

Triangle

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"The living room was a mash-up of many decades," says Marquis. "We stripped it back to the architectural minimum." They removed the fireplace surround in favor of a simple opening and eliminated most of the trim. A CB2 leather sofa anchors the room, and OU Home boucle chairs flank. Reclaimed oyster branches serve as sculptural artwork paired with various paintings done by Marquis.



Artful Origins

ONE COUPLE USES THEIR EXPERTISE TO BRING AN 80s CONTEMPORARY HOME BACK TO ITS TRUE SELF.

TEXT BY ANNE MARIE ASHLEY | PHOTOGRAPHY BY CATHERINE NGUYEN

KELLEY AND PHILLIP Marquis have the home market in Cary cornered. Not only do they own a real estate brokerage firm, Marquis Realty, but with Kelley's business, K. Marquis, they also expertly dabble in interior design. An 80s contemporary home had been sitting on the market during the pandemic, and the couple began to explore its potential.

"We buy, renovate, and sell homes every few years," admits Kelley. "It's the occupational hazard of having a

brokerage and design firm. When we spotted this house, it had been listed for a while but needed so much work." The home had "the weirdest" pool the couple had ever seen. The interiors were spacious, and the home sat on a shaded five acres in Cary, giving it "unicorn vibes." "We felt if we could strip it back to its origins, it would be a stunner," she adds.

They embarked on a massive exterior and interior renovation of the 5,200-square-foot home that included

raising the sunken living room and a total owner's suite remodel. Aguilar Home Solutions, Greystone Remodeling, and Four Seasons Landscaping and Maintenance worked with the Marquises to bring it all together. The process took years, but today, the home is a study in contemporary design with artful surroundings.

"I spend a lot of time in art museums," says Marquis. "We are lucky to live in a city with such phenomenal museums, and NCMA is particularly thoughtful at pairing and displaying contemporary art alongside the classical master works. That inspired me to pair

pressed flowers with classical oil reproductions—modern abstracts with carved wood trays in which I screwed hooks and hung on the walls." Simple but dominant architectural lines made an ideal backdrop for the couple's collected and created artwork.

White walls and minimal trim give way to a gallery feel, and the open floor plan allows all the artwork to be viewed on the same plane, creating cohesion and balance. "I never wanted to live in a home that felt fussy or precious. We live in our homes hard, and that truly drives my design choices. Will this look good with patina? Will the table still work



ABOVE: Marquis's favorite room is the dining room. "Approaching the space like a gallery helped drive the design—minimal, functional furnishings with space to circulate." An RH farmhouse table is surrounded by curved wicker chairs from Safavieh. A Jayson Home linen pendant hangs above, and Marquis's artwork dots the walls.

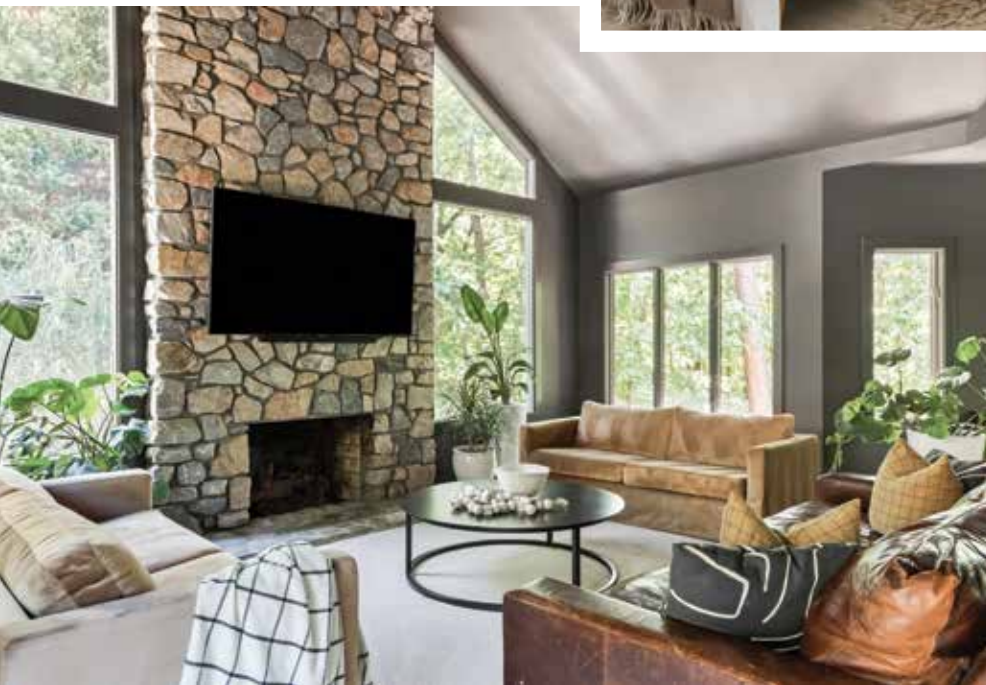


LEFT: The original dark and cramped kitchen was traded for an ultra-modern design. Marquis opted for a high-low mix in the kitchen blending IKEA cabinetry with quartzite counters and appliances from Ferguson. CB2 counter stools are balanced with dining chairs from Target for a lovely mix of texture and elegance. The singular original antique portrait was purchased at Hunt & Gather.

with a chipped corner? If yes, then yes,” says Marquis.

Though art and architecture are, to Marquis, “foundational to a home,” her philosophy on what makes it great goes a little deeper. “It’s never stuff that people want, it’s what the stuff is used for,” she suggests. “What will take place in a space is what we are all after. For me, it’s dinners with my husband and my girls and their friends, small church groups, Thanksgiving meals, homework, and art projects that I enjoy. I like the way it looks when it’s empty, but I love it infinitely more when it’s full.” ♦

RIGHT: The main objective in the owner’s suite was to lighten, soften, and open the space. “Wall-to-wall blue carpet had to go,” says Marquis. “Instead, I focused on neutral textiles, furnishings, and art.” The curved sofa from Kardiel is paired with a vintage leather chair. Bedding from Zara Home keeps things high-low, and burlwood side tables from Ballard Designs add warmth.



“The family room feels like you’re in a tree house,” says Marquis of the space above. “It’s dreamy.” The trim and walls are Urbane Bronze by Sherwin-Williams, highlighting the view. “I also wanted to keep a little 70s vibe here, layering the browns and keeping the stonework,” she adds. The leather sofa is from COCOCO Home, and the upholstered pieces are from IKEA, covered in custom slip covers from Bemz.



The powder room, above, pays homage to the home address, Gucci Drive. “Oof,” quips Marquis about the street name. “I embraced it by framing some vintage Gucci scarves.” CB2 lighting pairs with Signature Hardware fixtures.