



This home on Ridge Road is a glam gathering space for a big family

by AYN-MONIQUE KLAHRE
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Bryan Nunes and Rachael Ford are not afraid of taking chances. Both are hair stylists and salon owners — Nunes runs Blo in Brier Creek, Ford has Gabriel Ryder Salon downtown — a line of work that, Nunes says, attracts creative minds who care about their surroundings. So when they built their home together, one where they would blend both their tastes and their families, there was little chance it would be boring.

"Some people are paralyzed by a can of paint, but not me," says Nunes. "I love the creative process." They worked with DJF Builders to design their Ridge Road home. It's full of generous spaces where the family can comfortably gather, like the open-plan living and dining area, multiple patios, and swimming pool. But there are also plenty of bedrooms, bathrooms, and storage areas for the couple and their five kids, ages 1 to 19, to have space for themselves. "Blending

a family is tough, and we're fortunate to live in a home where we all have our own spaces, but can also come together," says Nunes. "It's a blessing."

Chrissy Gupton served as coordinator for DJF during the build and worked with the couple to choose details like tile, fixtures, and finishes. "I tried to help them reflect their personalities — they're both soft, kind-hearted people, but they like some shine in the right spot," Gupton says. Lighting, in particular, was key. "I don't like direct light, only indirect," says Nunes. They tapped Raleigh lighting designer Louise Gaskill for several custom chandeliers and used can lights with diffusers to add soft contrast and shadow to the walls.

When it came time to decorate, Ford knew who she wanted to enlist: one of her clients, Brittany Roux of Roux MacNeill Studio. "I was sitting in her chair, and Rachael said, *We're* 

building a house — I want to connect you with Bryan," says Roux. The couple had a sense of what they wanted, and let Roux run with it. "We tried to be collaborative, but not meddle," says Nunes. "But we wanted to push the envelope."

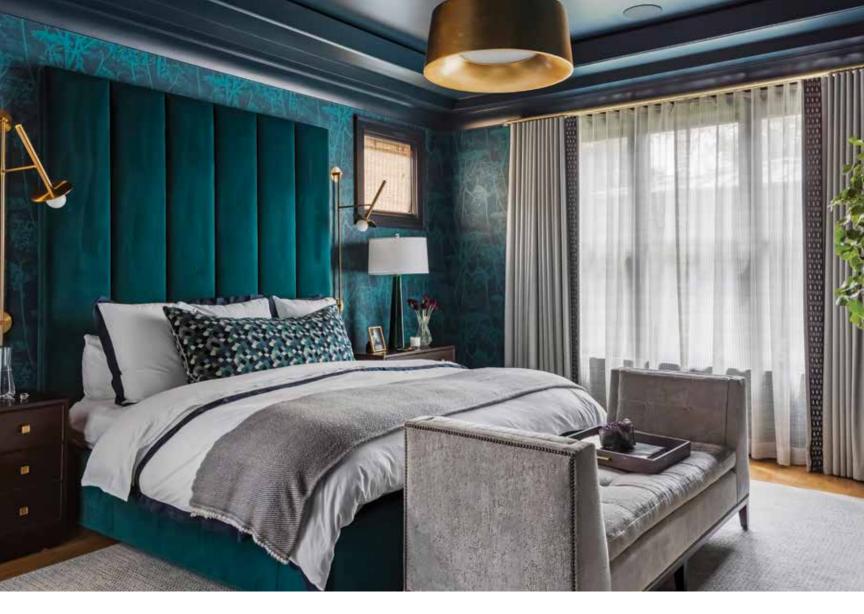
"They wanted the home to be dramatic and feel luxe," says Roux. The couple was attracted to rich hues like blues and purples, along with glam detailing, like brass hardware and textured wall coverings. "We like dark colors, we like mood and ambiance," says Nunes. "We want people to feel a sense of serenity and peace, but also be like, wow, I never would've thought of that."

While the home may not look like this every day — often a pack-n-play is the centerpiece of the living room, Ford says — it has all the style and warmth they'd hoped for. "This house is epic," Nunes says. "There's not a day I don't think, I can't believe I get to live here."













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This page: In the powder room, Gupton helped find the unique chandelier, which diffuses the light through glass balls. "Its effervescent feel inspired the whole room," says Roux, who played it up with marbled wallpaper. "It brings in all the blacks, grays, and whites together, but also has little bits of yellow and aqua." Opposite page: Out back, a screened-in patio serves as a lounge. "The back yard is stunning, and we can all enjoy it together," says Ford. She was the one who pushed for the dark exterior. "People either love or or hate it," says Nunes. "But with the gas lanterns, bluestone and big porches, it feels manor-esque."



