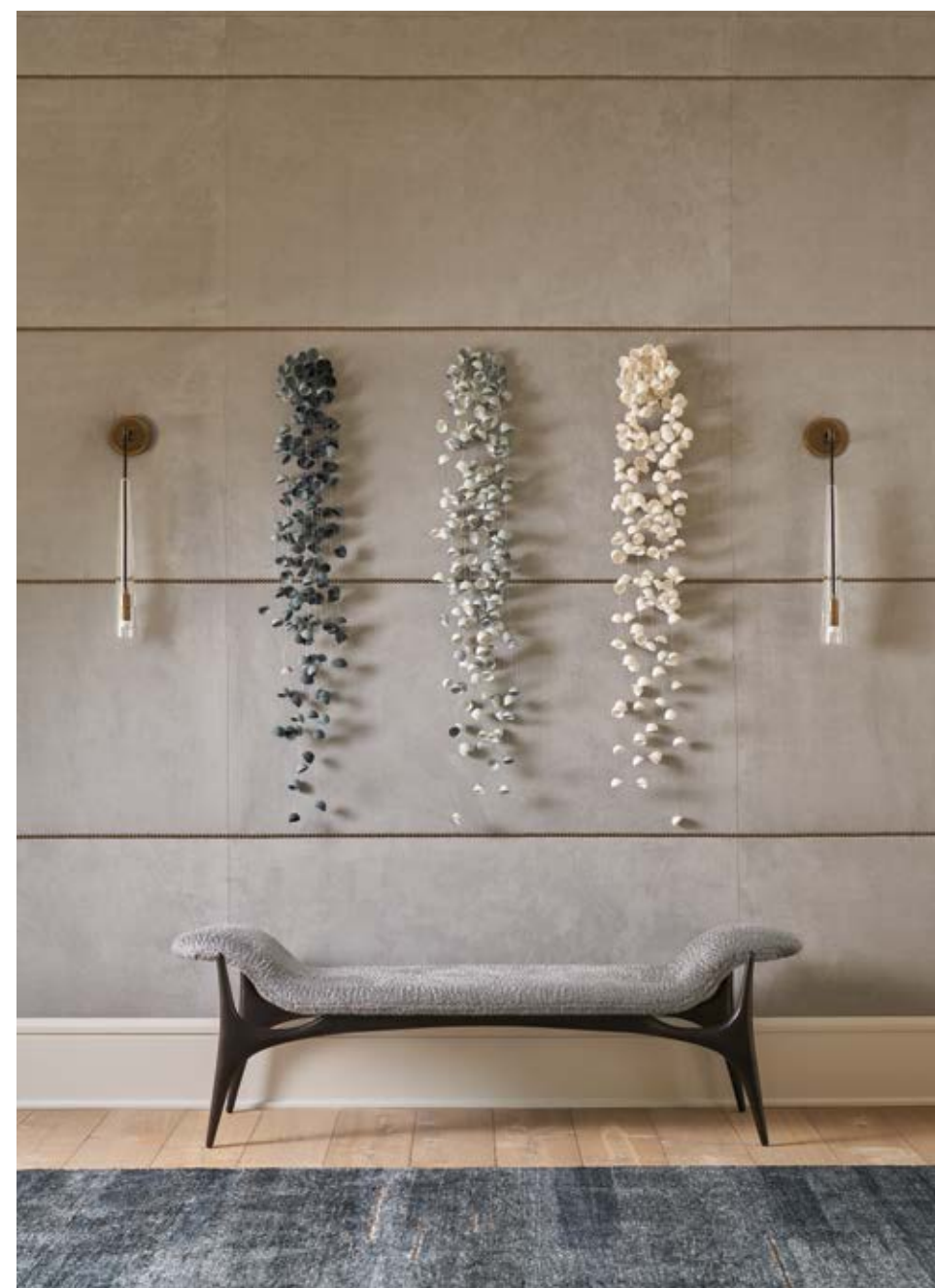


# INTERIORS<sup>®</sup>



ART IN DESIGN





## Delicate Balance

INTERIOR DESIGN: LAYTON CAMPBELL

TEXT: ABIGAIL STONE

PHOTOGRAPHY: MICHAEL BLEVINS









As in a romantic partnership, the chemistry between interior designer and client is pivotal. For Layton Campbell of J Layton Interiors, it was sparked from the first phone call with the owners of this Charlotte, North Carolina home. "Our connection was instantaneous," Campbell says. Designed by architect Harry Schrader and perched on the edge of one of Charlotte's largest golf courses, the house slips seamlessly into its stately neighborhood. Inside, however, its traditional exterior yields to something more unpredictable. Employing a mix of oceanic tones, appealing textures and unexpected furniture and lighting choices, Campbell deftly mixes the husband's modern aesthetic with the wife's desire for a home that exudes graceful Southern hospitality. "They work in a hectic corporate environment," Campbell says. "They want to come home to something calm and relaxing."

That's suggested right from the entryway, where walls upholstered in a Pierre Frey suede telegraph warmth and welcome. A custom sofa, nestled into the staircase's curve and covered in a Holly Hunt lavender wool, is the furniture equivalent of a hug. On the other side of the foyer, Vladimir Kagan's Cast bench, covered in grieger Great Plains fabric, is paired with Jonathan Browning's Apollinaire sconces, which flank an art installation by Valéria Nascimento. It offers a moment of repose and nods to the approachability of the clients. "Everything else is very structured and that's whimsical, suggesting that we're going to have a little fun here," Campbell says. "We certainly weren't going to put a lamp and a console in this foyer like everyone else." That subtle sense of play threads throughout this home, in the convex mirrors from Holly Hunt, the 3-D tiles in the hallway or the undulating pattern of the cabana's floor. In the living room, a jaunty crowd of Coup Studio's bronze snare tables banish the traditional coffee table. The sleek kitchen, courtesy of Schrader's team, is, with its bar-height counters and display of glasses within sight of the living room, party-ready.









To create spaces that feel collected and unique, Campbell sought out both well-known lines and niche boutique brands. "I wanted things that wouldn't feel immediately recognizable," he says. Alongside bespoke pieces—like the collaboration with Stark that produced the rugs in the library and the primary suite—almost everything has been customized to fit his vision. The Ochre Seed Pod light was lengthened to hang completely through the stairwell. The lounge's A. Rudin Swivel chairs were wrapped in a blood orange mohair from Beacon Hill. In the living room, Damian Jones' rivet version of the turnaround chair created for Coup Studio was swathed in a Rosemary Hallgarten fabric, while in the library, Natasha Baradaran's cozy interpretation, ideal for reading or pirouetting towards the room's magnificent view, were ordered in a deep indigo velvet from Liaigre.

Campbell's work demonstrates how to incorporate edgier pieces using soft textures, light weaves or rounded designs to muffle their impact. In the dining room, the dramatic light fixture from Serip Lighting and Hellman Chang's Z Quad dining table are balanced by the flirt of sheer drapes and the invitation extended by chairs, also by Hellman Chang, whose plump seat and back cushions are covered in a textured Great Plains fabric. The powder room's geometric sink is soothed by a luminous Synapse fixture from Apparatus and hand-plastered striated wall coverings from Assemblage. The dense bronze console by Chuck Moffit that dominates the lower floor's landing is tamed by Benjamin Guffee's spectral oil painting and a Metronome table lamp from Apparatus.

In the primary suite, the tranquil melody of grayed hues, gentle shapes and plush textures—including a silk Phillip Jeffries wallcovering, that custom silk Stark rug, and Natasha Baradaran's Otto ottoman wrapped in a baby blue leather from Holland & Sherry—is offset by a jagged rock crystal light fixture by Christopher Boots. In the daughter's mint green bedroom, a simple Saarinen table and Eames Eiffel Tower chairs animate the traditional space. In the screened-in porch, the curved, woven frame of the Tortuga sectional and chair by Holly Hunt calms the brand's angular Cachalot coffee table. The end result is a home that ensures soothing never fades into somnambulant. "The best compliment I get about my work is when people tell me that they can sit down and relax," Campbell says. "The best jobs are when people let you do what you do best." ■ *Layton Campbell, J Layton Interiors, jlaytoninteriors.com*

