











The couple enlisted Rachel Cannon, owner and principal interior designer of Rachel Cannon Limited Interiors, to update the home while retaining its connection to the past. Surprisingly stunning changes were accomplished with fresh coats of paint, refinished wood floors and new furnishings. "We went for a modern look with throwbacks to classic design elements," Rachel says. "It works perfectly with this youthful but traditional family."

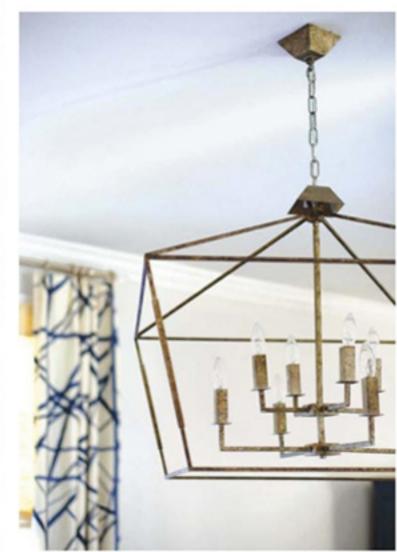
## An Elegant Living Room

The living room is more formal than the rest of the home. Here, Hunter and Leigh Beth can entertain guests in an elegant yet comfortable environment.

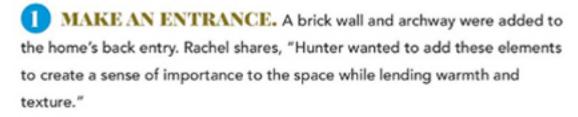
**Lighten Up.** The dining room had dark paint and heavy swag draperies that Rachel says were "at odds with its soaring ceilings." Light paint and furnishings were a must to open the space and balance the room's scale.



Illuminated Elements. This airy light fixture is stylish yet unobtrusive-it's design allows the eye to move through it while lending a dash of chic to the breakfast area.







2 Vintage Vignettes. Artful tableaus throughout the home lend a sense of beauty and tradition. Several pieces incorporated into the new designs are heirlooms from Hunter's mother.

3 Family Memories. Hunter grew up eating at this table everyday so it was essential to incorporate it into the new design for the breakfast area. The table originally featured a golden oak stain so Rachel had it painted to work ith the new, softer color palette. The chairs were reupholstered in a Crypton fabric by Duralee. The fabric, which is resistant to stains, spills and sticky fingers, is ideal for the young family.







"We went for a modern look with throwbacks to classic design elements. It works perfectly with this youthful but traditional family."

Originally, the room was adorned with heavy window treatments, dark paint and oversized furniture. Rachel knew exactly what to do to give it a fresh twist. "We brightened up the walls and trim. This home really is a testament to the power of a paint of coat," she says. "We also had the floors refinished from an orangey oak to a beautiful pecan color."

The floors and walls were just the beginning of the room's rebirth. Rachel replaced the existing black granite fireplace surround with a white Macabus quartzite and placed two sapphire velvet swivel chairs opposite a sofa finished in Crypton fabric and a chaise lounge upholstered in a marbled fabric. "When it comes to seating, I love using unexpected pieces," Rachel says. The swivel chairs-a feature which the designer says comes as a surprise since they appear rigid to most people-and chaise lounge with its unique fabric and shape add personality to the sophisticated space.

### Sentimental Table Set

In the dining room, Rachel faced a unique challenge: reworking the room around a traditional ball-and-claw table and chairs set formerly belonging to Hunter's mother. "This style of table and chairs can look very stuffy and

Edited Approach. The countertop and backsplash are both slab white Macabus quartzite, which is a veined, natural stone. "We toyed with the idea of using a mosaic on the backsplash but the slab material was so pretty," Rachel says. "It makes for a beautiful backdrop for the pot filler, which is another must in South Louisiana where we make gumbo for large groups during football season!"



# "This home really is a testament to the power of a coat of paint."

personality at all," she says. "I felt that if we allowed the room to be open and airy, the table might not seem so formal." Knowing the emotional value of the set and the beloved memories that had been created around it, Rachel turned it into the focal point of the space. She used tones of hushed creams, soft blues and dove grays to act as a backdrop to the chairs and table.

Other design elements like a sizable piece of artwork and a new light fixture were layered in, each one selected with an eye for the room's proportions. "The ceilings are over 20' high, so scale was really important here," Rachel says. "Knowing we had those tall ceilings and windows to contend with, a large piece of artwork was an obvious choice." The surrounding soft colors and lines keep the visual emphasis on the dining room table, allowing the sentimental set to stay center stage.

## A Study in Marble

While mostly cosmetic changes were used throughout the home, the master bathroom desperately needed a drastic remodel. Dated dark peach and yellow walls, emerald green faux marble tile,

32 Southern Cottage | FALL 2017 33







**Editing Process.** When it comes to placing the final touches-like lamps and decorative items-Rachel arranges the accessories, walks away to see how they combine and then comes back with fresh eyes.

and a gigantic jacuzzi tub didn't fit the young couple's style. "We wanted to do something that was visually stunning but would stand the test of time," Rachel says. Black and white mosaic and larger scale Carrera marble shower tile from the TileBar in New York were ideal for a fresh yet classic bathroom, while faucets in an antique brass finish give the room an old-meets-new concept.

## "We wanted to do something that was visually stunning but would stand the test of time."

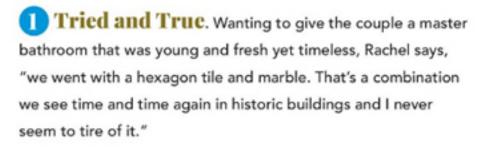
Leigh Beth wanted soaker tub where she could relax after a long day and watch television so a freestanding tub was installed along with cabinets that conceal not only toiletries, but a flat screen TV that pulls out on an elbow-arm. The shower was enlarged and Rachel opted to continue the mosaic into the shower instead of using a threshold piece, allowing for a seamless transition. "The whole bathroom," Rachel says, "in one word, is glam."

With changes that reflect the couple's style and honors the memory of Hunter's childhood and his mother, the home is a testament to the love that lived there before and the new memories the family would make together.

See Sources, page 128







Like Heaven. Natural light floods into the shower, giving the large-scale Carrera marble a glossy glow and reinforcing the tranquil, spa-like vibe of the master bathroom.

Glimmer. Rachel says, "we used faucets from Delta to give a sort of old fashioned feeling, especially in the antique brass finish. But then bounce around to the light fixture over the soaking tub and it's such a great juxtaposition."



