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ABOUT THE COVER:
Itchetucknee

PHOTO BY MIKE WINKLES

CLEAN SWEEP

Designing a home for a professional organizer means strict adherence to function, form and clutter-free spaces

photos by JESSIE PREZA

“THE STONES HAVE BEEN A CLIENT OF MINE FOR OVER 10 YEARS and with this latest renovation we wanted to expand on the public areas of the home,” says Kelly Cook, founder and designer at Orangerie Home Interior Design & Decorating. “The kitchen, wet bar, laundry area, dining room, front door space, stairs, and stair vestibule, along with the living room, were the areas of recent renovation. They wanted a more updated space that allowed lots of natural light into the home and most importantly, more storage, so Chris could showcase all her clever ideas with her organizing company.”

The client, Christine Stone, is founder and owner of Neatly Designed, a 13-year-old locally based professional organizing company. The goal for her home was pretty much the same as it often is for her clients—to help clear the interior and maintain a home that is streamlined, efficient and functional for everyday living. Mission accomplished.

Homeowner
Christine Stone
with Ruka



As a professional organizer, it shouldn't come as a surprise that Christine prefers clean lines and colors. And clean countertops, cabinets, drawers and closets. While many interior design clients spend the majority of time thinking about the outside appearance of storage spaces, Christine cares just as much about how they perform on the inside. Crisp whites are used throughout the home and natural light is allowed to pour in.

"I like neutral colors and timeless style, so Kelly and I worked well together to create a space that had those elements. The kitchen and pantry were very important because the kitchen is the hub of the home," says Christine. "I like to cook and entertain so I wanted a space that not only looked good but was also functional for my everyday living."

"I love using natural stone anywhere possible. The natural characteristics that come with stone are beautiful but not all clients are up for the imperfections they sometimes possess or maintenance required. So, in the laundry area coming in off the garage we used a stone like porcelain for the floor. It has a blue stone look, very New England," says Cook "For the countertops in the kitchen, bar and laundry room we used a quartzite material. This is the hardest stone that we know of right now, so it is a great material to use for countertops because it looks similar to marble but is less porous than marble."





For the bathroom, marble was selected for the floors, countertops and showers. In the guest suite, a white classic subway tile was installed in the shower. Marble was chosen for the floor.

The family bought the three-bedroom, 2.5-bath home in Atlantic Beach in 2007. The final renovation of the 2,800-square-foot dwelling was completed in 2020. "My husband and I have been married for 33 years and moved to Jacksonville in 1988 from Miami," says Christine. "We have two grown daughters who were raised in Jacksonville. During COVID we rescued Ruka, our Australian Shepherd, who has been a great addition to the family."

According to the designer, work on the home came in stages over the course of several years. The master wing on the first floor was updated about six years ago. This included the master bedroom, master bathroom and closet, powder bathroom and an office/bedroom. The second renovation covered the upstairs wing, which was updated in 2019. The latest upgrade was directed at the remainder of the home, including the living room, kitchen, dining room, foyer, stairs, bar and laundry room.





➤ (Right) "The home was built in the 1950s, so we renovated but kept the original footprint," says Christine. "We added a table and chairs next to the kitchen and created a dining space."

◀ (Left) The living room is a focal point in the house so the homeowners wanted it to be peaceful, calming and comfortable. "We used neutral colors, slipcovered furniture, a beautiful fireplace and plenty of storage. It also has great natural light due to the French doors along the back of the room," says Christine.





► "The master suite was moved downstairs so we could grow with the house," recalls Christine. "I wanted a space to relax and enjoy at the end of a busy work day. We used neutral soft colors and added a built-in for the TV and storage. There are French doors that allow natural light and a view of the pool."



When it came time to select furniture and accessories, a mixture of existing and new pieces was utilized. "On some of Chris's existing pieces, we had a local refinisher work on them—such as the pine dining table," recalls the designer. "A faux finisher updated the look of the server in the living room with a beautiful gesso painted finish. A lot of the accessories are a collection of old and new. I always try to use existing pieces of clients to tell a story. It makes the home more personal."

One piece in particular that Chris wanted to find a place for was a family heirloom, specifically an old sepia toned photograph of family taken in South Florida, where she grew up. "We ended up hanging the photo above a sink and window. It wasn't a planned decision," says Cook. "We had planned to do a custom sheer roman shade. However, on the day of art installation, before the roman shade was complete, I said to the art installer, 'let me see what that piece looks like above the sink?' He held it up and we both knew it was meant to be. The piece was perfect, and in what better place than the kitchen where everyone is always together. This is my favorite part of the home."

A variety of new lighting fixtures and hardware was purchased, including several traditional lanterns and some custom made for the space. The antique chandelier in the guest bathroom upstairs is one that Chris has carried from previous homes. The door hardware is oiled rubbed bronze, which is a natural living finish and ages over time to a beautiful patina. "The two, hand-forged iron pendants over the dining table are some of my favorite new lights by Ralph Lauren," says Cook. "All the cabinet hardware is polished nickel to match the plumbing fittings. We selected each piece to fit perfectly on every custom cabinet built for their home."

No doubt, little touches like this appeal greatly to the homeowner, someone who has made a career ensuring that everything has just the right place and is organized just so. ✨

Interior Design: Kelly Cook, Orangerie Home Interior Design & Decorating