

FROM RUGS TO
ROOFERS, OUR
READERS CAST
THEIR VOTES
FOR THEIR
FAVORITE SHOPS,
EXPERTS AND
HOME SERVICE
PROVIDERS IN OUR
ANNUAL SURVEY.

2021 READERS' FAVORITES

By PAULA PETERS CHAMBERS, TOM JAKOB, VALERIE PARKER, TAYLOR PETERSON, HOLLY RODRIGUEZ, JOAN TUPPONCE



PG. **68**
home decor



Richmond studio **Morris + Norris** made the custom, hand-painted, shaped and sanded wooden buildings throughout our Readers' Favorites survey. Visit morrinandnorris.com for your own tiny heirloom.



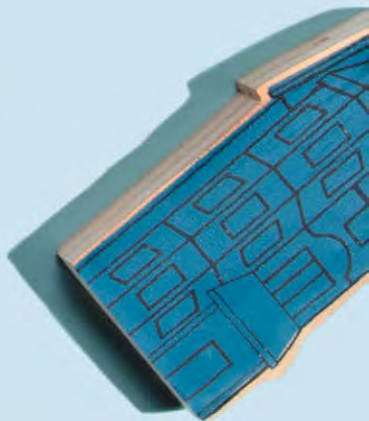
PG. **72**
building & home
improvement



PG. **75**
moving, cleaning
& organizing



PG. **76**
curb appeal



Reader's Favorites 2021

HOME DECOR

Bed Linens
FRAÎCHE ON THE AVENUES

5805 Grove Ave.,
804-282-4282,
fraichehome.net

You'll find products from exclusive vendors at Fraîche that you can't find elsewhere in the Richmond area. The store has a wide selection of merchandise, from home decor and bridal gifts to furniture and baby items. "Our customers really like items from vendors Juliska, Simon Pearce and Matouk Linens," says store manager Kendall Sexton. "We also have a nice selection of gift items for any occasion."

2. Yves Delorme

Rugs
CAPEL RUGS

3995 Deep Rock Road,
804-290-8800,
capelrugs.com

Capel Rugs large selection of rugs includes popular braided rugs with new styles in oval and rectangular shapes. "They wear like iron and are two sided," says manager McKenzie Shill. "They are still locally made in North Carolina." And Capel sells more than just rugs. The store carries a large selection of boutique furniture, upholstery and accessories that are all "cash and carry," Shill says. Want something special? Check out the Kazak rugs from Pakistan.

2. Amir Rug Exchange
3. Costen Floors

Carpet and Rug Cleaner
HADEED-MERCER RUG CLEANING INC.

804-358-3811,
mercerrugcleaning.com

Gone are the days of hanging out rugs and beating them with a stick. Hadeed-Mercer, founded in 1936 as Mercer Rug Cleansing, washes rugs by hand, using decades of experience to ensure each rug gets the treatment it deserves. Services range from simple cleaning to spot and stain removal, color restoration and repairs. Free pickup and delivery includes moving furniture, if necessary, along with returning the room to its original state.

2. Cap Dry
3. Citro-Solution

Embroidery Shop
ATLANTIC EMBROIDERY

1507 Parham Road, Ridge Shopping Center, 804-282-5027, atlanticembroideryworks.com

At Atlantic Embroidery, employees have an artistic eye for design and a thorough understanding of embroidery. They have "developed the skill to make the tradition of embroidery complement both the classics and the latest trends," says team leader Amy Ellis. Look for creative specials throughout the year as the company celebrates its 15th anniversary.

2. Sassy Bee
3. Hometown Embroidery

Window Treatment Fabricator
LHS DESIGNS

804-794-7882,
lhsdesigns.net

"It's been a strong year because everybody is at home, wanting to fix up and redo," says Leisha Schutt, owner of LHS Designs. Looking toward 2021, she says automation is a growing trend. "Customers want to open and close window treatments through use of their smart devices," she says. "They also [use this feature] when they are not at home" for security reasons.

2. U-Fab Interiors
3. Specialty Draperies

MULTI-CATEGORY WINNER
U-FAB INTERIORS

7921 W. Broad St., 804-888-8322, u-fab.com

For more than 12 years, U-Fab Interiors has served Richmond as a "one-stop shop for all things fabric and fabrication," says co-owner Travis Hamilton. In 2020, U-Fab helped the Richmond community by manufacturing face masks during a shortage. "Much like RVA, we handle a wide range of style," Hamilton says. "We do everything from funky, crazy mid-century pieces to pieces from Europe in the 1700s and 1800s."

Fabric
2. Artée Fabrics & Home
3. Joann

Upholstery Services
2. Lakeside Upholstery



Justin Chesney

MULTI-CATEGORY WINNER

SHADES OF LIGHT

4924 W. Broad St., 804-288-6515, shadesoflight.com

Featuring a collection of more than 15,000 lighting and home decor products, Shades of Light has offered decorative home lighting and lighting repair for more than 35 years. "We take on everything from changing out defective sockets to cleaning, restoring and rewiring huge chandeliers," merchandise and marketing manager Walter Froh says. The company also makes custom pieces. "Bring in a decorative vase and other decorative accessory and we will turn them into a stunning one-of-a-kind table lamp or pendant," he says.

Lamp Fixture Repair
2. McHugh's Restorations
3. Lamp Emporium

Lighting Fixtures
2. Ferguson Bath, Kitchen & Lighting Gallery
3. Commonwealth Lighting of Virginia



Plants

THE GREAT BIG GREENHOUSE

2051 Huguenot Road, 804-320-1317,
greatbiggreenhouse.com

"Everyone can have a green thumb, but you need some techniques and knowledge to make that happen," says Bobby Lewis, vice president of marketing for Meadows Farms Nurseries, Great Big Greenhouse's parent company. "We have a knowledgeable staff who can help guide consumers to make the correct purchases and use those products in the way they will be successful." Look for expanded contact-free pickup and online workshops in 2021.

2. Strange's Florist and Garden Center
3. Sneed's Nursery

Interior Designer

KATHY CORBET INTERIORS

5206 Markel Road, 804-310-2597, kathycorbetinteriors.com

Now more than ever, owner Kathy Corbet stresses how important it is to "love your home." Tech savviness helped Corbet communicate with clients remotely this year. And in a time when working from home is becoming the status quo, Corbet's passion for interior design has become even more fulfilling. "It just feels good at the end of the day when I've installed something and somebody is thrilled," Corbet says.

2. Sara Hillery Interior Design
3. Dana McKenna Designs

Reader's Favorites 2021

HOME DECOR

(CONTINUED)

Traditional Furniture

VIRGINIA WAYSIDE

Virginia Wayside, 10500 Patterson Ave., 804-740-3124, vawayside.net

"We've been here for close to 57 years now," says Rob-in Childress, vice president of Virginia Wayside Furniture. "I think people know our reputation and come to us for that." With a stock of almost entirely American-made products, as well as some of the most choice gun safes in the state, Virginia Wayside continues to provide returning and new customers quality fixtures year after year.

2. Haverty's
3. Gates Antiques Ltd.

Antiques

WEST END ANTIQUES

2004 Staples Mill Road, 804-359-1600, westendantiquemall.com

"We want to help people make the right decision about an antique — one that will not just be exciting and interesting, but one that may well hold its value," says Steph Hedrick, vice president of operations. Throughout the year, antiques has become highly popular, according to Hedrick. "Our theory is that people have awakened to the need for their home being way more special to them personally."

2. Gates Antiques Ltd.
3. Sheppard Street Antiques

REVIVAL CONSIGNMENT

9750 Gayton Road, 804-750-2200, revivalconsignment.com

For the staff at Revival Consignment, staging and working with consignment wares has become an art form. Seamlessly combining antiques and contemporary pieces, Revival features an ever-changing inventory of furniture, rugs, art and more. "Revival is never the same store twice," owner Whitney O'Connor says. "Every week our inventory turns over, with new art and one-of-a-kind pieces hitting the floor daily." The retailer is hoping to expand and enhance its online platform in 2021.

Consignment Furniture

2. Impulse
3. Izzie's Consigning With Grace

Home Accessories

2. Bridget Beari

Furniture Repair and Refinishing

CATHER'S FURNITURE SERVICE

7617 Staples Mill Road, 804-262-3030, facebook.com/Cathers-Furniture

"I believe this family-owned business was my destiny," says John Cather. He was taught the trade of furniture refinishing, caning and repair as a teen by his now 85-year-old father, Robert L. Cather. He's thankful for the key customers who sustained the business, which he calls a "labor of love" during 2020. "A lot of business comes from referrals."

2. Tinker's
3. Gates Antiques Ltd.

Midcentury Furniture Dealer

METRO MODERN

1919-B W. Cary St., 804-402-1919, metromodern.biz

Metro Modern owner Sally Ramert loves action movies, but her focus is hardly ever on the plot. "They always have really fabulous midcentury furniture," she says with a laugh. And the love goes both ways — several pieces from her showroom appeared in the movie "Men in Black III" and in episodes of the AMC series "The Walking Dead." She hand-picks all of her inventory, she says.

2. Epoch Furnishings

Custom Furniture Maker

BRANCH FURNITURE + DESIGN

804-340-7000, branchfurnitureanddesign.com

Using traditional woodworking techniques, Branch Furniture + Design crafts products to last a lifetime. "The bigger our client's ideas, the better we get," says owner Paul Weimer. "We'll never deliver anything we aren't completely proud of." One recent commission was to create a 10-foot-long farmhouse table and bench using an upright piano from the client's grandmother. "We integrated various parts from the piano and built them into the table," Weimer says.

2. Seth Woods
3. Iron Oak

MULTI-CATEGORY WINNER

Decorative Painter

ART TO DI FOR

804-894-1409, diane@arttodifor.com

Artist Diane Williams travels the world each year to hone her skills. She is committed to "staying on top of current trends and colors as well as what designers are cued in on," she says. Her latest addition is murals on canvas, painted in her studio on thin canvas and applied to a wall or ceiling with easily removable paste "so if you move, you can take it with you," she says.

2. H.J. Holtz & Son
3. Jacob's Ladder

Frame Shop

FAN FRAME & FINE ART

214 N. Robinson St., 804-353-4559, fanframe.net

"We are one of the few framers left in the city that joins all our frames with wood glue and finishing nails," says owner Jo Cudlip. Now open only by appointment — a change welcomed by customers and staff alike — Cudlip says the store's reputation is key to its success. "Framing is a luxury item," she notes. "We have a loyal following because people know if it's not perfect, it doesn't go out the front door."

2. Rick's Custom Frame and Gallery

Painter

H.J. HOLTZ & SON

3106 W. Moore St., 804-358-4109, hjholtzandson.com

Company president Rick Holtz says a top-notch paint job requires two things: quality paint and quality painters. "We don't let anyone paint for us until we have trained them," he says, adding that his team's low turnover rate benefits customers. "Our craftspeople work together exceptionally well. Because people live in their homes as we work, we want to minimize disruptions and get the job done as quickly as possible."

2. N. Chasen & Son
3. Jacob's Ladder

Paint and Painting Supplies

SHERWIN-WILLIAMS

804-282-5464, sherwin-williams.com

On top of 24 Richmond locations, Sherwin-Williams has been working to enhance its online tools to make finding the perfect paint even easier. "We offer the ColorSnap Visualizer for the web and the mobile app, which allows you to virtually paint your scene," Richmond district manager Geoff Mills explains. Sherwin-Williams is excited to introduce new interior latex paints, self-cleaning exterior products, and a Living Well Collection in 2021.

2. Spectrum-Benjamin Moore

Wallpaper Hanger

BARDEN'S DECORATING INC.

804-598-4802, muffybarden@gmail.com

Owner Muffy Barden says she is "beyond grateful for the 32 years of amazing projects the Richmond community has awarded us." The company enjoyed some challenging projects last year that included wallpapering the new CARITAS Center and installing a continuous wallpaper mural encompassing the ceiling, soffits and walls of a Powhatan kitchen.

2. H.J. Holtz & Son
3. N. Chasen & Son

Art Gallery

CROSSROADS ART CENTER

2016 Staples Mill Road, 804-278-8950, crossroadsartcenter.com

Owner Jenni Kirby is proud of Crossroads' vast inventory of diverse art. "For several years, we have had an online sales component to our business, which allowed us to thrive during 2020," she says. They have added free local delivery, curbside pickup, Artists in Residence spaces and a virtual personal shopper program. All are welcome to attend Crossroads' art openings via the gallery's Facebook page.

2. 1708 Gallery



Modern Furniture

LADIFF

24 S. 14th St., 804-648-6210, ladiff.com

A fixture in Richmond for more than 40 years, LaDiff is known for funky modern furniture. President and co-owner Sarah Paxton says many customers reach out to the store looking for large furniture pieces for the interior of the home, but La Diff offers much more. "We have a huge lighting gallery, rugs, carpets and one of the largest outdoor collections in Richmond," she says.

2. Urban Dweller

BUILDING & HOME IMPROVEMENT

Tile
MORRIS TILE DISTRIBUTORS
 2280 Dabney Road, 804-353-4427, morristile.net

Morris Tile has thousands of tiles in its showroom and a 50,000 square-foot warehouse, enabling customers to visit and find the tiles they need. For nearly 50 years, the locally owned family business has worked with contractors and directly with homeowners. The company uses sustainable materials and practices in its offices to minimize its carbon footprint at six locations across Virginia and North Carolina.

- 2. Mosaic Home Interiors
- 3. Costen Floors

General Contractor
GARDNER CONSTRUCTION CORP.
 8107 Larcom Lane, 804-640-7713, gardnerbuilt.com

Travis Gardner's team is equally at home replacing existing woodwork or building a custom door from salvaged lumber. "We are 100% invested in the jobs we do," he says. "We want to work for people who value and appreciate the level of passion we're going to put in every project." During the pandemic, the company distributed gift cards to local firms. "When the small businesses in our community thrive, we all thrive," Gardner says.

- 2. Fabling Built
- 3. Homelink

Architect
SWA ARCHITECTS
 1551 E. Main St., 804-782-9444, smsarchitect.com

Managed through Main Street Realty, SWA Architects focuses on multifamily housing in the Richmond area. "Our most special touch I think is our public art that we develop with local artists," architect Beau Woodrum says. "You can see that at our latest project Scott's View in Scott's Addition." The firm hopes to positively impact the city as a whole, through design. "We consider the surrounding urban environment and try to speak to it at all times," he says.

- 2. Commonwealth Architects
- 3. 3North

Kitchen & Bath Designer/Installer
HOMELINK
 13807 Village Mill Drive, Suite 307, 804-378-3580, home-linkamerica.com

As a family-owned business, Homelink strives to keep overhead low, providing a custom approach for less-than-custom prices. "With a focus on high-end kitchens and baths, it is important that each project meet our client's personal vision and budget," says company president Bill Maslink. "This year, our goal is to continue to provide thoughtful, functional spaces, while working closely with clients on safety measures."

- 2. Custom Kitchens Inc.
- 3. Dana McKenna Designs

Countertops
ARTISTIC STONE DESIGN
 11321 International Drive, 804-594-7069, artisticstonerichmond.com

Customers of Artistic Stone Design are guided through projects by the company's in-house kitchen designer. "That's unique to the stone fabrication business," says president Jon Rathke. The 21-year-old business is seeing a huge shift in the market from the use of natural stone to quartz surfaces. "That represents about 50% of our sales," he says. The company also provides shower panels, outdoor kitchens and fireplaces.

- 2. Classic Granite
- 3. Capitol Granite

Cabinetry
CUSTOM KITCHENS
 6412 Horsepen Road, 804-288-7247, customkitchensinc.net

Custom Kitchens has served Richmond homeowners for more than 60 years. Owner Richard Hendrick learned from his dad, founder and designer David Hendrick, about offering luxurious renovations regardless of the size of the bath or kitchen. "We figure a way to bring it all together and have a beautiful project," Richard says, adding that continuing trends include white interiors, painted cabinets and requests for different woods (quarter-sawn, white oak and walnut).

- 2. Chesapeake Bay Cabinet Co.
- 3. Virginia Cabinetry LLC

Basement Waterproofing
B-DRY WATERPROOFING AND FOUNDATION REPAIR
 804-597-6562, bdry.com

Keeping your budget in mind, B-Dry develops solutions that will permanently solve your water or foundation issues. "Our patented basement waterproofing and foundation repair products have been proven effective and durable," says president Todd Prosan. "Our staff is highly trained, licensed and insured. Through combinations of online scheduling, virtual assessments and digital tools, we'll be bringing tremendous flexibility and simplicity to our customers."

- 2. The Drying Co.
- 3. JES Foundation Repair

Architectural Salvage
CARAVATI'S INC.
 104 E. Second St., 804-232-4175, caravatis.com

What keeps an 80-year-old company relevant in 2021? "The passion for what we do and customer service," says Caravati's co-owner Elaine Kastelberg. This year, the architectural salvage company attracted artists, who took advantage of \$25 industrial cart sales. The staff at the go-to materials resource for old home restorations, renovations and repairs is excited about 2021 and can't wait for their customers to come along for the ride.

- 2. Class and Trash
- 3. Governor's Architectural Antiques

Carpenter
N. CHASEN & SON
 804-353-4563, nchasen.com

At N. Chasen & Son, dedicated employees set a foundation for great work, says manager Shane McCartney. Also, all work is completed in-house. "We don't subcontract anything, which helps us stay on top of our quality and helps us control the outcome of the project," he says. Looking forward in 2021, he says the company expects some growth but wants to continue to focus on quality, not expansion.

- 2. Fabling Built
- 3. Jacob's Ladder Construction

Home Media Sales/Installation
AVICO
 804-495-0594, avico.xyz

Avico custom-designs projects based on budget, desired outcome and future requirements, and it tests products and solutions before implementing them in clients' homes. "It's great to see how powerful and life-changing the solutions can be firsthand and then share that joy with other people," says owner Scott McNutt. The company's new health and wellness program keeps employees happy and healthy, "leading to a healthy relationship with our clients."

- 2. Livewire
- 3. Sound & Image

Glass Projects
ACE GLASS
 11525 Midlothian Turnpike, No. 105, 804-379-3368, aceglass.com

Ace Glass stocks all sizes of glass and mirrors for everything from residential and commercial glass and mirror services to antique vehicle glass and custom-cut glass services. The company has recently invested in a windshield recalibration system. "This prevents our customers from having to take their vehicle to the dealership after we replace the windshield," says CEO Justin Reed.

- 2. Budget Glass
- 3. Binswanger Glass



MULTI-CATEGORY WINNER

COSTEN FLOORS

9840 Mayland Drive, 804-527-2929, costenfloors.com

The Costen family has been flooring us since 1948. "I believe it's our installers. They truly enjoy what they do, and it shows," says president Tripp Costen. "They keep updated on trends and technology. Want to imagine a tile in your home? Our extensive online library has a built-in floor visualizer." What do customers want in 2021? Costen says customers want "more colors, the louder the better ... with new innovative products that make life easier and more enjoyable."

- | | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Flooring | Flooring Installer | Flooring Refinisher |
| 2. ProSource | 2. Builder Décor | 2. Builder Décor |
| 3. Floor & Décor | 3. Howdyshe'll Flooring | 3. Heritage Floors of Hanover |

Reader's Favorites 2021

CURB APPEAL

Deck Builder
OUTDOOR DREAMS
804-592-1305,
outdoordreamsva.com

Outdoor Dreams was established 15 years ago as a landscaping company that evolved into decks and patios, then continued to grow. Attention to detail is key to the company's success, says co-owner Greg Koehler. "We take time to make sure what we build is built to last, to give clients peace of mind that they are getting something that is enjoyable, something that will endure."

2. Homelink
3. Fabling Built



Fence Builder
MINOR'S FENCES INC.
804-752-0096, minorsfences.com

Minor Hairfield got started in the fencing business at age 15 in 1979. Since then, he has held himself to a high standard, and he requires the same of his staff. "Whether we are at a rental house on Lakeside or a multimillion-dollar home in Windsor Farms, the money we get paid comes from our customer's paychecks," he says. "We owe it to them to get it right."

2. Hurricane Fence Co.
3. Cartwright Landscaping

Window Washer
PERFECT REFLECTION
5828 Willow Oaks Drive, 804-475-2238, perfectreflectionwindowcleaning.com

Safety is a top priority for customers, workers and properties alike at Perfect Reflection, a pressure washing, window and gutter cleaning company. Owner Joshua Erb says the time and effort put into every detail of the job makes them stand out. "We are a small business that truly values people, honesty and hard work," he says.

2. Spotless Window Cleaning
3. Top Gun LLC

Windows and Doors
SIEWERS LUMBER & MILLWORK
1901 Ellen Road, 804-358-2103, siewers.com

Family-owned and -operated, Siewers Lumber & Millwork has strived to provide the highest quality building materials since its inception in 1884. "We always try to look at what we would want to put in our own homes, and find products that are superior to other products on the market," says Vice President Michael Siewers.

2. Richmond Window Corp.
3. Custom View

Tree Care
TRUETIMBER ARBORISTS
804-218-8733, truetimber.net

After 22 years, Truetimber Arborists finds itself right at home in a city as green as Richmond. Owner Scott Turner says that Truetimber aims for a zero-waste model by repurposing byproducts "rather than just seeing them go up in smoke." "Hopefully, all the time we're doing that, we're fostering appreciation for trees," he says.

2. Davey Tree Service
3. Arborscape

Driveway Repair
PRO-SEAL SERVICES
804-379-7921, proseal services.com

A family-owned business, Pro-Seal Services offers paving and seal coating in the greater Richmond area. Vice President K.J. Stroud says honesty has been an important factor for growing their customer base over the last 20 years. "We are always very honest and tell you what's going to last and what's not going to last," he says. "We all put our passion and our hearts into every job that we do."

2. Pete's Paving

Roofer
JACOB'S LADDER
804-255-9142, jacobsladder.com

The roof is just the beginning, says president Seth Dorotich. "We pride ourselves on knowing the entire exterior of your home and how it functions," he says, noting that siding and trim repair is often needed along or below roof lines, but they can easily be overlooked. The company, founded in 2003, is locally owned — not a franchise. "All of our managers actually grew up attending the same church," he adds.

2. Hardesty Roofing
3. Master Pro Services

Power Washing
ENVIROWASH
804-744-2974,
envirowashinc.com

Protecting homes and property is something Envirowash has been doing for 20 years. One well-known client: the Virginia Executive Mansion. Owner James Herbert says his company's success isn't based on what they do, but what they don't do: "We don't push water to storm drains; we don't kill plants; we don't damage light fixtures; we don't have water intrusion. We're very proactive in anticipating problems."

2. Richmond Powerwashing
3. Blow Away Power Washing

Masonry
CRADDOCK MASONRY INC.
804-359-4101, craddock masonry.com

Craddock Masonry started 30 years ago with a wheelbarrow and a pickup truck, says vice president Cayce Craddock, son of the founder. The company does additions and customized work for homes. Craddock says customers appreciate their willingness to match brick and mortar so the work looks authentic, as well as their hands-on approach. "Our customers see us on the job, throughout the whole project, on a daily basis."

2. Stonee Masonry

Chimney Sweep / Repair
COUGOT'S CHIMNEY SERVICE
804-798-0855, cougotschimneyservice.com

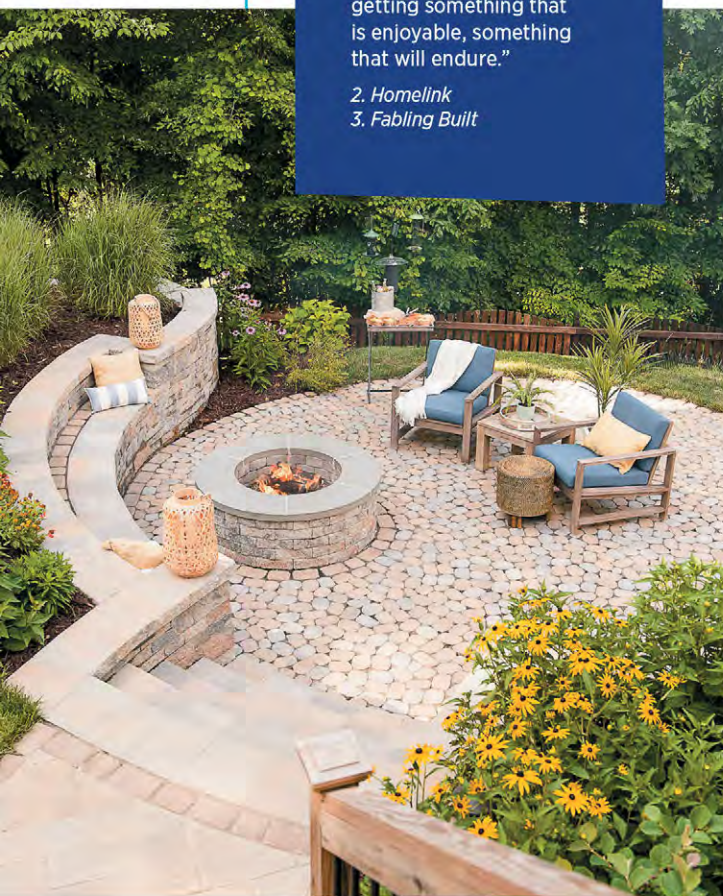
Cougot's loves servicing its Central Virginia base. "Examining chimneys for repairs, inspections and safe venting keeps us working [all] year long as a professional venting company," says owner Dan Fitzpatrick. This chimney sweep and repair company has stayed consistently busy since March 2020 because people have been home identifying repair needs. "The year 2020 was a very wet year with more calls coming in for water issues, which includes leaky chimneys," Fitzpatrick says.

2. Chimney Saver Solutions
3. Neat Sweep

Gutter Cleaning
WRIGHT'S GUTTERS
804-405-6481, wrightsgutters.com

In addition to offering high-quality XTreme Gutter Guards, Wright's Gutters has over 20 years of experience in installing, repairing and cleaning residential and commercial gutter systems. Wright's also offers its services at 15% off for veterans and first responders.

2. Mind in the Gutter
3. Ace Handyman



by
PAULA
PETERS
CHAMBERS
photos by
KIP DAWKINS

Love in Technicolor

A MATCH MADE
IN DESIGN HEAVEN

*The History of
The Greenbrier
America's Resort*



In the family room, a souvenir of The Greenbrier is displayed on a side table. The custom bookcase is painted in Benjamin Moore Ocean Tropic.

In Dawn's office: a pair of custom, hand-painted panels by de Gournay, polka dot wallpaper and a tiger stripe in a rosy hue



Doug Blackburn visited The Greenbrier resort in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, for the first time in the early 1970s. Since then, Blackburn, who grew up in the southern part of the state, has returned often, enjoying the luxe aesthetic created by American designer Dorothy Draper — who also designed the interiors of the Grand Hotel on Michigan's Mackinac Island — and fostered by Draper's successor, Carleton Varney.

Dawn Blackburn has never visited The Greenbrier — a trip planned for December 2020 has been rescheduled for later this year — but she also favors a vivid design aesthetic that incorporates pinks, reds, blues and greens.

"Doug got me a Dorothy Draper book," Dawn says. "I saw what she had done at The Greenbrier and at the Grand Hotel, and I loved it."

The couple, who married in December 2018, decided to renovate Doug's existing home, a Georgian built in the mid-1990s, rather than move elsewhere. They worked with Richmond interior designer Ashley

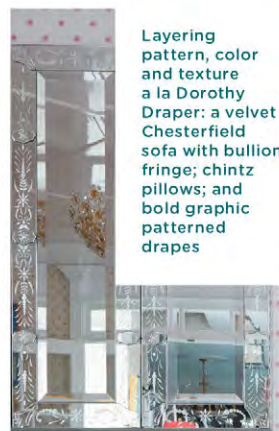
B. Hanley for a complete overhaul.

"I liked that [Hanley] was young and [had] fresh ideas," Dawn says. "We wanted to be bold with color and patterns, and we needed somebody open to that."

Doug recalls that in their first meeting, Hanley asked if either he or Dawn could describe a space that had impressed them. Doug immediately shared his memories of The Greenbrier's Victorian Writing Room, done in dark green and featuring a dramatic Federal mirror over the fireplace mantel. Now, Doug's office has dark-green grass-cloth walls and its own Federal mirror. "I actually went to The Greenbrier with grass-cloth samples and found the perfect Ralph Lauren sample [to use]," Hanley says.

The family room is also dark green, with a comfortable reclining leather chair just for Doug and new built-in bookcases, made possible by closing one of the two arched openings into the sunroom. "Now I have a place for all my books, which had been in boxes for 30 years," he says.

Rather than try to fit what they had into their new vision, the couple started fresh, working with Richmond organizing firm Minima to identify what made sense to keep, both emotionally and practically. Hanley then sourced new furnishings. "Sixty percent [of what we had] went to Goodwill," Doug says. ■



Layering pattern, color and texture a la Dorothy Draper: a velvet Chesterfield sofa with bullion fringe; chintz pillows; and bold graphic patterned drapes



A copper sink and a Roman window shade in a Schumacher chintz provide subtle pops of color in the overall neutral kitchen.



In a guest room, a pillow embroidered with "Shh, it's sleepy time," is a nod to signage found at The Greenbrier.



The front door is painted Benjamin Moore Exotic Red, sprayed with a Fine Paints of Europe gloss finish.

Dawn was especially happy to claim a small formal living room as her office. Resplendent in bright pink and green, it features gold and mirror accents, a dramatic Visual Comfort floral chandelier and a lacquered ceiling in light pink. "No one had been in that room for 20 years," she says. "We want to use all the rooms, to have them be comfortable, inviting and welcoming."

Hanley says the goal is to strike a balance between comfort and impact.

"With this project in particular, some of the challenges were making sure we incorporated specific pieces that provided function, comfort and color," Hanley says. "We kept the foyer calm and quiet, and the kitchen a neutral palette. With all the spaces, it's finding the right harmony between the different colors and patterns, and making sure the scale of the different patterns work with each other."

While the overall effect is certainly Draper-Varney inspired, Hanley says she aimed for a fresh and unique feel.

"We didn't want [the house] to be too literally a replica of The Greenbrier," Hanley says, noting the Draper influences of chinoiserie, blue-and-white porcelain pottery and Staffordshire dogs — even vintage "little Greenbrier things" to adorn shelves. But there are also modern touches, such as the vinyl grass-

In the main bedroom, there's a sumptuous half tester bed inspired by the luxurious bed and bedding found in The Greenbrier's Presidential Suite.



“It’s even better in person”

—DAWN BLACKBURN

cloth-wrapped coffee table in the family room. “The key is grounding rooms with more masculine colors or furnishings that make it feel less feminine,” she says.

Dawn, who gave Hanley lots of pictures to use as inspiration, couldn’t be more pleased with the end result. “It’s even better in person,” she says.

Doug adds, “We can’t recommend [Hanley] enough. We think she’s wonderful. We were putting together two families and did a remodel, and she survived all that.”

“My goal was to literally knock their socks off and wow them with a design that would become a marriage of their two styles,” Hanley says. “It’s a fun house ... one of the coolest projects I’ve done to date.” ■



A vintage turquoise blue-glazed Foo Dog adds a note of chinoiserie, a signature element in any Draper-inspired space.



Initially, Doug was unsure of the color used on the Chippendale-style wainscot; he’s “beyond thrilled” with the end result.



Draper-inspired details in the dining room include unmatched chairs and a cluster of flower-filled, blue and white Chinese porcelains on the table.



Inspired by the Victorian Writing Room at The Greenbrier — Doug's favorite — his office features a Federal-style bullseye mirror and green paint on the woodwork.



The brilliant color palette and Greenbrier theme flow throughout the house, as in this powder room, which features a Manuel Canovas floral wallpaper and a coral cabinet.

NARI

CONTRACTOR OF THE YEAR

AWARDS



Causing us to stay close to home for nearly a year, the pandemic has given us more time than ever to assess the functionality of our spaces. We're more keenly aware of that cramped kitchen or outdated bathroom; we're feeling that urge born of necessity to spend more time outside. To turn these frustrations into solutions, sometimes an overhaul is in order. Here, learn about top industry professionals in the Richmond area who have been honored for such renovations by the National Association of the Remodeling Industry with 2020 Contractor of the Year awards. *By Meridith Ingram*

Victoria Borges



ENTIRE HOUSE

Poole & Poole Architecture



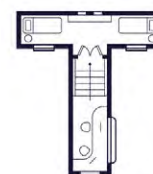
When these clients purchased land to build a vacation home on Carter's Creek, they decided that the dilapidated historic barn on the property was too special to demolish. A team that included an architect, a structural engineer, a local contractor and various artisans has transformed it into a charming two-story cottage where the family will stay while building the primary residence. Original exterior materials such as board-and-batten siding and split-face shingles were replaced with modern lookalikes, window locations were preserved wherever possible, and the original barn door was salvaged and remains in its original location. To expand the second floor, a long dormer was added, and a rear porch was enlarged and enclosed to provide a nine-month porch overlooking the water.

Runner-up: Lane Homes & Remodeling

RESIDENTIAL INTERIOR OR EXTERIOR SPECIALTY

Lane Homes
& Remodeling

An infinity-edged terrace of marble pavers features a granite fire pit and seating.



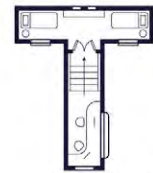
These homeowners wanted to reimagine their outdoor living area by creating a multipurpose space for entertaining and year-round swimming. An infinity-edged terrace of marble pavers features a granite fire pit and plentiful space for seating, and a newly expanded cantilevered upper deck off the primary residence provides an additional area to gather. Adjacent to the fire-pit area, a detached building houses a custom pool/spa. This enclosed space provides protection from the elements, while abundant windows and doors that slide open to the terrace emulate the feeling of being outdoors. A basement level was created for this structure so that the custom spa could be flush with the ground and serviced from below.



Above: Steve Kancianic; below: John Magor

RESIDENTIAL
INTERIOR
REMODEL

Lane Homes
& Remodeling



The first floor of this Tudor-style home has been updated with a modern take. The clients' priorities

included the ability to age in place and using materials that would withstand wear and tear from two family dogs. In opening and updating the first floor, existing square footage was reclaimed to create a first-floor bedroom suite. The main bath is fully open; with no barriers between the vanity, shower and closet, it is fully accessible. A newly designed kitchen features weathered wood cabinets and a wet bar area, adding back a taste of rustic. The foyer was updated and expanded by relocating a half bath by 4 feet, while a custom front door made from steel evokes Tudor vibes in a fresh way.

Runner-up: Maison Construction & Renovations

A custom front door made from steel and glass evokes Tudor vibes in a fresh way.



COMMERCIAL REMODEL

Kathy Corbet Interiors

with Classic Granite & Marble



After 20 years in their office, owners of a local eye-care business wanted to welcome their clients to a brighter, more modern space. Dark-toned furnishings, display cases and fixtures have been updated to lighter, brighter versions. To create more space, a small break room was replaced with a children's area, and the enlarged waiting area now contains a bistro-height counter that doubles as a workspace if opticians need it. In the reception space, dark granite countertops were swapped for a lighter neutral, and marine-grade paint in a light neutral tone withstands the kicks and bumps of a busy reception desk. LED lights and a midtone neutral luxury vinyl tile further brighten the space. A textured feature wall provides an artsy focal point.

Above: John Magor; below: QPH Photo

RESIDENTIAL
ADDITION

Hampden Hill
Custom Builder

with

Custom View Windows
& Doors, Ferguson
Enterprises, Mosaic
Home Interiors,
C.L. Shade Drafting and
Creative Conservation

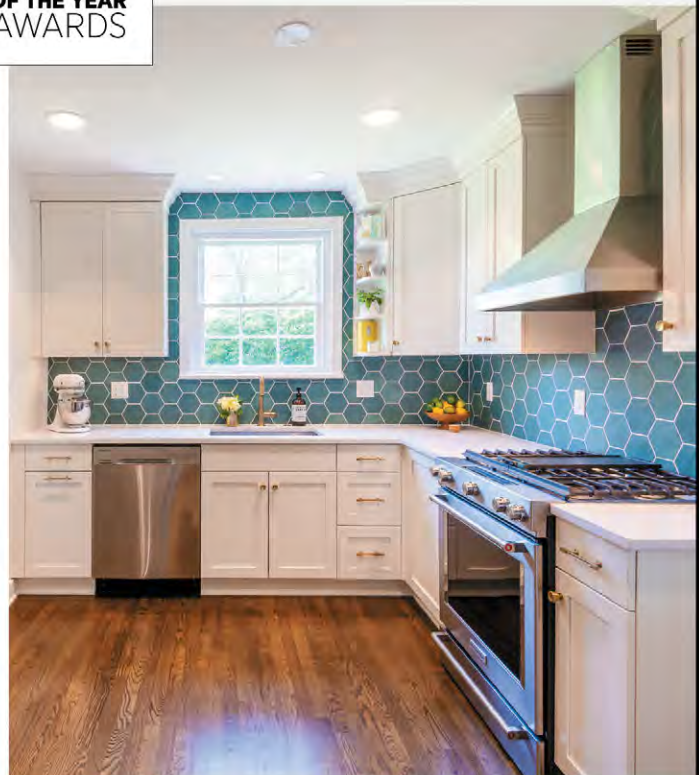


Blending old elements with new was key in this two-story addition and renovation for a family wanting to create their forever home with more living and private space. The exterior addition includes the same roofing, rafters and decking from the existing structure, while the old porch was extended to create a new wraparound porch with custom flower boxes. A custom bar with an antique mirror and custom screens in the doors is the focal point in a newly constructed entry; a new bedroom suite and kitchen bring modern convenience while using fixtures and finishes relating to the historical charm of the home. A full bath and custom Murphy bed change the first-floor playroom, once the living room, into an in-law suite in minutes.

Runner-up: Lane Homes & Remodeling

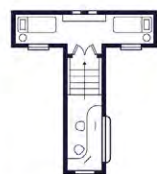
Blending old elements with new was key in this two-story addition and renovation.

Above: Kip Dawkins



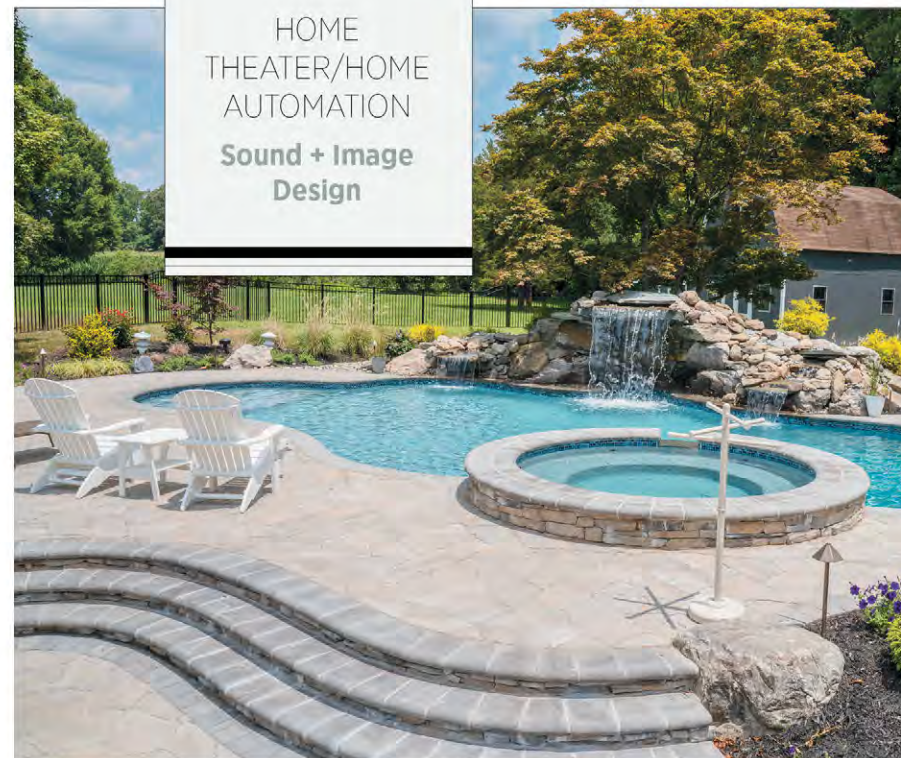
RESIDENTIAL KITCHEN
UNDER \$100K

Custom Kitchens Inc.

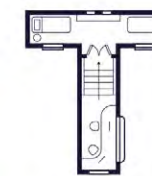


This family of four wanted a bigger, more functional kitchen without affecting the architectural integrity of their 1940s bungalow. Borrowing space from the adjacent laundry room provided the extra square footage needed for improved workflow, new appliances and increased storage with uber-functional pull-outs. Easy-to-clean quartz countertops make the kitchen kid-friendly, while a new corner coffee and drinks bar is the place the adults enjoy starting and ending a busy day. White Shaker-style cabinets are timeless yet modern, while the teal hexagonal tile backsplash and brass hardware provide colorful accents. New heated hardwood floors amplify the cozy factor and blend with the existing hardwoods.

Runner-up: BK Martin with Reico Kitchen and Bath, Nolan Company, Classic Granite & Marble, Costen Floors and Siewers Lumber & Millwork



HOME
THEATER/HOME
AUTOMATION
Sound + Image
Design



This client requested an outdoor audio system that would “knock your socks off.” Nine outdoor speakers and two subwoofers later, the new system delivers high-quality audio over the squeals of grandchildren and the sound of the pool’s three waterfalls. Aesthetics were important in this backyard oasis, so speakers are mounted symmetrically on the exterior of the home, while those by the pool are disguised as rocks. Wiring is fully hidden from view, carefully trenched in under an existing brick walkway. Now, music can be streamed from any mobile device for the whole family’s enjoyment.

**Aesthetics were important
in this backyard oasis.**

RESIDENTIAL KITCHEN OVER \$100K

Gardner Construction

with Kathy Corbet Interiors,
Ferguson Enterprises, H.E. Satterwhite



With an empty nest on their horizon, these homeowners sought a total overhaul of their hardworking family kitchen. To expand the space, walls to the dining room were removed and replaced with glass pocket doors, while top-of-the-line appliances were more thoughtfully placed to reduce traffic jams in work and eating zones. A plumbed espresso bar, wine tasting area and interior year-round herb garden in a sunny window address the homeowners’ interests in entertaining and cooking. Wood reclaimed from the project has been transformed into a barn door, island legs, shelving and wood accents on the custom range hood. Leathered granite countertops add texture and depth, while a Simon Pearce light fixture over the island is functional art.

Runner-up: Paragon Construction with Artistic Stone, Appliance Contract Sales, Mosaic Home Interiors, Somerville Bath and Kitchen Store and C.L. Shade Drafting



ORGANIZATIONAL REMODEL/UPFIT

Kathy Corbet Interiors

with Oxford Contracting Service,
Ferguson Enterprises



Custom cabinetry was the solution in a small but mighty space that was tasked to store, serve, entertain and delight in the farmhouse of these homeowners. On one wall, cabinets fronted with rustic wire mesh store and showcase glassware. A coffee bar and other small appliances are tucked behind two cabinet doors. On the other wall, tall cabinets for a wine fridge on one side and storage for mops and brooms on the other flank a countertop area in between, providing flexible space for cookbooks, an auxiliary desk or party staging — whatever the situation dictates. The cabinets feature a decorative finish by a local artist that incorporates multiple layers of metallic golds, earthy greens and wood tones.

Runner-up: BK Martin Construction Inc. with Costen Floors





RESIDENTIAL BATHROOM
OVER \$50K

Custom Kitchens Inc.



A burst pipe while they were away on vacation, despite the havoc it wreaked, provided these empty nesters the opportunity to create their dream bathroom. The new space, with stained walnut cabinetry, creamy countertops and warm-hued stone tile floors, evokes the feel of a European hotel. With age-in-place features a priority, the curbless shower features multiple shower heads, jets and grab bars that can accommodate a wheelchair if needed. A frosted-glass barn door slides between the shower and water closet. Separate vanities for each user as well as linens. A heated shower seat and floors ensure warmth in this open space.

Runner-up: Lane Homes & Remodeling

OUTDOOR
LIVING

Lane Homes
& Remodeling



What was once a dilapidated cinder block garage has been transformed into an indoor/outdoor escape for entertaining that's part veranda, part storage, and wholly stylish and functional. Much of the 1940s structure needed to be rebuilt, an unpermitted apartment was demolished and the concrete floor was re-poured. The new space features a half-bath with a trough sink, shiplap, patterned tile and brass fixtures, while the main indoor area provides room for lounging and dining. A barn door hides the storage area, while French doors to the veranda let in light and seamlessly blend the indoor and outdoor spaces. Bricks from the original structure were reused in the pathways around the building, and a fountain in the courtyard provides serenity and an escape from city life.

Runner-up: Paragon Construction Company LLC with C.L. Shade Drafting

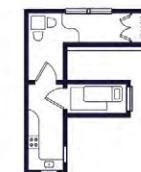
Part veranda, part storage, and wholly stylish and functional



RESIDENTIAL BATH UNDER \$50K

Jennifer Duncan, CKD

with Morris Tile Distributors, Artistic Stone



For clients who wanted a brighter aesthetic and increased functionality in their main bathroom, removing and relocating certain elements was key. The entry door was moved and enlarged to improve access and flow. A new water closet with a frosted frosted-glass door provides privacy without visually shrinking the space and allows for plenty of natural light. A large shower features custom tile work and easy-clean glass. Tall custom cabinetry provides ample storage for linens. Improved vanity lighting with side sconces, another client request, eliminates shadows. A cohesive color palette, accented with touches of gold, conveys an air of laid-back elegance.

Runner-up: Leo Lantz Construction with Morris Tile Distributors and The Somerville Bath & Kitchen Store



Additional
Awards

CONTRACTOR OF THE YEAR

Jeremy Shank,
Paragon Construction

VENDOR OF THE YEAR

Whit Morris,
Morris Tile Distributors

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Brian Austin, AHG
Construction & Remodeling