

athome

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GO SMALL AND STAY HOME

BIGGER ISN'T ALWAYS BETTER





BEFORE



Bigger isn't always better. That perspective can be hard to maintain when your day job involves designing some of the biggest and best homes in town, but Matt and Julie Tindall can attest that with some thoughtful renovations, good bones in a good neighborhood can go a long way.

The Tindalls moved to Greenville after Matt, a Spartanburg native, finished graduate school at Clemson. They bought their modest Bennett Street home in 2004, after falling in love with the North Main area.

"We loved this neighborhood, so we got into the neighborhood in the block that we could afford," Julie says. "We thought that this would be a starter house for us, and two children later we realized that small is good and so we made a conscious effort to not leave."

Having an architect for a husband made that effort a bit easier. Together Matt and Julie run Tindall Architecture Workshop. Their tidy domicile does double duty as home to a busy family of four and command central for their growing business.

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Interior Photography by Wayne Culpepper/Fisheye Studios
Exterior Photography by Kris Decker/Firewater Photography*



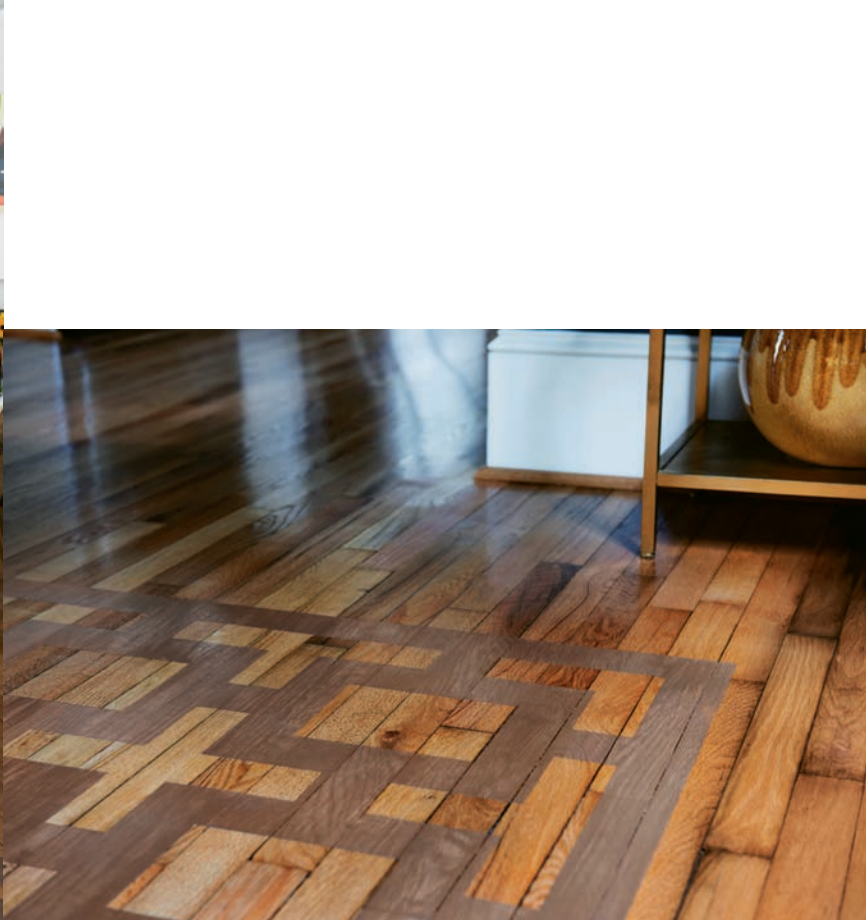
Julie had a short list of must-haves for the renovation: no more being banished to the basement on laundry day; mid-century decor was welcome, but the mid-century storage needed an upgrade; and the kitchen had to be a marvel of modern efficiency. Beyond that the Tindalls were committed to preserving the defining elements of the home.

They called on Cynthia Masters and her interior design firm, Panageries, to help them define their style.

“(In our business) we see a thousand cool things a day and for us to make up our mind for ourselves about what’s the right thing to do or the coolest thing to do, it’s really tough. There’s so much stuff out there,” Matt explains. “So it was nice to have Cynthia weigh in from a different perspective.”

Matt and Cynthia first met several years ago when Panageries brought Matt’s former firm in on a project. The two immediately clicked and have collaborated on multiple projects since. This easy working relationship made short work of the initial Q&A Cynthia takes each of her clients through, and a plan quickly evolved to blend Matt’s penchant for mid-century modern furnishings with the handful of traditional family heirloom pieces Julie had her heart set on keeping.









BEFORE





“Divergent styles and time periods can live happily together. The key is to keep the differing styles to a minimum as we did here,” Cynthia says. “And it was great that Matt and Julie were open to refinishing and repurposing pieces in order to pull the design together.”

The Tindalls managed to get everything they needed – and a few things they wanted – and only added a scant 350 square feet to the existing structure.

“We really had to sit down and evaluate how to get the best bang for our buck and take advantage of every single square foot,” Matt says. “350 (square feet) is not a lot to add to a house to make it a forever house, but based on what we did it worked for us.”







While choosing fixtures and finishes for the renovation, the Tindalls were mindful of the opportunity to create the perfect home for their family while also using it as a showcase of sorts for clients. White marble countertops, for example, are an element people often shy away from, but TAW clients can get a firsthand look at how well they function in a family kitchen.

Prior to the renovation, the kitchen was small and dark, and separated from the rest of the house by a staircase leading to the basement. Eliminating these stairs created an opportunity to not only expand the kitchen, but also

mirror the arched doorway between the living and dining rooms with an identical opening between the dining room and kitchen, thus giving a clear view from one end of the house to the other. This was a small change that has had a big impact on how the family uses the space.

“I’m the one that primarily uses the kitchen, and with the old situation we had I felt very isolated. I still have really young children and I need to be able to multitask, and this layout allows me to do that,” Julie says.

“You can see everything that everybody else is doing from here,” Matt says. “(The kitchen) is like the captain’s chair.”





A sunroom on one end of the house, just off the living room, was repurposed as an office for Matt, where he's highly visible to the rest of the family but tucked away enough to remain productive.

A small but mighty mudroom off the kitchen wears many hats: laundry room, drop zone for the family's belongings, and Julie's workspace, which converts to a homework station after school.



“Everything has a place and everything is in its place to make the most use of that space,” Cynthia says. “The great thing about that house is they use every inch of it.” 