



in their comfort zone

When empty nesters in Baton Rouge wanted a destination where the whole family could reunite, they turned to interior designer Rachel Cannon.

"The drapery fabric was our wild card," says Baton Rouge interior designer Rachel Cannon of the Vervain Mirage Carnelian Camel fabric choice, *above*. Her clients approved, "and that's how we got the color scheme," says Rachel. As for the mirror, "I love that shield form against the brick and rectangular shapes in the room," she says.

"Everyone has gotten so pro open floor plan that foyers have fallen out of favor," says Rachel. "I love a true foyer because it is precisely the place to have fun or do something dramatic." She chose Onna sisal wallpaper in Purple from Schumacher and a Highbrow chandelier with crystal beads from Teche Lighting for Currey and Company, *right*.

The owners of a just-built home on Catherine Claire Lane in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, were ideal clients for interior designer Rachel Cannon. The couple knew what they wanted and were open to the fresh, smart ideas the designer is renowned for.

Their biggest wish was for their whole family—grown son and daughter and grandkids—to feel completely at home when visiting the new 10-room house. The beach, the couple told her, was their happy place, and they wanted the home to have that same feeling.

As the designer's creative wheels started turning, she pulled together color palettes to run by her clients—with plum and orange emerging as the unexpected favorites. Then the fun of choosing wallpaper, fabrics and furniture really began.

The result? Stylish, pleasing rooms integrated with color and sparkle that reflect the owners' sense of whimsy while conveying an inviting message of comfort.



Rachel added color to the white kitchen by covering the Wesley Hall Avery counter stools with easy-to-clean plum faux leather (perfect for the grandkids) from Kravet. Hanging lanterns with silver-leaf finish and tiny mirror tiles from Teche Lighting for Currey and Company enhance the room's bright, open look.



“For the range hood, I first suggested a decorative tortoise shell, but the client said it would make her feel sad for the tortoise, so when I saw these brass starbursts from Global Views [left], I knew they would be perfect,” says Rachel.

In the kitchen, the Roman shade, above left, with Quarante fabric from Jacques Bouvet features Hayworth Tape beaded trim in Aubergine from Schumacher, which provides a subtle glimmer.

The dining table, above, serves as a family breakfast spot but can open up to seat 10 people. The Charles Stewart Pantego side chairs are covered with Kravet fabric in a cream-and-plum ikat to keep minor spills hidden. “The hutch was the very first piece of furniture the client bought for his wife,” notes Rachel.

But, like in life, it's the little things that count. Observing that the wife is never without a diamond sunburst necklace, Rachel suggested adding cheerful brass starbursts to the tall white range hood in the kitchen. “I tried to add a bit of sparkle to every room,” she says. Rachel also learned that the couple likes to keep items with sentimental value out and in sight. The designer made sure to honor these treasures by giving them prominence.

And the beach feeling? Step into the master and guest bedrooms and you can almost hear the ocean waves amid the greens and blues of the drapery and pillow fabric, the sand-colored carpeting and coral design artwork. Indeed, it's a happy place.



Rachel highlighted beach tones that her clients loved with Kandira drapery fabric in Greige from Schumacher and Silvermist paint from Sherwin Williams for the master bedroom, *above left*, and Zephyr on White Manila Hemp wallpaper from Phillip Jeffries in the bathroom, *left*.

“Most of my female clientele ask for a place where their husbands can sit and put shoes on in the morning,” says Rachel. The master bedroom, *above*, features a CR Laine Beverly bench covered in Polka Dot Plush fabric from Kravet that is so comfortable her client’s husband often stretches out on it for a nap!

old favorites—where do they go?

Is it possible to incorporate cherished family furniture or heirlooms into a newly designed home? Yes, says Baton Rouge interior designer Rachel Cannon. She offers these tips for doing so successfully:

- **FRAME IT** Family treasures such as artwork, sentimental letters or maps professionally framed with the new color palette in mind will look fresh on any wall in the house. “Our client already had her grandmother’s doilies framed between pieces of glass. Against the wallpaper and color palette in the half-bath they took on a cool, almost hipster edge, and they are

conversation pieces, as all guests pass by this room when visiting the home,” Rachel notes.

- **REUPHOLSTER IT** Beloved and sturdy old chairs that you can’t bear to part with should be reupholstered with fabric that fits into your new color scheme.
- **REFINISH IT** Cherished pieces of workhorse furniture, like dressers, can be born again with a professional refinishing and added hints of colors found in draperies or wallpaper.
- **DISPLAY IT** Exhibit heirlooms prominently to honor your history and memories, says Rachel.

With delicate framed coral art, “we made the guest bedroom feel as beachy as we could,” says Rachel. She asked her painter to add a line of green to the grooves of a weathered white Hailey bed frame with a rattan back panel from One Kings Lane. The chartreuse ceramic Robert Abbey lamp bases pick up the color in the Topolines pillows in Sea Glass by Megan Adams Brooks and the Stroheim Apremont Citrus upholstery of the Suzanne Kasler Woodward bench from Hickory Chair at the foot of the bed.



For the wife’s personal office, Rachel created a sophisticated feminine space. She reupholstered two chairs in bright pink Versailles fabric from Kravet, found an elegant burl-wood writing table and gold-trimmed étagère from Worlds Away and ordered a custom-made dyed hide rug from Kyle Bunting. On the wall hangs a framed map of the Mississippi River that has sentimental value to the couple—it outlines the journey of their lives.