



# IT'S PERSONAL

INTERIOR DESIGNER CAROLE MARCOTTE REFLECTS  
ON DESIGNING HER OWN HOME

WRITTEN BY **ALEX MILSTEIN**  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY **CATHERINE NGUYEN**

In the historic Hayes Barton neighborhood of Raleigh, North Carolina, red brick Georgian- and Tudor-style homes are abundant. But nestled in between these abodes are a few Spanish-style homes that have a more eclectic feel, like Carole Marcotte's 1925 Spanish Colonial stunner.

Having moved in 17 years ago, she spent the better part of the last 15 years designing the home, making small changes here and there based on her personal style as it evolved. In 2009, Marcotte started her design firm, Form and Function. Four years later, she added on a home décor







(Opposite page) The 1925 house still had all of the original ironwork and plaster molding when Marcotte moved in. Over the years she's added more Spanish Colonial-style elements.

(This page, clockwise from top) Pops of yellow, red and blue stand out on the all-white backdrop in the main living room. (Far left) Behind the blue sofa is the "Woman Wall," which Marcotte adds to whenever she can. (Bottom) For cohesion and to add a Mediterranean look, Marcotte carried the woven bamboo shades throughout the whole home.







(From left to right) Beneath the chair rail, an artist hand-painted a design resembling Moroccan tile. In the kitchen, exposed wood beams give the space a farmhouse look, which Marcotte complemented with a vintage light fixture. An existing “secret door” that Marcotte outfitted with shelves leads to the cellar.

shop which focuses on classic and funky vintage pieces shown beside newer, made-in-America products. This style carried over to the design of her home.

When a designer has the opportunity to work on their own abode, it’s a unique experience, and Marcotte took it slowly, changing out furnishings and updating areas of the home in stages. For example, after her children moved out of the house, she renovated the kitchen, adding quartz countertops, painting the cabinets and changing the light fixtures.

While she enjoyed the flexibility in some areas, indecision delayed things in others. “It’s kind of my laboratory,” Marcotte explains. “I don’t shy away from color. That’s what’s fun about doing your own house — you’re not restricted. But at the same time, I’ll agonize over the choice of my dining room chairs for three years.”

Her main goal for the most recent 2018 design iteration

was to lighten and brighten the space. She took out upper cabinets in the kitchen and added a window. She painted the entire home white (SW6385 Dover White, to be exact) save for a few areas where she used wallpaper for pops of color. This use of white was very purposeful, as she wanted the wall to be the backdrop and the art and fabric to be the stars.

With a common thread of blue and gold flowing through the house, each room maintains its own personality, which Marcotte says speaks to her philosophy of, if you love it, buy it. She’s applied this to what she calls the “Woman Wall” above the sofa in her living room, where she keeps adding art featuring female figures to the collection.

“It’s obviously different with furniture, but if you see a piece of art or an accessory that you love, buy it, and it will work out,” she says. “You’ll figure out something to do with it. I have so many things and I’m still editing a lot of the décor and tchotchkes around the house.” ▶





“It’s obviously different with furniture, but if you see a piece of art or an accessory that you love, buy it, and it will work out.

—Carole Marcotte

(Above) When Marcotte was looking for a statement piece for her bedroom, she created a feature wall with Lulu DK fabrics by Duralee.

(Right) An Americana palette plays out in exotic textiles with a Persian Bokhara rug underfoot and John Robshaw’s Prasana for Duralee framing windows.

