

Bloom Time // Discover our bountiful native wildflowers

wncTM

MOUNTAIN LIVING IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

HOME *Sweet* HOME

*Remarkable revamps, pro tips,
and ideas aplenty for home
building & upfitting*

Plus! ONLINE GARDENING CLASSES,
ASHEVILLE'S RIVER ARTS DISTRICT, WATERFALL
GUARDIANS, POST-PANDEMIC ESCAPES, SUPER
SALADS & HIGHLAND'S NEW MUSIC FEST

Room Redos

Discover how small and large changes can have a big impact

If you feel unsettled with the way a room looks or feels, or if it no longer fulfills your needs (like foregoing the formal living room for a fabulous home office), then it could be time for a makeover. Your budget and the time you have to dedicate to the project will need to be considered, but even small changes, like swapping out pillows, rugs, and lamps, can have a big impact. Here, designers around the region submitted some of their own inspiring projects, which range from a remarkable transformation primarily using just paint to larger-scale makeovers.



PHOTOGRAPHS (AFTER PHOTOS) BY RYAN THEEDE

COLOR CONTRAST

Design by **Parker Platt**

As architect and president of PLATT, a full-service architecture, construction, and interior design firm in Brevard (which is also launching PLATT Home retail store in March), Parker Platt surprisingly didn't opt to build his own house. Nor did he call on any of the five interior designers on staff to help him transform the 5,000-square-foot, 1980s abode. The house, situated on a 40-acre farm along the French Broad River in Brevard, had captivated Platt since he first saw it in high school. But it was many years later before he was finally able to purchase it, even losing a bidding war the first time the house went on the market. The home was very well built, he says, but the outdated interior definitely needed a face-lift. Platt was able to achieve a completely fresh look primarily with just paint and some new lighting. Says Platt, "A house isn't really a home until it has a great interior."



KITCHEN AID Platt reimagined the kitchen with fresh white paint and new hardware. He added new lighting and painted the solarium framing dark. For the vaulted ceiling that extends into the den (opposite right), Platt modified the trusses for a modern look.



BEFORE



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LIVING LARGE In the living room (above) and den, Platt painted everything white, updated the lighting with modern fixtures, added track lighting, and removed the curtains. His taste in eclectic art and furnishings enhances the look.



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BEFORE

Starting Fresh

Thinking of building or renovating? Consider the latest trends

The past year has brought lifestyle updates to many, and those changes are reflected in home building and renovation developments. Concerns that may have seemed temporary are likely to be with us for a long time, and possibly change home design for years to come. Here's a look at some of the home trends taking hold around WNC.



An outdoor living room on Lake Toxaway by PLATT

Fresh air living. You may have heard of *hygge*, the Danish concept of cozy living indoors. *Friluftsliv*, the Norwegian concept of “fresh air living,” is being hailed as the new *hygge*. While *friluftsliv* has an emphasis on outdoor recreation, at its heart it means spending more time outdoors, no matter the weather. For the home, it might mean outdoor fireplaces and cozy chairs or outdoor dining no matter the weather. In a way, it's an extension of last year's “cottagecore” craze.

Smart air-quality features. Indoor air quality is increasingly a focus in the building or renovation process. Smart air purifiers give you data to keep track of and control your space's air quality. They're often WiFi- or Bluetooth-enabled, controlled by a smartphone app that can alert you when you need to change a filter or if toxins are detected in the air.

Flexible doors. Like a retractable wall eliminating the barriers between the indoors and outdoors, floor-to-ceiling bifold or sliding doors add an expansive feeling to any space. This is an ideal way to bring the outdoors in and allow fresh air to circulate.



A folding glass wall system in a home by Retro+Fit Design

Passive solar. While solar panels may not be the answer for everyone, designers and builders are increasingly incorporating passive solar into home plans, saving homeowners on energy costs and flooding homes with natural light. The building method positions the house in a way that the sun naturally heats and cools the home for maximum efficiency.

Home office. The home office is nothing new, but in the past year, there's no denying that it has taken a new meaning. While the home office can mean anything from a dedicated room to a built-in desk in the kitchen, increasingly there's a demand for purpose-built exterior offices on a home property.



Built-in desk from a home by ACM Design

Home gym. The home gym trend is on the upswing. The emphasis is no longer on having the most equipment, but rather on creating an inviting space to do whatever exercise works for you. With the trend toward smaller and more portable and compact equipment, the home gym doesn't need space for full-size treadmills or other bulky equipment, but rather emphasizes environmental factors such as light and views that inspire.

—JOANNE O'SULLIVAN

Alfresco Retreats

Fab ideas for porches and patios

Outdoor living spaces make for idyllic warm-weather spots for entertaining and relaxing with friends and family, and the demand for these private custom oases has risen in recent times. In the mountains of Western North Carolina, many stylish outdoor layouts encompass fire features, but otherwise run the gamut to include extravagant outdoor cooking areas, pools and hot tubs, manicured landscaping and patios, and comfy exterior living rooms for lounging. Here are four dreamy spaces to inspire your own outdoor retreat.



POOL PARTY: *Designed by Retro+Fit Design and built by Living Stone Design + Build, this Asheville home was created in harmony with its incredible vista. A cantilevered deck and an infinity edge pool with a built-in spa hot tub (by Medallion Pools) offer unobstructed views, while ample patio seating, an outdoor kitchen and dining area, and cabana—complete with a floating TV above a gas fire feature—make this an enviable space for outside entertaining.*



PHOTOGRAPHS (2, RETRO+FIT DESIGN) BY RYAN THEEDE



LAKE HOUSE LUXE: *Designed by PLATT as a connection between the primary residence and guest quarters, this screened-in outdoor kitchen, dining, and living room serves as a middle ground for family gatherings, with a private view of Lake Toxaway. Beautifully distressed wood (including reclaimed snow fencing for the siding) and stone lend rustic appeal, while dormer windows help enhance the natural lighting.*

MODERN MARVEL: *This passive solar home in Hendersonville built by TAB Associates includes an outdoor porch with a sink and Wolf grill, fireplace, and electric roll-down screens for added privacy. The porch roof serves the dual purpose of housing 11 solar panels.*



SOUTHERN BELLE: *The 2020 Southern Living Idea House by Buchanan Construction encompasses inviting outdoor living spaces, including a screened porch with a fireplace, couches, and an Original Charleston Bed Swing, a deck with ample seating, and a lower-level patio with a stone fire pit.*



PHOTOGRAPHS (LAKE HOUSE) JERRY MARKATOS; (TAB) AMOS MOSES; (2. BUCHANAN CONSTRUCTION) BY ROBBIE CAMPONETTO/SOUTHERN LIVING