



“Everyone migrates to this area of the house,” says Rachael Ford. “We can all be here — flopped on the couch, eating at the table, at the bar — but each have our own space.” Designer Brittany Roux chose the decor to be “gracious with a bit of a rock star edge.” In the kitchen, a raised walnut counter surrounds the marble interior of the island. “It’s so much nicer to set a wine glass down on wood, and it adds warmth to the space,” says Bryan Nunes. Chrissy Gupton guided the couple on lighting the room. “The pendant lamps work so nicely, they reflect on the countertops but speak to the lighting fixtures in the living area and breakfast nook,” she says.



# LETT SHEEN

This home on Ridge Road is a glam gathering space for a big family

by **AYN-MONIQUE KLAHRE**  
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**D** Bryan Nunes and Rachael Ford are not afraid of taking chances. Both are hair stylists and salon owners — Nunes runs Blo in Brier Creek, Ford has Gabriel Ryder Salon downtown — a line of work that, Nunes says, attracts creative minds who care about their surroundings. So when they built their home together, one where they would blend both their tastes and their families, there was little chance it would be boring.

“Some people are paralyzed by a can of paint, but not me,” says Nunes. “I love the creative process.” They worked with DJF Builders to design their Ridge Road home. It’s full of generous spaces where the family can comfortably gather, like the open-plan living and dining area, multiple patios, and swimming pool. But there are also plenty of bedrooms, bathrooms, and storage areas for the couple and their five kids, ages 1 to 19, to have space for themselves. “Blending

a family is tough, and we’re fortunate to live in a home where we all have our own spaces, but can also come together,” says Nunes. “It’s a blessing.”

Chrissy Gupton served as coordinator for DJF during the build and worked with the couple to choose details like tile, fixtures, and finishes. “I tried to help them reflect their personalities — they’re both soft, kind-hearted people, but they like some shine in the right spot,” Gupton says. Lighting, in particular, was key. “I don’t like direct light, only indirect,” says Nunes. They tapped Raleigh lighting designer Louise Gaskill for several custom chandeliers and used can lights with diffusers to add soft contrast and shadow to the walls.

When it came time to decorate, Ford knew who she wanted to enlist: one of her clients, Brittany Roux of Roux MacNeill Studio. “I was sitting in her chair, and Rachael said, *We’re*

*building a house — I want to connect you with Bryan,*” says Roux. The couple had a sense of what they wanted, and let Roux run with it. “We tried to be collaborative, but not meddle,” says Nunes. “But we wanted to push the envelope.”

“They wanted the home to be dramatic and feel luxe,” says Roux. The couple was attracted to rich hues like blues and purples, along with glam detailing, like brass hardware and textured wall coverings. “We like dark colors, we like mood and ambiance,” says Nunes. “We want people to feel a sense of serenity and peace, but also be like, *wow, I never would’ve thought of that.*”

While the home may not look like this every day — often a pack-n-play is the centerpiece of the living room, Ford says — it has all the style and warmth they’d hoped for. “This house is epic,” Nunes says. “There’s not a day I don’t think, *I can’t believe I get to live here.*”





*Opposite page:* The study is to the left of the front hallway, through glass French doors. Roux put in subtle nods to the couple's work, including the ponytail-shaped sconces and art prints on the wall that show sculptures of wigs made from paper by Nikki Nye and Amy Flurry of the Paper-Cut-Project. *This page:* The breakfast nook overlooks the backyard. Nunes loves the live-edge table here. "It's cool, people can dig their forks in it and it just adds character," he says.





The dining room is just to the right when you enter the home, opposite the study. “We didn’t want something big and pretentious, especially since we don’t use it every day,” says Nunes. Roux used a mix of textures and subtle patterns in varied gray tones to make it feel cozy and inviting, including nubby curtains, a diamond-pattern rug, and abstract flocked wallcovering from Black Edition by The Romo Group. “The wallpaper is just spectacular,” says Nunes. “I don’t think I’ve ever seen anything like it,” agrees Ford. “It feels like a caterpillar, and makes the room really unique.” Another star in the room is a framed-out, built-in wine wall that Gupton helped design. “It’s so dramatic, it acts as a piece of art,” says Nunes.











*Opposite page:* In the bedroom, Roux played up the moody tones with the botanical Cole & Sons wallpaper, a “theatrically tall” velvet headboard, and layered lighting. “We used both bedside lamps and sconces, plus a chandelier and a tray of lights around the perimeter to splash the ceiling at night,” says Roux. The walk-in closet is done in a deep teal, with niceties like brass hardware, a small chandelier and... a coffee maker. “I need it before I see all the kids!” Nunes laughs. *This page:* In the bathroom, Gupton helped select the marble tile, modern fixtures, and tub.



*This page:* In the powder room, Gupton helped find the unique chandelier, which diffuses the light through glass balls. "Its effervescent feel inspired the whole room," says Roux, who played it up with marbled wallpaper. "It brings in all the blacks, grays, and whites together, but also has little bits of yellow and aqua." *Opposite page:* Out back, a screened-in patio serves as a lounge. "The back yard is stunning, and we can all enjoy it together," says Ford. She was the one who pushed for the dark exterior. "People either love or hate it," says Nunes. "But with the gas lanterns, bluestone and big porches, it feels manor-esque."





