breaking
tradition

Marrying the warmth of natural materials with the freshness of clean, simple lines gives this North Carolina home a style all its own.

Thanks to a pillow-packed bed swing that's large enough for a full family pile-on and a fireplace to warm the space, most days you'll find Whitten and Ben hanging out on their home's screen porch. "It feels like a room in the outdoors," homeowner Forrest Staton says.

With its lush green surroundings and modern exterior,

you'd never guess Forrest Staton's house is nestled right in the middle of the metropolis of Winston-Salem, North Carolina. "Growing up, I used to play in these woods and always loved this piece of property," Forrest says. When she had the opportunity to build her family's new home here, she wanted it to both capitalize on and complement the picturesque natural setting. She also wanted a home that would reflect her Southern-traditional-meets-modern personality and graciously accommodate the high-traffic lifestyle that comes with a young family.

Enter her talented cousin, interior designer Alys Protzman, and architect Larry Snively. Together the trio designed an elongated H-shape, window-wrapped home defined by a combination of traditional forms, modern materials, and pared-down detailing. The home's open floor plan forgoes formal rooms for practical, light-filled spaces that flow easily into one another.

From floor to ceiling, wood plays a key role in most every room, bringing rustic warmth and authenticity to the home: Exposed Douglas fir beams, peaking at almost 25 feet high, create a voluminous barnlike central room; shiplap-style plank walls—painted a clean white to keep things crisp—wrap rooms with texture; knotty floors with

a limed look give a sophisticated base underfoot; and chunky floating shelves and mantels add punctuation. "With its clean lines, white walls, and simpler detailing, the house has a modern twist, but with the use of natural materials and tone-on-tone textures it feels tactile and warm, not cold and austere," Protzman says.

With quiet backgrounds in place, the rooms come alive with edited punches of vibrant color. Using Forrest's favorite navy as the consistent thread throughout, Protzman added bold hues to bring youthful vitality to the traditional furnishings. Forrest's collection of colorful art adds the final layer. "The color is the artistic, youthful side of the house," she says. "I really like things being aged and natural and rustic, but at the same time it's important to me that the house looks clean and simple and uncluttered. I feel like this house represents the marriage of those two things."

above: A modern zinc roof tops traditional painted brick, setting up a blend of styles that continues throughout the house. "I wanted the house to be built of something durable and sustainable," Forrest says. *opposite:* The shapes of the furnishings—in curvy legs, swooping arms, and gourd-shape lamps—soften the strong, angular architecture of the vaulted great-room.

Designer Alys Protzman shares her tips on how to use color as a punchy accent that complements, not overbears.

KEEP WALLS WHITE. *This creates a clean, crisp backdrop that ensures every color pops. Protzman's favorite is Benjamin Moore's Super White.*

CREATE VISUAL CONSISTENCY. A designated color that appears throughout the house allows rooms to have their own individual palettes while still flowing together as a whole. Choosing a hue, like navy, that goes well with many colors provides more flexibility in accent color choices.

FLOOD ROOMS WITH NATURAL LIGHT. Colors really open up and sing when enhanced with the warm rays of sunshine.

PLAY TO YOUR SURROUNDINGS. In a room with lots of windows, green is a great choice to connect the indoors and out.

LOOK TO ACCESSORIES FOR INSPIRATION. A great pillow or rug can introduce a room's palette and help tie everything together.

REMEMBER THE ARTWORK. One colorful painting on a white wall is all the adornment you need in a room.

INTRODUCE COLOR IN UNEXPECTED WAYS. Nothing turns heads like a bright green sink.

opposite: Glazed navy arabesque tiles and floating wood shelves turn the bar into an eye-stopping destination. "We wanted it to feel like a little jewel box," designer Alys Protzman says. *this photo:* No formal dining room here but plenty of sophistication. Protzman crowned the substantial table with a striking handcrafted chandelier. Simple Parsons chairs and playful wing chairs complete the look.

"We thrive on sunlight. We really would prefer to be outside, but if we have to be inside we want it to be in a bright, sunny room."

— homeowner Forrest Staton

farm made **modern**

lesson number

7

Put the architecture on display—exposed joinery makes a room visually more interesting and gives it a soulful honesty. Keeping it natural also adds warmth, especially in a lofty space.

opposite: Morning to night, activity abounds at the breakfast nook's sturdy oak trestle table. Framed by a comfy built-in banquette, the room easily transitions from work space to family lounge. *above:* A honed Calacatta marble slab backsplash lends a clean visual consistency to the mostly white kitchen. The bright space stays flooded with cheer, thanks to ample windows and sunshine-yellow Eames-style stools.

opposite: With its mix of graphic wallpaper, a bright green industrial sink, and a traditional mirror, the powder room delights. *clockwise, from top left:* Light gray walls—some of the only nonwhite walls in the house—take on the mudroom's continuous traffic. Folding laundry, hosing off muddy boots, wrapping gifts—family life happens in the well-appointed utility room. Nubby texture and a bit of sparkle enliven the watery blues and tailored neutrals in the master bedroom. All eyes are on the world in Ben's playful bedroom. Just off the kitchen, a built-in desk gives Forrest an organized spot. In Whitten's room, a classic Jenny Lind bed pairs with a sophisticated mix of stripes and ethnic prints—plus her requisite hot pink.