



*An understated backdrop was the perfect springboard for a homeowner's passions: clean lines, vibrant color, and bold pattern.*

WORDS **JAN SOULTS WALKER** PHOTOGRAPHS **BRIE WILLIAMS**  
FIELD EDITING **ANDREA CAUGHEY**

When Ashley Walker Delapp and husband Mark Lassiter first toured this house, it had languished on the market for a year as a flip that seemed to have 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. But the couple instead envisioned a great home base for their combined family that includes seven children, ages 7 to 23. “Plus, it just had great bones,” Ashley says, including refinished original hardwood floors and a vaulted ceiling in the living room.

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—all achieved with strategically located wallcoverings, painted finishes, thoughtfully selected fabrics, and abstract artwork. Plus, the home’s Rat Pack-era styling serves as an appropriate setting for her love of cool midcentury modern-inspired furnishings and accents.

**1** Ashley Walker Delapp was over the moon when offered her husband's grandmother's suite of 1958 Lane furniture. She re-covered the sofa in tone-on-tone fabric and the slipper chairs in a bold black-and-white pattern. A vintage Italian marble table completes the living room's retro vibe. **2** Red lacquer updates this living room desk—originally a vanity that Ashley found at an antiques shop. **3** Geometric exterior architecture and a vibrant vermilion three-light door foreshadow the home's interiors.



**MEET ASHLEY**  
 ASHLEY WALKER DELAPP  
 AND TESSA THE FRENCH  
 BULLDOG STAND IN THE  
 ENTRYWAY WHERE NEW  
 GRASS CLOTH LAYERS THE  
 EXPANSIVE STAIRCASE  
 WALL WITH TEXTURE.





“WALLPAPER IS A GREAT WAY TO DEFINE SPACES, ESPECIALLY IN AN OPEN-PLAN HOME.”

ASHLEY WALKER DELAPP, HOMEOWNER/INTERIOR DESIGNER



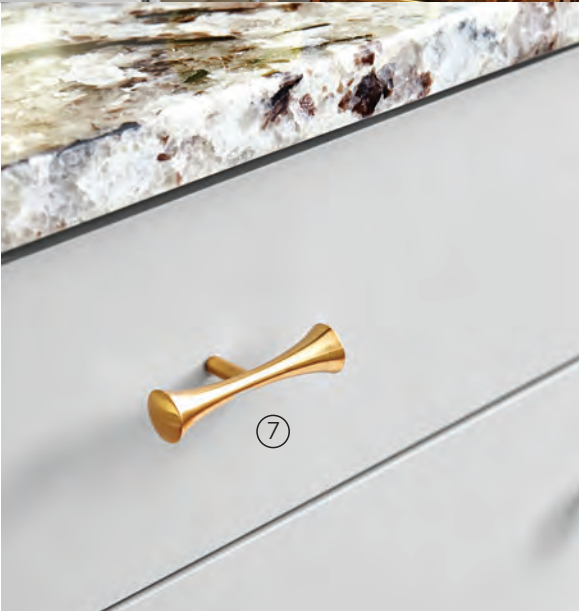
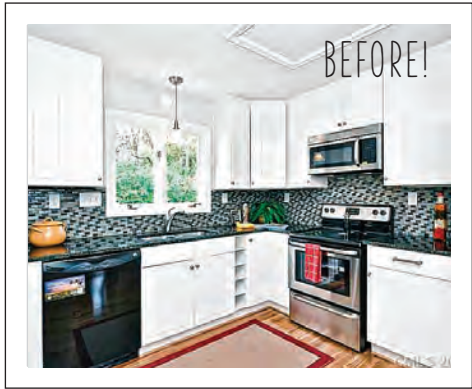
**4** “It’s all a play on geometry,” Ashley says of her design choices, such as the new dodecahedron wood pendant in the dining room paired with an accent wall covered in gray metallic wallpaper.

**5** Two chartreuse fabrics—faux bois on the outside and velvet for the front and seat—add interest to the barrel chair Ashley found on Craigslist.





**6** Beaded-board panels on existing IKEA kitchen cabinets didn't suit the desired midcentury aesthetic, so homeowner Mark Lassiter reversed the door and drawer fronts to expose the smooth side. **7** Ashley boosted the kitchen's subtle glamour with brass-tone pulls and knobs she found on Etsy. **8** Mark removed a cabinet near the range and installed open shelves. Matte penny tile introduces texture on the backsplash.



“I LOVE TO MIX OLD AND NEW. A COAT OF PAINT AND NEW HARDWARE CAN MAKE VINTAGE FINDS LOOK LIKE A MILLION BUCKS.”

ASHLEY WALKER DELAPP



**9** Dusty lavender curtains serve as a floor-to-ceiling headboard in Ashley and Mark's bedroom.

**10** This petite chair was a serendipitous find on the floor of a designer's showroom. To set it off, Ashley chose wallpaper that appears abstract but, on closer inspection, reveals a pattern of people. **11** Ashley simplified these maple-and-cherry bedside tables by applying black lacquer to the tops and leaving the base stained. New agate-slice knobs make a big statement.



INKWELL  
SW6992,  
SHERWIN-WILLIAMS;  
SHERWIN-WILLIAMS.COM



12



14



15

**12** Ashley divided one long room beside the small master bedroom into two spaces, creating a lounge and a luxurious dressing room/closet. **13** Navy lacquer walls in the master lounge define a groovy spot for Mark and Ashley to enjoy a cocktail, conversation, or movie. **14** Graphic wallpaper camouflages the low ceiling. **15** To make the dressing room an always-sunny space, Ashley chose grass cloth in unexpected chartreuse.



**16** Painting son Sutton's bedroom white keeps the attention on the accent wall of hexagon-pattern paper in dramatic black and white. White epoxy paint refreshes the vintage headboard. A yellow pendant replaces an existing ceiling fixture. **17** One corner of Sutton's room becomes an inviting spot for reading with the addition of a desk and IKEA picture ledges for organizing books.









**18** In the guest room, Ashley created a modern panel effect by trimming pieces of Rothko-esque wallcovering with classic-profile molding. She updated the bedroom furniture with lacquer: black for the vintage headboards and citron for the nightstand. **19** In the guest bathroom, a bamboo dresser becomes an elegant vanity when dressed in black lacquer and topped with a vessel sink and sleek faucet. As a finishing touch, overhead lighting was removed and new electrical boxes added for angular sconces. **20** For the tub surround, single rows of cream subway tiles alternate with three rows of white for subtle contrast.



## LACQUER LOVE

*Revitalize thrifted furnishings with a gloss finish.*

"A lacquered finish elevates an ordinary find into something really special and resists chips," Ashley Walker Delapp says. She sends large furnishings to a pro, such as a cabinetmaker or auto body repair shop, and saves small pieces for DIY spray-on lacquer. "Sand between coats for a super smooth finish," she says.

FOR RESOURCES SEE PAGE 108.



# 6 DIY IDEAS TO STEAL

*These DIY-friendly products will help you cultivate your own modern chic makeovers.*



**1. LAMP-TASTIC** Ashley Walker Delapp loves this line of handmade table lamps inspired by midcentury designs. Mix and match shapes, shades, hardwood accents, and 12 glaze colors to create your custom light. Prices start at \$185; Alberta, *above*, in turquoise and cherrywood is \$500. [caravan-pacific.com](http://caravan-pacific.com)



**2. BRASSY SUGGESTION** Swapping hardware remains one of the fastest updates for cabinets and furniture. Ashley fell in love with midcentury modern pulls in brushed satin brass finish (see *page 71*). Up-and-comer Forged Hardware Studio offers a bevy of glamorous designs that combine shapely metal and crisp Lucite. Prices for pulls shown, *above*, start at \$4 each. [forgehardwarestudio.etsy.com](http://forgehardwarestudio.etsy.com)



**3. SHINE ON** Give furniture and accessories a glossy lacquered finish with a dynamic paint trio from designer Amy Howard. First apply Furniture Lacquer Primer (\$14.50) to seal and level wood grain, and then choose from 13 colors of High Performance Furniture Lacquer, *above*, (\$21–\$25). Finish with a protective top coat of clear Bright Idea Lacquer (\$16). [amyhowardhome.com](http://amyhowardhome.com)



**4. PENNY THOUGHTS** Bring understated graphic texture to a backsplash with Bliss Penny Round mosaic tiles in matte white. For easy DIY installation, the tiles come mounted on 12×12-inch mesh sheets (\$9). [homedepot.com](http://homedepot.com)

**5. GET WIRED** New light fixtures adorn nearly every room in Ashley's home. An essential tool for the task is a combination wire cutter/stripper so you can cut, strip, and loop most sizes of wire. The arced handle on the Kurve helps you reach into tight spots. \$22; [acehardware.com](http://acehardware.com)



**6. GET HOOKED** Re-create the pretty and handy hooks in Ashley's dressing room. The Agate Hooks kit includes glue, screws, spacers, and three colorful, medium-size agate slices. \$18; [darbysmart.com](http://darbysmart.com)