to seal the deal.

The wife, who coordinated with Clement from Florida during much of the project, sought a current traditional style to update the home's aesthetic. She knew she loved the color blue and wanted a Southern feeling that would offer a nod to the North Carolina location.

"The house was not in terrible shape, it just was not in her style and did not meet all of her functional needs," said Clement.

In the renovation, which touched every room and space in the house, the goals were to add function and update the look. Built in the 1990s, the home lacked modern conveniences, according to the designer. To fit the needs of the whole family, features like a bigger kitchen island and a drop zone for backpacks were necessities. And now, each room has a special "pop" that puts a twist on traditional Southern style.





A massive island was a must-have feature to accommodate a multigenerational family that loves to cook and bake.



A KITCHEN WITH FUNCTION & FLAIR

With its heavier look and slightly Asian style, the kitchen had a small island and a peninsula that cut the room in half, and it lacked a pantry. Reorienting the room and adding floor-to-ceiling cabinets solved the issues of storage and functionality.

The wife wanted the biggest possible island she could have, and it needed to fit eight stools comfortably while leaving enough space to walk around it. The massive island was formed onsite to ensure a perfect fit. A quartz top provides durability for all ages.

Along the back wall, which had previously been chopped up by different elements, Clement placed cabinets with a range in the middle, making it a feature wall that visually anchors the parallel island.

“That way, the island had something to marry to,” she said.

The paneled refrigerator sits among a European-style wall of cabinets. All the kitchen cabinets are painted in a soft gray from Clement’s LND paint line, while the island offers a pop of blue. Around the corner, the coffee bar cabinets pick up the same fun hue. There, a sink and beverage cooler complete the space that gives the husband a chance to enjoy his morning coffee while looking out at the golf course.

Although the kitchen and coffee bar have blue in common, they achieve individuality with different backsplashes.

“It gives each space their own identity,” said Clement. “I love not necessarily repeating things. If they were in the same room, that might be different. Their distance from each other allowed that to work.”

Despite distinctions in pattern, there is a common thread to the backsplash material – both are marble, so they “talk to each other.”

Throughout the kitchen, coffee bar and elsewhere in the home, gold finishes were used from the faucets to the hardware to the lighting. Clement explained that gold works well in this project because it is not a huge house, and all the rooms are on the same floor. Additionally, the gold is aged or brushed rather than brassy or polished, so its repetition does not overwhelm.



ABOVE LEFT There is no shortage of storage space in the kitchen thanks to a full wall of ceiling-height cabinets.

ABOVE RIGHT With hints of gold, the coffee bar backsplash complements one of the home’s important themes.

MAKING THE MOST OF THE MASTER BATH

In the master bathroom, aesthetic changes were the driving factor, while spatial adjustments were neither necessary nor possible.

“It was as big as it could be,” said Clement, who explained that although the layout did not change, everything in the bathroom is new except the tub, which did get an update with new fixtures.

Style decisions for the bathroom started when Clement and her client visited a countertop supplier. Among the row of quartz was a bold black-and-white slab that the designer said just grabbed the client. Neither of them would have predicted the choice, but the rest of the bathroom was designed around it. This is a strategy Clement likes to employ because there are fewer options in countertops than tile, so selecting the quartz automatically limited the range of possible tiles.

She used a Calacatta marble laid in a fun, geometric pattern for one shower wall and the niche. Wavy porcelain subway tile on a second shower wall reflects light, and the floor tile is ceramic with a linen pattern.

“There are multiple patterns going on in there, but there’s an element of calm,” said Clement. Because the colors are classic, and cabinets are Stoney Knoll gray, the overall look is simple and clean with a pop from the black and white countertop.

To stay consistent with the finishes throughout the home, gold was used again in the master bath.



When the homeowner decided to keep the tub, Clement sent the overflow valve, stopper and attached towel bar to Charleston Forge to have the pieces powder coated in brushed gold.

A POWDER ROOM POPS

The client mentioned an interest in incorporating wallpaper into the home, and Clement knew the ideal option would be the powder room. It's her go-to space for this type of vertical surface enhancement.

"I look at it as an opportunity for fun and personality," said the designer. In the powder room, the client's appreciation for Clement's LND paint line really came into play.

Getting rid of a pedestal sink that offered no storage, the designer brought in a vanity cabinet with a curved mullion on the doors. It got a one-of-a-kind look from Fresh Fennel paint and gold accent hardware.

"It's a statement piece," she said. Bold, geometric wallpaper and an ornately curved mirror add even more interest to the small room.

ABOVE The soothing master bathroom boasts eye-catching quartz countertops and luxurious gold fixtures.

RIGHT Bold elements and colors in the powder room bring fun to the home's modern traditional style.

BELOW LEFT A drop zone provides organizational space for children and grandparents with cabinetry that blends seamlessly with the nearby kitchen.

BELOW RIGHT Space in the small laundry room was maximized with more storage.



FOREVER HOME FEATURES

Elsewhere, Clement created spaces in keeping with the clients' desire to customize the home to their precise needs. In some areas, that meant making room for multiple generations.

A "drop zone" was added by removing a closet that had been adjacent to the kitchen, offering storage for all. Typically, a grandparents' home would not need a space planned for backpacks, but the wall of cabinets takes care of this necessary feature for these homeowners, while hooks give the adults hanging space. There are drawers with metal inserts for shoes, too.

Across from the drop zone, the laundry room gained function from a full-size stackable washer and dryer pair instead of the previous side-by-side units. With the extra space, Clement added cabinets to hold laundry and cleaning supplies, and a small countertop provides room for folding. She added pizzazz to the utilitarian space with a patterned tile floor and grasscloth-patterned wallpaper. A pocket door was installed to close off the area.

"It's so worth doing to maximize the space," said Clement, who explained that in a small house, any space savings is a huge win.



SOURCES

DESIGNER: Lauren Clement, owner + principal, Lauren Nicole Designs; **PHOTOGRAPHER:** Dustin Peck Photography

KITCHEN & COFFEE BAR

BACKSPLASH & COUNTERTOP: Tile Collection; **BAR STOOLS:** Furniture Classics; **CABINET HARDWARE:** Top Knobs; **CABINET PAINT:** LND for Benjamin Moore; **CABINETS:** Impact Design Resource; **DISHWASHER, MICROWAVE, RANGE & REFRIGERATOR:** Viking; **FAUCETS:** Brizo; **HOOD:** Impact Design Resource with a Zephyr insert; **LIGHTING:** Crystorama; **SINKS:** Blanco and Native Trails; **UNDERCOUNTER REFRIGERATOR:** Edgestar

MASTER BATH

BACKSPLASH, COUNTERTOP & FLOORING: Tile Collection; **CABINET HARDWARE:** Top Knobs; **FAUCETS & SHOWER FIXTURES:** Brizo; **LIGHTING:** Crystorama; **MIRROR FRAMES:** MirrorMate; **PAINT:** LND by Benjamin Moore; **SHOWER ENCLOSURE:** Malibu Glass; **SINK:** Signature Hardware; **VANITY:** Impact Design Resource; **WINDOW TREATMENT:** Fabricut

POWDER ROOM

CABINET HARDWARE: Top Knobs; **CABINET PAINT:** LND by Benjamin Moore; **COUNTERTOP:** Tile Collection; **FAUCET:** Delta; **MIRROR:** Uttermost; **SINK:** Signature Hardware; **VANITY:** Impact Design Resource; **WALLPAPER:** Thibaut

LAUNDRY & MUDROOM (DROP ZONE)

BACKSPLASH & COUNTERTOP: Tile Collection; **CABINETS:** Impact Design Resource; **CABINET HARDWARE & HOOKS:** Top Knobs; **CABINET PAINT:** LND by Benjamin Moore; **LIGHTING:** Generation Brands; **WALLPAPER:** Thibaut; **WASHER/DRYER:** LG