

Southern **HOME+GARDEN**

EXPERT TIPS FOR A BEAUTIFUL HOME—INSIDE AND OUT

STRETCHING THE CANVAS

ARTIST LULIE WALLACE AND HER
HUSBAND, HARRISON, GET CREATIVE
WHEN MAXIMIZING EVERY INCH OF
THEIR SOUTH CAROLINA SINGLE HOUSE

THE BREAKFAST NOOK

A basket-style pendant from Anthropologie inspired the home's open, airy design.

STYLING: ELLY POSTON



THE ART WORLD is never easy to break into, but when she was just a few years out of college, Lulie Wallace had already created quite a splash with her vibrant prints and textiles. By age 25, Lulie's exuberant take on florals landed her work on everything from bedspreads to candle tins at popular stores like Anthropologie and Urban Outfitters. However, when it came time for the Charleston, South Carolina-based artist to try her hand at decorating her 18th-century single house, the self-admitted color fiend knew she was going to need help pulling it all together.

"I'm madly in love with color," says Lulie, who wanted to find a way to incorporate her own fabric and art into her home without going overboard. To keep her bubbly style from veering too cutesy or frenetic, she called on friend and interior designer Angie Hranowsky to design a home that's vibrant yet also calm and relaxing.

"She knows how to balance a room," explains Lulie. "The bold moves I make on canvas, she's able to do in a home." Indeed, Hranowsky's knack for pairing traditional with whimsical, Asian with retro, and modern with vintage provided the ideal backdrop for Lulie's fabrics to come to life.

First things first: The artist needed to prep her canvas. Fortunately, her architectural intern husband, Harrison,



THE DEN AND LIVING ROOM

ABOVE: This den works overtime as a guest room. Lulie dreamed up the queen-size daybed by attaching a headboard to each end of a mattress. **RIGHT:** Original artwork enhances the living room.

was up for the challenge. He redesigned the clumsily configured 1,700-square-foot, two-bedroom/one-and-a-half-bath home into a two-bedroom/two-and-a-half-bath charmer with space for accommodating overnight guests and a brand new baby. And here's the best part: He achieved this without adding an extra inch.





THE LIVING ROOM

Lulie (pictured below) provided Hranowsky with plenty of art to decorate with. The designer advises using a larger work for your anchor, then surrounding it with smaller pieces.

PROBLEM:
Choppy layout with unused space
SOLUTION:
Maximize every inch.

Downstairs, Harrison removed the wall between the dining room and kitchen, which created one great room that included the living room, kitchen, and breakfast nook. Upstairs, he turned unused space above the stairwell into a bathroom, and expanded the master bath into a portion of the master closet. This redesign gave the Wallaces' house one more bath.

PROBLEM:
No room for overnight guests
SOLUTION:
Select furniture that can work double-duty.

"It was very important to me that our guests had a queen bed to sleep in, but our house is so small it had to be a space we could also use," explains Lulie. She and Harrison turned their former living room into a combo den/guest room, which they outfitted with a daybed and a flat-screen TV so the family could use it for lounging and watching movies.



**PROBLEM:***Dated, closed-off kitchen***SOLUTION:*****Lean on white and light.***

When the dining room wall came down, more light filtered in and the space immediately felt bigger. Achieving the crisp, clean look the couple wanted was in the details: freshly stained wood floors, an all-white color scheme, new quartz counters and cabinetry that extended to the door, and an island with shiplap siding to camouflage drawers.

PROBLEM:*Dining room that no one dines in***SOLUTION:*****Create an eat-in kitchen.***

Turning the former dining area into the living room and opening it up to the kitchen gave Harrison space to design a bright breakfast nook. He transformed his grandfather's old drafting table into a one-of-a-kind kitchen table with a new pinewood top. They surrounded it with two chairs and a built-in bench—with lift-up seats that provide extra storage.

**THE KITCHEN**

Floor-to-ceiling tile (Foundation Field Brick; annsacks.com) draws the eye up and makes the room feel taller. Chunky bronze pulls from Rocky Mountain Hardware enhance the simple white cabinets.

THE MASTER AND NURSERY

RIGHT AND BELOW: The Roman shades and bed curtains are both Lulie's own fabric, Tropical Jungle. Hranowsky brightened up the deep green with pops of coral and cinnamon in the room. **BOTTOM:** Lulie also designed the wallpaper in daughter Edie's nursery.

**PROBLEM:**

Loads of colors and patterns

SOLUTION:

Balance brights with white.

"I know color on the canvas, but wall color is a whole different art," admits Lulie, who left the decorating palette in Hranowsky's hands. "Even picking the right white can be daunting!" Hranowsky chose a neutral backdrop, Benjamin Moore's Dove Wing, for the bedroom, living room, kitchen, and hallway, which meant Lulie's cheerful textiles and art could take center stage. In the nursery, she complemented Lulie's sweet floral wallpaper and fern printed cornice fabric with Pratt & Lambert's Balsam Green paint.

PROBLEM:

So much art, so little wallspace

SOLUTION:

Hang mini galleries throughout the house.

"I had all of these amazing pieces of art under beds and in closets because I was too intimidated to hang them by myself," says Lulie. Hranowsky to the rescue: The decorator created groupings within the collection based on styles, weight, and frames. "I'll often lay the arrangement on the floor and take a picture before hanging it on the wall," says Hranowsky, who hung Lulie's work wherever she saw an opportunity—above doors, between windows, even wrapped around the TV in the living room.

THE PORCH & PATIO

RIGHT: Updating the screens on the porch gave it a whole new sheen. **BELOW** When it comes time to dine outdoors, think double-duty decorating: A vibrant Kantha throw dresses up the patio table.

**PROBLEM:**

Tight space for indoor entertaining

SOLUTION:

Host alfresco.

Luckily for space-strapped Charleston residents, the South Carolina climate is conducive to spending nearly the whole year outdoors. Since their kitchen opens onto a small screened porch, the Wallaces made sure that it was incorporated into the decorating plan. The L-shaped couch, upholstered in outdoor fabric,

provides plenty of seating. Even more comfortable, casual seating options were created by piling on pillows made from Lulie's fabrics. Determined to keep entertaining despite no longer having a true dining room, the couple created an inviting eating area on the courtyard patio, setting up a sturdy 10-seat Ikea table surrounded with galvanized metal chairs. And, when the neighbors go out of town, they even take out a movie projector and watch films on the side of their house. 🎬