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# HOME

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# *The Art of* **BLENDING**

A MASH-UP OF CLEAN, MODERN LINES  
AND SOFT TRADITIONAL TOUCHES  
CREATES A HOME WITH AN EDGE.

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The simple black-and-white palette in the den offers a modern and relaxed place for the homeowners to prop up their feet. The sofa and ottoman are from Kravet, with the ottoman covered in a punchy James Hare fabric. The credenza is a true black, painted in Tricorn Black from Sherwin-Williams.



DESIGNER TULA SUMMERFORD'S CLIENTS WERE NOT the most typical, as they had already lived in their home for a decade and had gone through different iterations with designers along the way. But when the homeowners saw her work in the Raleigh Design Showhouse, and then once more in a neighbor's beautiful home reveal, they were confident that she would be the ideal partner to bring a final sense of cohesiveness and completeness to their home.

The couple had spent two years looking for a residence—casting a net in the 2008 housing crisis made it an arduous journey. Finally, however, they landed in the right place at the right time when they viewed a home just after a contract

on it had fallen through. “When we looked at it, we loved the house through and through,” the homeowner recalls. “Everything from the unique front door to the private courtyard and fountain, the open family and kitchen area to the expansive back yard. We fell in love.”

Ten years later, post toddlerhood, post puppyhood, the homeowners were ready to bring everything together in a combination of modernity mixed with traditional. In addition, they needed someone who could work with them from the ground up on a contemporary pool house and landscaping design in the backyard. Having seen Summerford's work, they knew she could execute it with precision.



**BELOW:** A Regina Andrew black leather couch is bold and classic in the office. Wood-paneled walls give a masculine and sophisticated feel, while a timeless vintage wooden desk anchors the room. Artwork from Scott Ewen adds dimension.

**OPPOSITE:** In the formal living room, the piano takes center stage; the gold wallpaper by Designers Guild, however, is best supporting actor. A table from Hickory White in each corner offers a pretty perch for seats or drinks, and drapery fabric from Kravet is light and airy. A vintage coffee table is the perfect complement to the room.



“This project went really smoothly because the home was already in excellent condition; it just needed to be warmed up and brought together,” Summerford says. “And the addition of the pool house was a fun bonus.”

Summerford began designing a new dining room, and everything flowed from there. Though the clients proclaim they like to play it safe, the group easily agreed that an overall monochromatic feel of grays, black, and white could be highlighted with textural layers and patterned fabrics. A papered ceiling in the dining room dials up the edge when suspended above a black lacquered table and black chairs with silver fabric, for example.

And so it went. Fabrics and wallpapers were used strategically to repurpose pieces and rooms as the design progressed, combining old and new elements, like Lucite with velvet, trims with lacquers. “We love the way it’s transformed and improved our home,” the homeowner says. “By the time quarantine kicked in, we were thrilled to be ‘stuck’ in these new and beautiful rooms in our home.”

In the living room, a favorite of the family, two neutral sofas are casual and comfortable, yet dressed up when surrounded by wallcoverings in a gold-toned pattern. “The light is always inviting in this room,” the homeowner says. “And I’m surrounded by objects I love: the baby



grand piano—a Valentine’s Day gift from my husband—the beautiful pastel portraits of our children, and a commissioned painting of the Tchefuncte River, which I grew up on in Louisiana.” The vintage chandelier that takes center stage was relocated from the foyer and finds an even better home in the living room.

The master bedroom is a contemporary white-on-white design for maximum reflectivity, a perfect opportunity for the adjoining pool and pool house to segue into the home. Double doors in the bedroom open up to the pool patio and house, the only entry point, making this room a room of requirement; a stunning one. “This room is calm in the chaos,” Summerford says.

“The pool house is extraordinary,” she continues. “The clients were open and flexible, and the result is a sharp Art Deco look that flows beautifully from the house to the outdoors.”

The black-and-white space is bright and dramatic at once, with a small kitchenette for convenience and lounging couches for in-between swims. The yard has come a long way from the time of purchase and is now a haven that gives the family a backyard getaway in the midst of a pandemic.

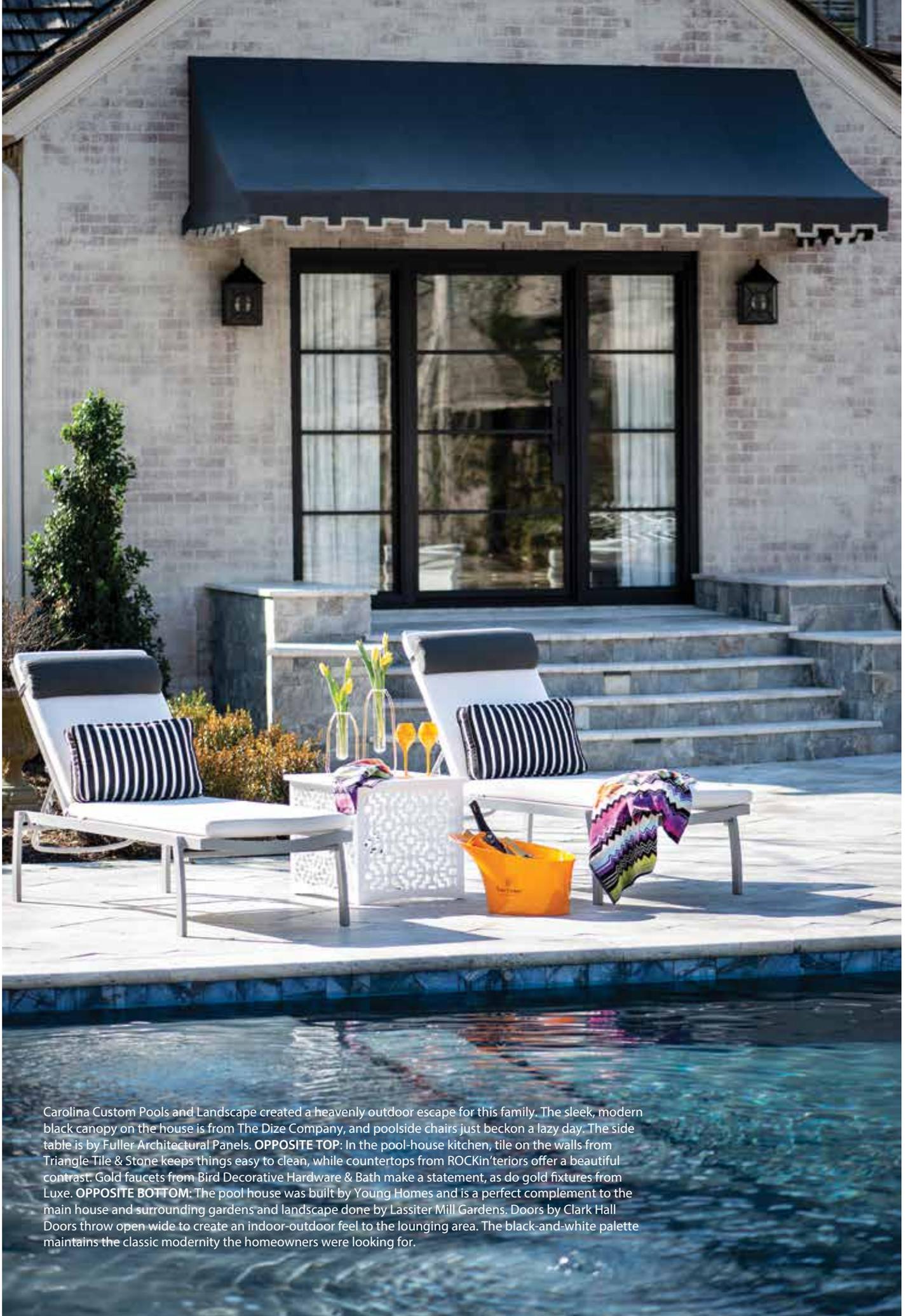


**TOP:** The master bedroom provides a smooth transition into the outdoor living space. Light and bright, layers of creams and white abound, with a vintage headboard covered in cream Kravet leather and vintage ottomans covered in Jane Churchill fabric.

**BOTTOM:** A tone-on-tone kitchen makes for clean lines and modern design, while a shade made with Kravet Couture fabric adds interest. Large pendants from RH loom large over the kitchen island.

**OPPOSITE:** Guests are welcomed into the home with a marble tile floor from Triangle Tile & Stone. A peek into the dining room reveals a wallpaper-covered ceiling and wallpaper panels, both from Romo. A lacquered dining table and chairs, treated by Steins, add drama. Bold gray curtains made with Kravet fabric complete the moody dining room.





Carolina Custom Pools and Landscape created a heavenly outdoor escape for this family. The sleek, modern black canopy on the house is from The Dize Company, and poolside chairs just beckon a lazy day. The side table is by Fuller Architectural Panels. **OPPOSITE TOP:** In the pool-house kitchen, tile on the walls from Triangle Tile & Stone keeps things easy to clean, while countertops from ROCKin'teriors offer a beautiful contrast. Gold faucets from Bird Decorative Hardware & Bath make a statement, as do gold fixtures from Luxe. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM:** The pool house was built by Young Homes and is a perfect complement to the main house and surrounding gardens and landscape done by Lassiter Mill Gardens. Doors by Clark Hall Doors throw open wide to create an indoor-outdoor feel to the lounging area. The black-and-white palette maintains the classic modernity the homeowners were looking for.

“When we bought the house, we uncovered so much of the backyard we’d not seen when we looked at it initially,” the homeowner explains. “In addition to a few hidden gems found in the ‘natural area,’ the courtyard had an overgrown garden with a contemporary-style bench made of thick shiny granite that sat on two rocks under a towering arbor. In its place, we’ve added a fireplace that integrates seamlessly into the courtyard wall, and we have filled part of the garden with flagstone for additional seating.” They also removed twenty-two Leyland cypress trees to open up the space and brighten the overall area by the pool and gardens.

“If a room, or, in this case, a home, is done well inside and out, it will stand the test of time,” Summerford says. “An organic space grounded in tradition will always be beautiful.” ♦

