

New Home with Calm Colors

A young couple expecting their first child heads south to create a quiet family retreat

Written and produced by Leslie Dunne Ketner



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As newlyweds, Laurie and Oliver Lloyd lived in Manhattan, but they knew they didn't want to raise a family there. Oliver, who grew up in both Los Angeles and New York, craved a setting where he could grill outside, host dinners on a landscaped patio, and walk to a golf course. So when the couple learned they had a baby girl on the way, they looked to Laurie's roots in Greensboro, North Carolina, where her family had moved when she was a teenager.

Friends introduced them to local interior designer Bradshaw Orrell—who is also an artist and furniture designer—after the Lloyds admired some of the homes he'd decorated. "I knew immediately that Bradshaw was the only person I wanted to work with," Laurie says. The couple bought land about a seven-iron away from a private golf course, purchased plans from a local architect, and started to build.

Orrell designed all the interior architecture, ceilings, and woodwork, paying particular and intuitive attention to the quality of light and the way it moved through the home's spaces. "With most new construction, I feel like sometimes people plaster windows all over," he says. "We wanted to get the outside correct at the same time we had the inside right for furnishings and the use of light."

The house's clean, light, airy quality is established immediately in the entry, arguably the home's most compelling space. "I created the two-story foyer with paneling to create some grandeur," Orrell says. "They're a young couple, but with serious art and beautiful antiques. I

wanted grandeur, but in a clean, relevant way.” The designer played with circles and squares in the space with the Pearson table and a custom Urban Electric hanging lantern.

Photography: Emily Jenkins Followill

Interior design: Bradshaw Orrell, Bradshaw Orrell Interiors, 601 W. Smith St., Greensboro, NC 27401; 336/209-3524, orrellinteriors.com.

Builder: Wolfe Homes, 200-J Pomona Drive, Greensboro, NC 27407; 336/299-2969, wolfehomes.com.

Landscape design: Chip Calloway, Chip Calloway & Associates, 122 E. Fisher Ave., Greensboro, NC 27401; 336/274-8325, chipcalloway.com.



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Lovely Living Room

The couple's art took center stage in their new home. Oliver's parents began collecting photography for him when he was a child, starting a tradition that he and Laurie plan to continue with daughter Elle. "When I walked into the house, they had all these fantastic photographs," Orrell says. "That's what excited me more than anything about the project." He began by choosing fabrics in a palette with Laurie's favorite sea-foam greens and blues that let the photography shine. "I like subtle layers of fabrics, textures, and finishes that at first glance you don't notice, but if you look closer, they begin to reveal themselves."

The bright, airy living room, adjacent to the outside pool and patio, is anchored by two of the Lloyds' favorite photographs: "Poolside Glamour" by Slim Aarons and "Four Trees" by Andrew Moore.



Sweet Settee

In addition to their collection of photography, the Lloyds own a number of antiques handed down from Oliver's parents. For Orrell, the combination of photography and antique furnishings created a wonderful mix of contemporary and classic. A former furniture designer for Niermann Weeks and Baker, Orrell enhanced that mix for the Lloyds with his own sleek custom-designed furniture.

"Bradshaw is an amazing artist and furniture designer," Laurie says. "Other than our antiques, all of the furniture is his. I loved that he has an appreciation for our pieces. Bradshaw was able to work them in and make the house feel young and fresh, with traditional flair."

"It's more fun to design furnishings and make up the size and scale yourself, without constraints with the space," Orrell says. "It also helped that I was involved in the floor plans, too."

Bradshaw Orrell designed the love seats and ottoman, which combine traditional and modern elements.

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Open Kitchen

The Lloyds entertain often, and the home's open floor plan allows them to usher guests directly from the entry to the kitchen for informal gatherings. Highlighted by a coffered ceiling, the kitchen's palette coincides with the light tones of the rest of the house. The spectacular pendant lights are in scale with the eye-catching ceiling, providing an energetic setting that suits a house for a young couple.

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Breakfast Table and Chairs

A reclaimed teak dining table with custom white lacquer chairs offers a rustic gathering place for family dinners.



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Light, Bright Kitchen

Bar stools from RH let friends participate in meal prep. Valances in a white Baker fabric pop with the addition of trim in the same fabric as the living room drapes. A blue cachepot with coconut from Randy McManus Designs adds color.



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Shimmery Silver Dining Room

Shimmering in silver Schumacher wallpaper, with Orrell-designed chairs that invite lingering over dinner, the dining room offers comfortable glamour. Two of the Lloyds' inherited antique pieces—the chandelier and the large, round dining table—set the formal tone. Orrell designed the white-painted chairs trimmed in gold; the fabric on the back of the chairs is Calvin Klein, on the front is Baker fabric. Laura Letinsky's "Untitled #8," from her series The Fall, further heightens the serenity of the space, and is beautifully framed by windows draped in "Pavillon Silk" in celadon by Kravet.



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Dining Room Console

Antique sconces balance the light and fresh furnishings in the dining room. Orrell affixed one of the sconces to an antique mirror for further elegance and play with light.



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Tidy Craft Room

Laurie, a former schoolteacher, envisions this space as a creative hub where she and Elle can craft, wrap gifts, and spend time together.



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Quiet Master Bedroom

The first-floor master bedroom, which opens out to the pool, continues the silver accents used throughout the house. The bed, bench, and bed covers are all custom. Above the bed hangs Mitch Epstein's "Office Door."



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Custom Vanity

Laurie and Oliver's salad days in New York led to one important feature in their master suite: separate baths and dressing rooms. "Our apartment in New York had one tiny bathroom," she remembers. "We had to get ready at different times."

Laurie's bathroom vanity features her favorite photograph, Lillian Bassman's "Fantasy on the Dancefloor."



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Little Girl's Room

Elle's room is a happy haven of stuffed animals, family photos, and framed art.



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Warm, Inviting Guest Room

One of two guest rooms offers inviting buttery colors with hints of metallic. Antiques mix artfully with new furnishings.



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Exterior Facade

For impact outside, they hired landscape designer Chip Calloway. "I like to get involved in everything," Orrell says, laughing. "But Chip is such a pro and has his own vision." Calloway created the gardens, which come to colorful life in spring and summer, and are punctuated by formal boxwoods.



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Backyard Pool Area

A hedge on one side of the pool offers privacy, while climbing roses on the front gate offer a romantic welcome to a new home that includes everything these homeowners dreamed of when living in their cramped New York apartment.

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Poolside Patio

On the portico-covered patio, light Sunbrella cushions contrast with the dark Dedon seating pieces. An electric fireplace allows poolside lingering on chilly nights.

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Home Office

Laurie, baby Elle, Hattie on the ottoman, and Whiskey, the family's newest member and self-appointed protector, join Oliver in his office. Oliver sits on an antique desk in front of Jeffrey Milstein's "Air China."