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design whimsy

A young family finds a dynamic design team
to color their home creative





WHIMSICAL, BRIGHT AND MODERN are the cornerstones of the **Duet Design Group** philosophy. Their style sensibility is Alice in Wonderland meets Architectural Digest. The duo of Duet, Miranda Cullen and Devon Goldberg, combine their flair for fashion, passion for painting and adoration for art history into colorful, cozy spaces that are both inviting and interesting.

The Flowerburst Court project is a prime example of their alliance to fantasy and sophistication, or as Cullen calls it, “vintage modern.” Flowerburst Court exists in a newly built, exclusive community in Highlands Ranch, called BackCountry. The Patterson family commissioned Duet Design to create a vibrant and welcoming living space.

The Patterson clan, a family of five, hired Duet to assist with space planning, art acquisition, color schemes, furniture selections, wall and ceiling treatments as well as window treatments. Duet implemented a design for the entire main level, all outdoor spaces and a walkout level.

Filled with unexpected furnishings in tantalizing textures, like a crushed velvet couch in lime and button footstool in cornflower blue, the main goal of the Flowerburst design was to make the space fun but practical. “We used various textures like linen, silk, velvet and embroidered fabrics to create a livable and fun environment for this family,” Cullen says.

Creating an impact and making their clients smile is the primary goal of Duet. They love using fashionable pieces to create character in a space, as well as relying on the home’s innate features. “We wanted to create a ‘wow’ in each room of this home,” Cullen says. “The entry has a fabulous piece of fine art by Angela Beloian, a wood and Lucite custom bench with custom pillows and cushion, a Louis ghost chair and a fabulous mirror from Anthropologie.”



And the true testament to Duet Design Group's talent is their creative and colorful combinations; the charm of the Flowerburst home is that every room has a special element, almost like a "hidden treasure." For instance, there's Old World charm in the antique gray and orange button armchair, as well as the fringed windowseat pillows and chandelier-inspired wall paintings; all accompanied by art with splashes of bright color in vivid purple, tangerine and hot pink.

But where does Duet find their inspiration? They don't. The clients are the ones who are in charge of dictating the design. "We have them pull inspirational images from magazines so that we can hone in on their style and then we go to town on selections," Cullen says. "We have an extensive library with many fantastic sources and we go from there, pulling together each client's home."

Cullen believes artwork is key to an award-winning home design. "We have a passion for artwork and love supporting local artists. Whether we find a piece of artwork at a local gallery and design an entire room around it, or we design a space and find a fabulous piece of artwork to complement it, we make sure it is the perfect piece for our clients," she says.

It's not all a big decorating party for the duo; they've had to design on limited timelines and even reclaim the homeowner's original design dream. "I would say the biggest challenge of this project is that the beginning phase of the design was started by another design firm," Cullen says. "The client was very unhappy with their service and in turn hired us to take the original concept, embellish it and execute it all in a short timeline. Not the ideal way to start a project but in the end it worked out perfectly."

Duet wants the client to be happy and they strive to provide all the necessary pieces to the puzzle. "Duet is a full-service design firm. We do as much or as little as our clients want and need. And we will even unpack boxes and organize closets. Our favorite part of this entire process is doing a 'big reveal' after a project is complete," she says.

While Flowerburst Court projects all the cornerstones of the Duet aesthetic, the design was decidedly driven by the homeowners' desires. "The whimsical feel was what the client wanted for their home," says Cullen. "Although we love this style, it is not indicative of what our design style is. We like to say that our style is our client's style. We feel that if you are a true designer you don't have one style. You are able to create any environment for any client."



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