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# HILLSIDE

## *Steeped in History*

A TUDOR REVIVAL MANSION IN GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA, PROVIDED THE SETTING FOR *SOUTHERN HOME'S* FIRST SHOWHOUSE. DESIGNERS FROM ALL OVER THE SOUTH EMPLOYED THEIR TALENTS TO TRANSFORM THE NEGLECTED RELIC INTO A DAZZLING HOME FOR A MODERN FAMILY.

TEXT LYDIA SOMERVILLE  
PHOTOGRAPHY MARCY BLACK SIMPSON & DUSTIN PECK

- AS SEEN IN -  
SOUTHERN HOME  
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**EXTERIOR:** Hillside is a classic example of Tudor Revival style, built in 1929 by Julian Price, who was president of the Jefferson Standard Life Insurance Company. Designed by architect Charles Hartmann, who also designed the Jefferson Standard headquarters and many other landmarks in Greensboro, the house features stucco and herringbone brick, false half-timbered walls, a slate roof, and a staircase tower. Many years of neglect may have accidentally saved the mansion from misguided renovations, leaving its original imposing facade intact.

**LIVING ROOM:** For designer Audrey Margarite of Bunny Williams Home, the primary challenge of decorating the living room was its size. "It's a really big space, and I wanted to make it feel livable," she says. "I decided to break it into three separate areas." In front of the fireplace, Margarite placed pairs of sofas and chairs to allow plenty of guest seating. A custom banquette in a corner serves as a cozy conversation nook. The original plasterwork ceiling crowns the room's soft palette of green and blue that reflects the view of the garden outside the windows. "I originally wanted a deep forest green for the walls," says the designer, "but as we started removing the old lead paint from the walls, a pretty pale green was revealed. We all agreed that keeping the original wall color would be a way of honoring the house."

**STAIR HALL AND FOYER:** In the entry hall, designer Bobbi Jo Engelby chose a moody botanical wallpaper and a vivid rug to bring in color. For the foyer, Kristin Tharpe repeated the room's octagonal shape in the eight-sided chandelier and table base. A vintage Gracie wallpaper panel, moved from elsewhere in the house, gives a nod to the home's illustrious history.

development. The home had even been featured on an episode of the TV show *Hoarders*. Stepping in to avert tragedy, Eric and Michael Fuko-Rizzo bought the house with the intent of saving it and turning it into their own home after first sharing it with the community as a designer showhouse. With respect for the home's historic nature, they set about working to preserve its past. Hillside now proudly represents the architectural history of Greensboro and enjoys a new life as a modern family home for the Fuko-Rizzos and their twin 4-year-old daughters, Victoria and Elizabeth.



**SUN PARLOR:** A long, narrow space off the living room presented designer Maria Money with the opportunity to employ classic, darker colors like navy on the walls and furniture. Such hues offer a pleasing counterpoint to the light pouring in through the expansive windows. Money included various metals, such as the tea table's hammered silver base, to echo the brass, silver, gold, bronze, and steel that appear throughout the original house. "Although it is a sunroom, the space feels intimate," says the designer.

**VERANDA:** "When we first visited Hillside, we knew that if we lived there, the veranda would be our favorite place to spend time," says Amanda Kinney of The Antique & Design Center of High Point, who appointed a team to design the space. "We loved how it connects the beautiful front yard to the inside of the house, so we wanted to make sure the interior and the exterior of the house mingled with each other in harmony." The team sought to create a space for family to spend time together, play games, and entertain friends. Additionally, the room demonstrates the appeal of mixing antique and modern pieces by using a combination of vintage and antique furnishings. "We chose midcentury modern chaise longues, newly upholstered in a classic chevron woven fabric, as well as a midcentury table and chairs painted in a soothing green color," says Kenny. "We had fun envisioning this family enjoying their days on the beautiful veranda surrounded by nature."





LIBRARY

**LIBRARY:** "I wanted it to be sort of sexy—a place with cafe music and martinis being served," says designer Jessica Dauray of the library just off the entry hall. The room's impactful color scheme was inspired by a Manuel Canovas print featuring Mongolian warriors with coats of peacock blue and green. "For maximum impact, the cabinetry is black lacquer with brass accents," says the designer. Chairs with custom embroidery and tassel trim give a nod to Art Deco style, while paintings that Dauray commissioned for the space have a midcentury style.



WINE-TASTING ROOM

**WINE-TASTING ROOM:** Designer Robyn Branch saw the tasting room as something more inclusive than a dedicated wine room. "People drink brews, bourbon, wine, and gin," she says. "I wanted it to be a place where you could have any sort of drink before or after dinner." A cabinet that was original to the house became a bar equipped with all the necessities for any spur-of-the-moment libation. A lining of green velvet adds a texture that Branch finds "very alluring." African accents offer a warm welcome and indicate a well-traveled host.



KITCHEN

**KITCHEN:** The primary challenge in the Hillside kitchen was bringing it up to date while respecting the Tudor Revival style of the house. Designer Maria Adams worked to subtly modernize the space while incorporating historical elements that lend character. "We kept the original wood floors, and we preserved the Kernerator chimney hatch near the cooktop, as well as the original call center for summoning your morning coffee from the staff," she says, noting it is purely decorative now. Adams also incorporated an antique butcher block discovered in the house into her design for the island. To avoid visually chopping up the space, the designer painted the walls in the same color as the perimeter cabinets. And for added texture and interest, she papered the ceiling in damask grass cloth.

**BREAKFAST ROOM:** It was love at first sight when Kim Hoegger walked into the breakfast room. "I felt instantly connected to the space, as if I had been there before," she says. "Perhaps it was the charming butler's pantry cabinets and the stainless steel countertop and sink that reminded me of my grandmother's kitchen in her white colonial house. It felt like home." Hoegger chose a fabric from her textile collection that reflects the old-meets-new attitude of the room. "It's a little retro but so fresh and modern too," she says. Brass accents add a dose of midcentury modern, as seen in the cabinet hardware and chandelier. A fresh coat of "Cape Blue" by Benjamin Moore brought the cabinets into the new millennium. "The room is the perfect place for a young family to have a casual breakfast, get messy with arts and crafts on the galvanized tabletop, or study at the handy built-in desk," she says. "It's vintage-inspired yet fresh, charming, and elegant all at the same time."



BREAKFAST ROOM

GIRLS' BEDROOM



TRAVELER'S ROOM

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GIRLS' PLAYROOM



**GIRLS' BEDROOM:** For mother/daughter design duo Lisa Britt and Hadley Quisenberry, the chance to decorate the girls' bedroom seemed serendipitous. Quisenberry's 3-year-old daughter provided a jumping-off point, but the Fuku-Rizzos' 4-year-old twins, Victoria and Elizabeth, offered real-life inspiration rarely found in a designer showhouse. With a focus on pattern, the designers fashioned a room made to grow with the girls. "We chose a neutral wall color in order to let the vibrant, patterned Thibaut fabrics and showstopper accents shine without overpowering the small space," says Quisenberry. "Custom artwork and accents like the Ms. Poodle lamps bring a sense of whimsy to the room." A frothy crystal chandelier, moved from the foyer of the house, highlights the blue-green ceiling. Because the girls love sleeping together, the twin beds are attached at the moment. "If they change their minds as they grow, the beds are easily separated and moved," says Quisenberry.

**GIRLS' PLAYROOM:** A room made for sleepovers was the guiding principle for the playroom, as envisioned by Laura Redd. "It's all about discovery, adventure, learning, and dreaming," she says. A painted mural incorporates puzzles and mazes, which the girls can trace with their fingers or disappearing ink. A trundle bed pulls out for overnight company and acrobatics with friends. Evoking a bit of glamping, the ceiling is painted with clouds and tented with ribbons. "The lights operate independently," says Redd, "so at bedtime the girls can dream under their own starry sky."

**TRAVELER'S ROOM:** In a sophisticated twist on a guest room, the traveler's room features a global selection of furniture and decorations to welcome the road-weary visitor. "I envisioned a wallpapered room, and I knew the ceiling had to be something spectacular," says designer Kim Hoegger. "I wanted the space to persuade you to relax and unwind as if you were staying in a European boutique hotel. It was important that the room feel worldly, so I chose a mix of antique treasures, such as the French daybed, painted chest, and artwork, to tell a story."

MASTER BEDROOM



MASTER DRESSING ROOM



IN-LAW SUITE



MASTER BATH



**MASTER BEDROOM AND DRESSING ROOM:** Designer Leigh Jones approached the master bedroom with the goal of creating a room that was both tailored and comfortable. "I wanted it to be a restful yet strong space," she says. "I began with antique textiles, such as the hand-loomed linen used as shams and a bedcover." To paint the room, Jones used a stair-step technique that involves painting the walls a base color, painting the cove with half the pigment, and painting the ceiling with a quarter strength. "The color gradations call attention to the ceiling and moldings in a subtle way that maintains the serenity of the bedroom," she says. In the light-filled dressing room, designer Cheryl Luckett saw an opportunity to showcase menswear fabrics and strong color. "I wanted a buttoned-up, British look—moody and masculine but still pretty," she says. The quatrefoil design on the wall echoes an architectural detail from the facade of the house. California Closets designed custom built-ins perfectly suited for the space.

**MASTER BATH:** The master bath was one of the few spaces approved for demolition by the Historic County Commission. "We wanted a timeless yet modern space," says Linda Lane, the designer who partnered with the late Anne Bowers on the renovation. "This was achieved by installing the same oak floors used in the rest of the house, along with stunning Rohl fittings for the tub, shower, and lavatories. We also added a new cast-iron claw-foot tub." Given the abundance of natural light, the owners wanted to maintain the airiness as much as possible, which led to the selection of a simple white Carrara marble tile for the walls and counter.

**IN-LAW SUITE:** Among the notable designers who contributed their talents to the Hillside showhouse, a group of design students from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG) made a splash with their treatment of the in-law suite. Formerly the staff quarters, the space needed to be adapted to accommodate visiting family, as well as serve as an occasional family room for the Fuko-Rizzos. The students embraced the Danish concept of hygge as inspiration for their design. "It roughly translates as coziness," says Towson Howlett, one of the students from the UNCG Interior Architecture Center for Community-Engaged Design. "The emphasis is on togetherness. Ultimately the space will serve as a restorative getaway."