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# A TOUCH OF NAVY

BY BETH CONANT-KEIM

NEW BUILDS CAN BE BOTH EXCITING AND DAUNTING.

One role of a designer is to help take away the stress of selecting materials. Having a game plan for the overall look will drive some of these selections and limit the many choices a client must make.

For this project, we created a look for each space and then met our clients with their builder to choose the best countertops, cabinet colors, fixtures, and paint colors, making the selection meeting quicker and less overwhelming.

With this couple downsizing and changing up their style, we were lucky to have a bit of a blank slate. They chose a color palette of neutrals with a touch of navy, and our job was to decide just where to include that pop of color.

My favorite place for a bit of drama is a powder room. Because it's often seen and used by many, it's a space where we can be adventurous. The unique fixtures, mirrors, and wallcovering give this powder room the wow factor it deserves.

An open concept home, the living area opens directly into the kitchen and dining room. While we used similar colors, we varied



PHOTOGRAPHY BY MCKENZIE LOLL



“FROM THE MOMENT GUESTS ENTER THE FRONT DOOR, THEIR EYES WANDER EASILY FROM ROOM TO ROOM.”

their shades and textures throughout. The kitchen combined classic white upper cabinets with stained lower cabinets and a stained island. Different styles of warm brass hardware and lighting complement the nearby dining and living room. We selected the two countertops in contrasting black and white, one a dark quartzite and the other a white “high-use” quartz. But it was the amazing backsplash I sourced through Palmetto Tile in Charlotte that brought the look together.

Just to the left and open to the kitchen, the dining space contains similar colors but is styled with a punch. A Stark rug pulls the colors from the powder room in a very dramatic way, while the furniture pieces create a calming effect.

When I design a home, lighting is one of my favorite elements, and when working with a builder, I often ask to source all of the lighting, taking it off their hands. The fixtures in this home are unparalleled in their beauty and add an element of surprise.

From the moment guests enter the front door, their eyes wander easily from room to room, yet pause to appreciate unique pieces that add interest and pull the space together. ♦



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