

A painting called *These Boys* by South Carolina artists Signe & Genna Grushovenko livens up the living room, already striking with patterned drapery panels in fabric by Atlanta-based Studio B. The marine-blue, vegetable-dyed rug is from Moattar. A teak-root coffee table by Noir grounds the room.

BOLD COASTAL  
COLORS AND A NEW  
ART COLLECTION  
ENERGIZE THIS  
DESIGNER'S  
TOWNHOUSE

By LISA MOWRY  
Photography by RUSTIC WHITE

# CHASING THE BLUES



# THE STARTING POINT FOR

interior designer Perry Walter's townhouse was a marine-blue wool rug—as well as trips to Italy with his partner, James Ramsay. “Our blue and green color palette was definitely influenced by travels to the Amalfi coast,” says Perry. “We loved the turquoise waters around the island of Capri, the deep blue from the Gulf of Naples, and the green foliage in Sorrento and Positano in the summer, so now these colors transport us both on vacation every time we step into our home.”

After living in separate condos, the couple decided to buy together in Manchester, a new-build community near Cheshire Bridge Road, where they were able to pick materials and architectural details for their three-level home. As a backdrop for their colorful furnishings and art, they went with predominantly white finishes: White cabinetry and Sherwin-Williams’s “Pure White” on all walls set a base for the color to come. A teak root-wood coffee table, midcentury mirrored credenza, cork wallpaper, and wide grasscloth tables added the texture of wood.

Perry mixed other saturated hues with the living room’s

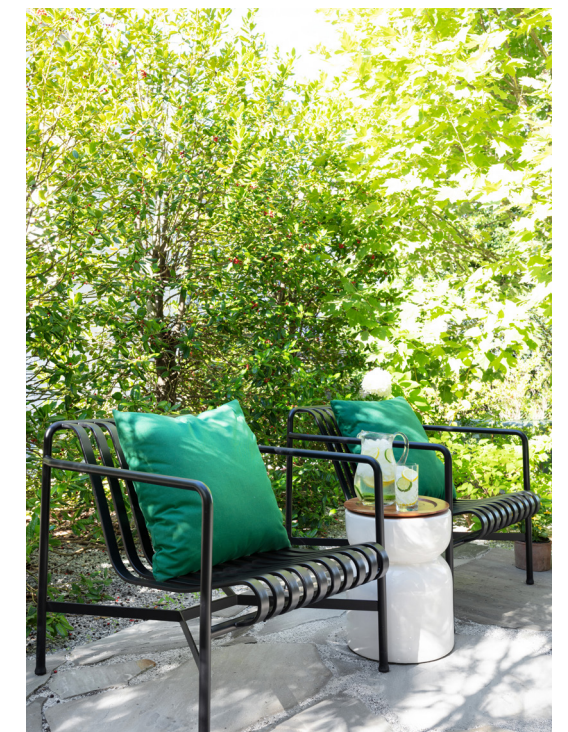
colorful rug: blue-and-white geometric window treatments, re-covered vintage dining chairs, and chrome counter stools upholstered in emerald outdoor fabric. In the primary bedroom on the top floor, Perry wrapped the walls in floor-to-ceiling green drapery, which evoked the look of a luxury hotel and hid windows that didn’t allow for ideal bed placement. “It almost feels like we’re living in the trees,” he says. “It reminded us of our vacations to tropical places.”

Perry and James selected art after everything else was in place, rather than working around existing pieces. “We wanted to get a feel for each room first and see what artwork was best,” says Perry, who adds that most of the art is framed in white to highlight the image and not the frame. Pieces by Southeastern artists such as Signe & Genna Grushovenko, Blaire Wheeler, and Gina Julian help tell a colorful story in each room. “I really appreciate the way people react to color and the way it makes you feel,” says Perry. “Creating our colorful home was pure joy.”



**OPPOSITE** | Frequent trips to Europe influenced Perry Walter (left) and James Ramsay, who opted to build in a Euro-style neighborhood with winding streets and smaller lots. The two met seven years ago and have enjoyed traveling together since.

**ABOVE** | An upstairs gallery wall is a combination of family photos and travel photography the couple has taken themselves.



**OPPOSITE** | White cabinets and chrome finishes (which designer Perry feels are more classic than brass or bronze) pair with a gray marble countertop in a matte finish. "The counter stools are new, but I picked this style because they give a vintage '70s vibe," he says. "I specified the curved back to break up hard lines in the kitchen." Stools by Brice Ltd. are covered in outdoor fabric for durability.

**ABOVE** | Perry reupholstered the backs of vintage dining chairs with the aptly named "Blue Grotto" stripe by Chella Textiles, channeling the couple's love of Mediterranean destinations. The custom dining table is from Tritter Feefer.

**TOP RIGHT** | The couple commissioned "Birds & Butterflies" by Nashville artist Blaire Wheeler specifically for this space. The waterfall console table is from Oken House Studios, with custom cube ottomans covered in Studio B fabric from Jim Thompson.

**ABOVE** | Perry and James chose a lot with a small courtyard garden, providing a natural oasis not far from Piedmont and Cheshire Bridge roads. The stone patio accommodates steel chairs from Design Within Reach, with custom outdoor cushions in Kravet fabric.



**ABOVE** | Floor-to-ceiling drapery panels (“Tahitian Stripe Rain Forest” by Chella Textiles) give the primary bedroom a luxe ambience. For practical considerations, the draperies also soften street noise and allow the bed to be centered on the wall rather than placed between windows. A platform bed upholstered in Kravet fabric is topped with abstract accent pillows. Vintage table lamps are from City Issue, with grasscloth nightstands from Bungalow 5.

**“THE BEDROOM ALMOST FEELS LIKE WE’RE LIVING IN THE TREES. IT REMINDS US OF OUR VACATIONS TO TROPICAL PLACES.”**



**TOP LEFT** | Op art by Gina Julian adds energy to the guest bedroom, along with a framed photograph of Capri taken by Perry. Lemon-patterned fabric by Schumacher channels a coastal Italian vibe on the accent pillows.

**BOTTOM LEFT** | White shelving and a Saarinen-style chair keep Perry’s office clean-lined and classic (with room for their dog, Sophie). The aged-brass lamp is from Visual Comfort.



**ABOVE** | Marbled wallpaper by Thibaut dresses up this guest bathroom, with a polished Carrara marble countertop and custom framed mirror by Caroline Budd’s Picture Framing.

**RESOURCES** | **INTERIOR DESIGN:** Perry Walter, walterstudioinc.com | **BUILDER:** Hedgewood Homes, hedgewoodhomes.com | **LANDSCAPE DESIGN:** Ambient Design, ambientdesign.space | **TO SHOP THIS STORY, SEE PAGE 70.**