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DINING BY DESIGN

BY BETH CONANT-KEIM



THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT A MOODY DINING ROOM WITH COMFORTABLE CHAIRS THAT SAYS, "SIT AND STAY A WHILE. LINGER."

When designing the dining room for a long-time client in her new home, our goal was to create this ambiance. With a gray-and-blue color scheme throughout the house, using a dark, almost Charleston Green paint color gave this

room a unique stand-out quality that I love. The key to using darker colors is to paint the entire space, including the trim. You don't want the distraction of a contrasting baseboard and window frame.

Once I convinced my client to use the dark color on the walls, we pulled in the pale-blue upholstered chairs and the head chairs with a complementary pattern. A lighter custom table was always in the plan. For this exquisite

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piece, I worked with Josh Utsey to create the unique legs, and we used a pale gray stain color that contrasts beautifully with the dark walls. Because it was custom made, we were able to play with both the length and width to accommodate the larger chairs.

Rather than including a typical long buffet, we chose to add two small, ribbed cabinets for storage. Sitting atop the cabinets are matching plaster lamps, providing a nice pop of color. These design decisions were driven by the tall antique mirror, which bounces around the light from the stunning brass chandelier. Velvet curtains with a striking graphic pale-blue raised pattern finish the look.

With the project complete, my client is thoroughly enjoying her new space—entertaining, gathering, and simply lingering. ♦



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