



A sculptural staircase with a simple iron railing flanks the entry of the home. The wall sconce from Kuzco Lighting brings a contemporary element to the space, while the striking Chute multi-pendant light floats above. **OPPOSITE:** The floor-to-ceiling armoire-type cabinetry with its mix of solid and glass doors keeps the kitchen feeling light and airy. The black Ascendra cabinet pulls by Top Knobs were purchased at Bird Decorative Hardware & Bath.



Longtime Raleigh residents had reached the stage in life when their three children were beginning to trickle off to college. Ready for a new home that would suit their changing lifestyle, they found the perfect location in a golf course-adjacent lot beautifully situated in Raleigh's North Ridge neighborhood.

They hired Frazier Home Design to design a custom home that would take advantage of the property's stunning views and allow for effortless entertaining with an open floorplan. Once the home, built by Blue Heron Signature Homes, was ready, they called on Sandra Moncada-Mainz of Couture Haus Interior Design. She was the only designer they wanted to work with.

The devoted clients had worked with Moncada-Mainz on their previous home and knew from experience that their creative partnership worked. "We just complement each other very well," explains the homeowner. "She comes up with things I never would have thought of. It's like she reads my mind." While it would have been easy to replicate the modern-farmhouse style of the previous home that they had loved, the clients wanted to incorporate a more contemporary aesthetic into the interiors this go-round.

"The home is designed to bring the outdoors in, so they wanted minimal furniture and to keep everything simple with beautiful details throughout," Moncada-Mainz explains. The designer focused on striking features to complement the open-concept layout, like the sculptural



staircase with its simple iron railing and the dramatic LED pendant light reminiscent of a wind chime that floats above it. With most of the rooms having beautiful views or access to the outdoor space, pool, or golf course, she prioritized furniture placement to create a seamless indoor-outdoor flow. “We designed the house specific to the lot, and we love the outdoor space,” the client adds.

But it’s the kitchen that is the true centerpiece of the home. The Taj Mahal leathered-quartzite countertops and backsplash are the standout features. “We opted for floor-to-ceiling armoire-type cabinetry on one side,” Moncada-Mainz explains, “mixing solid and glass doors to keep the space light and airy.” The facing side features matching floor-to-ceiling cabinetry to conceal the refrigerator and freezer, keeping the look clean and beautiful. Floating shelves flank the range hood and sculptural windows.

Adjacent to the kitchen sits the scullery, which was designed to house anything that would detract from the

kitchen’s beauty—although the scullery is no eye-sore. Moncada-Mainz paired dark Dekton Kelya countertops with a milky, glazed porcelain-tile backsplash that sets off the matte-black swing arm light. Pantry goods and kitchen appliances neatly line the white shelves that wrap around to the stainless-steel sink with its pull-down faucet.

The open-concept common space flows from the kitchen to the less-is-more modern-farmhouse dining room, then through the glass accordion doors to the patio and into the family room. Designed with ample seating for the whole family, the family room features Society District Slate tile in matte to surround the fireplace—the focal point of the room. Just off of the family room sits the billiard room, with its walls lined with textured Rivets wallpaper by Phillip Jeffries. An oval suspension chandelier illuminates the billiard table below. “I love the billiard room,” the designer admits.

Moncada-Mainz created a calm and serene bedroom with a muted colorway. The Sherwin-Williams Sea Salt wall



The Society District Slate tile in matte surrounds the fireplace that serves as the focal point of the family room. The Grace Chandelier by Tech Lighting hangs above the Huntington House sectional from Furnitureland South. The custom window treatments are Trend in Aqua by Fabricut. **OPPOSITE:** The Phillip Jeffries Rivet wallpaper in Bronze on Jute provides a textured backdrop to the billiard room. The Eerie Linear Suspension Chandelier by Kuzco Lighting lights the billiard table below.