

GEORGIA DESIGN

THE MAGAZINE FOR FINE INTERIOR DESIGN, ARCHITECTURE, AND BUILDING THROUGHOUT THE STATE



CELEBRATE SPRING

JAMES FARMER'S OUTDOOR SPACES
TUSCANY CHARM IN SEA ISLAND
MATTHEW QUINN'S ATLANTA PENTHOUSE

A sitting room for adults (in what was once the dining room) is anchored by four swivel chairs and a Surya rug. The painted white fireplace has a reclaimed beam to bring in a wood patina to the mantel.



open invitation

A 1980S HOUSE GETS A NEW LAYOUT AND
DECOR TO FIT A BUSY BERKELEY LAKE FAMILY

BY LISA MOWRY | PHOTOGRAPHY BY CATMAX PHOTOGRAPHY



The mudroom is equal parts family locker room, scullery, and laundry area, but it doesn't sacrifice on style. "Hale Navy" by Sherwin-Williams coats the custom cabinetry as a bold choice, but the conversation piece is often the tile that looks like brick from MSI Surfaces. "We use that tile in so many of our projects," says Cristi.



These days Cristi Holcombe is busy juggling interior design projects and her store and showroom CH Home (as well as family life), but the Alabama native got her start on HGTV's *Elbow Room*. On that popular show, she was the production designer and worked on 39 renovations seen on national television.

Interior designer Cristi Holcombe knows the charms—and the drawbacks—of houses from a certain era because she lives in one herself. So, when Lindsay and Jesse Rhodenbaugh asked her to update their '80s Colonial home, she recognized right away what should be changed: honey-colored flooring, small doorways, and seldom-used rooms. A formal living room wasn't used much at all, recalls Cristi, adding that the most used room in the home—the kitchen—was dark and in the back of the house. "Our main goal was always function, but we also wanted to make it pretty," she says. The remodel tackled several objectives: reconfiguring the first floor, repurposing rooms, and adding storage and organization galore—all while elevating the look with color and texture.

Homeowners Lindsay and Jesse, entrepreneurs with three young children, knew they needed a house that better served their busy life. Cristi decided to move the kitchen as one big change, bringing it up front for better natural light. A switch to white-oak flooring throughout the first

floor brought a more up-to-date look to the main level and inspired accents such as ceiling beams and butcher block in the kitchen to tie it all together. New archways and millwork added architectural charm, but Cristi made sure it looked intentional. "We wanted the house to look it was always supposed to be like this," says the designer.

Two areas particularly show her creative mix of form and function. The family's dining room (now called the "flex space," says the designer) benefits from built-ins that look stylish but also hide arts and crafts, games, and homework supplies. Elegant blue cabinetry, banquette seating, and a chevron-patterned wood ceiling elevate this practical room, moving it beyond a typical dining area. A mudroom off the kitchen also channels a happy blue vibe and serves multiple purposes with lockers for the family, a prep sink, and a washer and dryer.

When it came to furnishings and accessories, Cristi kept the theme mostly neutral and nature-inspired. Off-white walls and creamy white furniture mix

with wood and metal accents, but the designer included another element. "Texture is huge for me," says Cristi. "It's a way to add interest without a lot of color." Rattan and velvet, butcher block, and shiplap are textural combos that add dimension to the house. Where more saturated hues are used—the dining room/flex space and mudroom, for instance—the designer chose blue tones that complement lighter rooms.

If Cristi's abilities for problem-solving appear seamless, it may be because she spent years as a production designer on HGTV's *Elbow Room*, where creativity and flexibility were the name of the game. She was also able to source furniture and accessories from her Johns Creek store CH Home, an invaluable resource for all her clients. As north Atlanta has thrived—with city centers such as Johns Creek and Alpharetta—Cristi and the Rhodenbaughs are able to run businesses, raise families, and take advantage of natural beauty up that way, while knowing there's a comfortable house waiting for them back home.



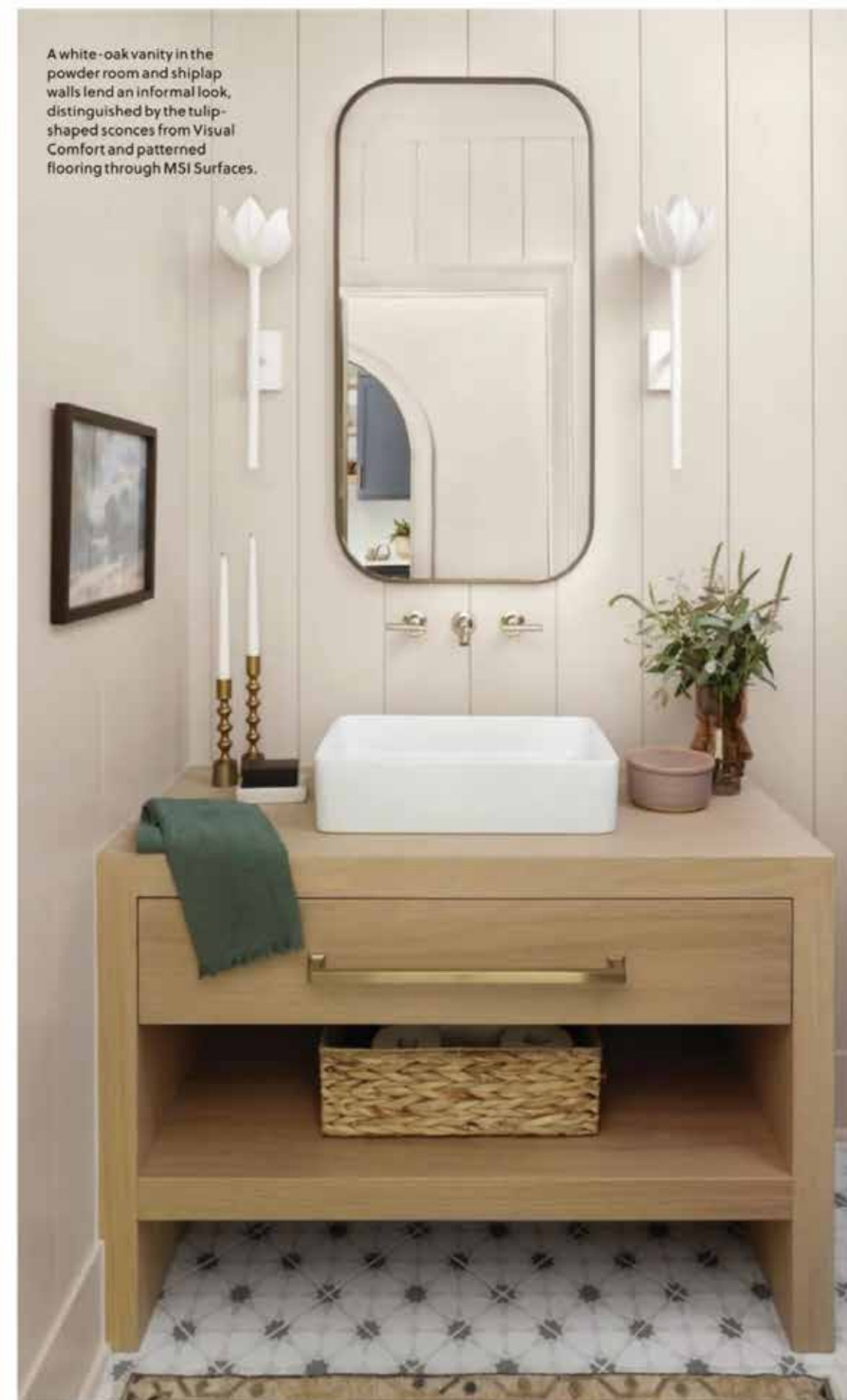
As a bold move, the kitchen was moved from the back of the house to the front to take advantage of natural light, one of several reasons the project received an award as best kitchen from the Georgia chapter of the National Kitchen & Bath Association. Cristi chose "greige" cabinetry and designed a distinctive island with butcher block on the end and plenty of room for storage. (Her colleague from *Elbow Room*, Paddy Collins, stepped in for the custom project.)

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The designer transformed a formerly brick fireplace in the family room with limestone and shiplap to lighten it up, then topped the room with a sculptural metal chandelier from Currey & Co.



A white-oak vanity in the powder room and shiplap walls lend an informal look, distinguished by the tulip-shaped sconces from Visual Comfort and patterned flooring through MSI Surfaces.





LEFT | Beautiful and functional both, the Rhodenbaughs' dining room (aka "flex space") serves as a formal dining space occasionally, but daily it's where the three children of the family do homework, play games, and hang out with their friends. Painted "Foggy Day" by Sherwin-Williams, the custom built-in cabinetry holds family clutter yet remains elegant. Dining table, chairs, and bench are from Four Hands.

RESOURCES

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Interior designer and stylist: Cristi Holcombe, Cristi Holcombe Interiors, cristiholcombe.com

Builder: Jeff Durham, DMC Home Improvement & Designs, jeff@dmchomeimprovement.com

Flooring throughout: Venezia European Oak, Norwood Hill, norwoodhill.com

Interior Doors throughout: Paint: "Revere Pewter," Benjamin Moore, benjaminmoore.com
Door Hardware: Scion Lever, Emtek, emtek.com

Kitchen
Counter stools: Essentials for Living, essentialsforliving.com
Pendant lighting: Painted No. 1, Hudson Valley Lighting, hvlgroup.com
Island butcher block: White Oak, Paddy Collins, paddycollins.com
Countertop Island: Lumina, Viatera Quartz, lxhausys.com
Countertop Perimeter and Splash: Broadway Black, Daltile One Quartz, daltile.com
Beams: White oak
Backsplash tile: 4x4 Zellige,

Zia Tile, ziatile.com
Range, refrigerator: Thermador, thermador.com
Sink: Precipis, Blanco, blanco.com
Faucet: Litze, Brizo, brizo.com
Cabinet hardware: Top Knobs, topknobs.com
Accessories & artwork: CH Home, chhomeinteriors.com
Painted perimeter cabinets: "Pale Oak," Benjamin Moore, benjaminmoore.com
Painted island cabinets: "Iron Ore," Sherwin Williams, sherwin-williams.com
Wall Paint: "White Dove," Benjamin Moore, benjaminmoore.com

Breakfast Room
Paint: "White Dove," Benjamin Moore, benjaminmoore.com
Table, chairs: Four Hands, fourhands.com
Lighting: Piero Medium Chandelier, Currey & Co, curreyandco.com
Window treatment fabric: Fabricut, fabricut.com

Family Room
Wall Paint: "White Dove," Benjamin Moore, benjaminmoore.com
Fireplace: Limestone, white oak mantle
Sectional: Asher modular sectional, Rowe Furniture, rowefurniture.com
Accent Chair: Kara chair in Nomad Snow,

Rowe Furniture, rowefurniture.com
Coffee Table: Pamlico, Furniture Classics, furnitureclassics.com
Sideboard, accent Table: Four Hands, fourhands.com
Accessories, art, pillows, throw: CH Home, chhomeinteriors.com
Base Rug: Fibreworks, fibreworks.com
Top Rug: Surya, surya.com
Lighting: Currey & Co, curreyandco.com

Flex Room
Wall and cabinet Paint: "Foggy Day," Sherwin Williams, sherwin-williams.com
Ceiling: Herringbone, White oak
Cabinet Hardware: Top knobs, topknobs.com
& Hardware Resources, hardwareresources.com
Cabinetry mirror: Parker & Son Screen & Glass, www.parkerandson.com
Ceiling lighting: Manuscript Large Pendant, Currey & Co, curreyandco.com
Library sconces: Holly Sconce, Hudson Valley Lighting Group, hvlgroup.com
Dining table, chairs, and bench: Four Hands, fourhands.com
Base Rug: Fibreworks, fibreworks.com
Top Rug: Surya, surya.com
Accessories, art, pillows, throw: CH Home, chhomeinteriors.com

Keeping Room:
Wall and Brick Paint: "White Dove," Benjamin Moore, benjaminmoore.com
Rug: Surya, surya.com
Table, Chairs: Four Hands, fourhands.com
Lighting: Tetterby

Chandelier, Currey & Co, curreyandco.com
Accessories, art, pillows, throw: CH Home, chhomeinteriors.com
Window Treatment Fabric: Fabricut, fabricut.com

Powder Room
Wall and trim Paint: "Revere Pewter," Benjamin Moore, benjaminmoore.com
Flooring: Zoudia Encaustic, MSI, msisurfaces.com
Sink: Signature hardware, signaturehardware.com
Faucet: Purist, Kohler, kohler.com
Cabinetry: White oak
Hardware: Top knobs, topknobs.com
Lighting: Alberto Medium Sconce, Visual Comfort, visualcomfort.com
Mirror: Taft mirror, Uttermost, Uttermost.com
Accessories, art: CH Home, chhomeinteriors.com

Laundry, Mudroom
Cabinetry & trim Paint: "Hale Navy," Benjamin Moore, benjaminmoore.com
Cabinet hardware: Leather Pulls, Etsy, etsy.com & Top Knobs, topknobs.com
Cabinet metal mesh: Coverscreens UK, coverscreen.co.uk
Flooring: Brickstone, MSI, msisurfaces.com
Coat Hooks: 3-Prong Swivel, CB2, cb2.com
Countertops: Bianco Opus, Pure, pure-surfaces.com
Wallcovering: Phillip Jeffries
Sink: Reinhard Fireclay Farmhouse Sink, Signature Hardware, signaturehardware.com
Faucet: Trinsic, Delta, deltafaucet.com
Lighting: Bay Harbor, Regina Andrew, reginaandrew.com