

# BRILLIANT

## S T R O K E S,

WHEN ASHLEY WALKER DELAPP AND HUSBAND MARK LASSITER FIRST TOURED THEIR HOUSE, IT HAD LANGUIshed FOR A YEAR ON THE MARKET AS A FLIP THAT HAD FLOPPED.

“Potential buyers likely saw only an underwhelming sea of ‘greige,’” says Ashley, referring to the gray-beige hue swathing the walls of the Charlotte 1960 trilevel. For Ashley, an interior designer, the neutral palette was simply a blank canvas ready to receive her mix of confident color and hey-check-me-out geometric patterns. Plus, the home’s Rat Pack-era style serves as an appropriate setting for her love of cool midcentury modern furnishings and accents.



### 46 family affair

There’s plenty of room for Ashley Walker Delapp, Mark Lassiter, dog Tessa, and two of the couple’s sons—Sutton and Schafer—from their combined family of seven children, on a long heirloom sofa that Ashley had reupholstered.

# 47

## color happy

Red lacquer updates a living room desk—originally a vanity that Ashley found at an antiques shop. “When it’s a question of lacquer versus paint, I consider how much use a piece will get,” Ashley says. “Lacquer is durable and protective. That makes it great for high-use areas like an entry table or desk.”



# 48 heirloom beauty

The living room is anchored by a suite of 1958 Lane furnishings passed down by Mark's grandmother. Ashley re-covered the slipper chairs in a bold pattern. A vintage Italian marble table completes the room's retro vibe.





## LACQUER 101

*Make the most of a lacquer finish with these tips from Ashley Walker Delapp.*

### 1. DO THE PREP

Sanding between coats is what gives a lacquered piece its glossy finish. "Always sand a piece first, then prime," Ashley says. "Then be sure to sand between coats."

### 2. PROTECT IT

It pays to top a DIY lacquer job with clear polyurethane. "I prefer to use a clear spray," Ashley says. "You get a smoother finish without any brushstrokes."

### 3. SMART PICK

Opt for lacquer if you want to redo furnishings with laminate or thin glossy wood veneer. Lacquer adheres better to these surfaces than regular paint.

# 49

## new again

Ashley saved some money by repurposing old dresser mirrors as wall art in the living room. "It's cheaper to buy mirrors as part of a secondhand piece than to buy new," she says. The freshly painted mirrors reflect the symmetrical arrangement of the furnishings.

“A COAT OF PAINT AND NEW HARDWARE CAN  
MAKE VINTAGE FINDS LOOK LIKE A *million bucks.*”

— HOMEOWNER AND INTERIOR DESIGNER ASHLEY WALKER DELAPP



50

### fun attire

Vintage chrome chairs re-covered with a geometric print shimmer in the dining room.

“I can’t resist a good set of chairs,” Ashley says.

“You can re-cover a chair cushion using a small amount of fabric, and if you want something different in six months, it doesn’t break the bank to change it out.”



**QUICK TIP**

Don't be afraid to mix metals. Shiny brass, vintage brass, stainless-steel, chrome, and black finishes can all work together in a vintage-style home to add depth and one-of-a-kind character.

# 51

## open view

Mark removed a cabinet near the range and installed floating shelves to make the kitchen feel more open. A white penny-tile backsplash adds texture and enhances the space's modern flavor.

# 52

## turn around

Beaded-board panels on existing IKEA kitchen cabinets didn't suit the desired midcentury aesthetic, so Mark reversed the door and drawer fronts to expose the smooth side. Gray paint unites the original cabinets with a new island. Ashley boosted the kitchen's subtle glamour with brass pulls and knobs she found on Etsy.





# 53

## bed frame

There wasn't a good place to position the bed in the master bedroom that didn't block a window, so Ashley turned potential awkwardness into an eye-catching focal point by framing the window—and the headboard—with extra-wide curtain panels and a graphic header. Beside tables placed in front of the panels enhance the framing effect.

# 54

## on the up side

A bamboo dresser coated in black lacquer and topped with a vessel sink and sleek faucet steps into the guest bath as an elegant vanity. As a finishing touch, overhead lighting was removed and new electrical boxes added for square sconces.





## 55 illusionary tactics

In a sitting area off the bedroom, Ashley united different-size, vintage “his” and “hers” chairs with new upholstery. Graphic wallpaper camouflages the low ceiling.

FOR RESOURCES, SEE PAGE 92.