



4 WARM WELCOME

Minnesota native Bria Hammel is known for her fresh takes on utility spaces. Here, the designer shares the notes that make this happy Kansas City, Kansas, mud room sing. briahammelinteriors.com

Canine considerations. The cabinetry provides storage for dog food, leashes and toys, and we created a special kennel that doesn't disrupt the flow of the space, installing a decorative wire mesh front and adding removable cushions that can be easily washed or swapped out.

Functional flair. Our clients wanted a place to take off shoes and drop bags when they came inside, so we had these curved benches custom made to mimic the feel of antiques.

Cozy details. We gave a nod to the home's traditional design with the taupe cabinetry and warm touches like the vintage baskets and Visual Comfort lanterns. To counteract that a bit, we added a cool, blue wallpaper for a European cottage vibe.

5 FORM *and* FUNCTION

INDUSTRY GREATS WEIGH IN ON THE SPECIALTY ROOM THEY'RE SEEING IN SPADES.



CHRISTOPHER PEACOCK

Founder & CEO, Christopher Peacock

Mud rooms are upmarket now—not just utility spaces. Clients realize very often this is the first impression a visitor gets of their home, so they want the area to look cool and be spacious. We're taking it to another level with steel-lined boot drawers, pet food compartments, and mail storage for deliveries. peacockhome.com



CHRISTY GOODE BLUMENFELD

President, Blume Architecture

The room we are most-often adding is a bar/lounge. These intimate spaces offer the ability to entertain on a small scale or just watch a game and have dinner for two at the bar. For clients who are big entertainers, we include catering elements, like under-counter warming drawers, wine units, dishwasher drawers and ice makers. blumearchitecture.com



BEN COATS

Owner and President, Coats Homes

We are seeing spaces that bring next-level entertainment value to the home. There has been an influx of golf simulators, gyms, saunas, storm shelters, and recently, we completed a bowling alley. People want new ways to experience their home and to create spaces that drive entertainment and family time. coatshomes.com



SUZANNE KASLER

Principal, Suzanne Kasler Interiors

People are spending as much detail and money on their closets as they are on their kitchens. A big part of this is the global travel lifestyle today, which has affected how people organize their closets. Clients want to have access to their entire wardrobe anytime of the year, regardless of the season. suzannekasler.com



MAURICIO OBERFELD

Founding Principal, Dugally Oberfeld

Secondary chef kitchens are bordering on a standard requirement in larger homes today. With the open floor plan becoming more and more prevalent, clients want to keep their kitchens looking clean and as a part of the living area, thus necessitating the additional kitchen to hide the real work space. docorp.net

WARM WELCOME PHOTO: ANNEE MAZZENGA; FORM AND FUNCTION HEADSHOTS: NIEL LAMING, COURTESY CHRISTY BLUMENFELD, JASON KIDG PHOTOGRAPHY, ERICA GEORGE DINES, COURTESY MAURICIO OBERFELD, MOTHER APPROVED PHOTO: CHRIS EDWARDS.



6 mother APPROVED

Proving that dead space can seamlessly morph into a functional respite is this sophisticated playroom by Charlotte, North Carolina-based designer Charlotte Lucas. Formerly a transitory second-floor landing, Lucas imagined the pass-through as a dynamic bonus room for the family's two daughters to spread out in. "We wanted it to be outside-of-the box and playful, but not have it feel so juvenile that it wouldn't be relevant down the road," says the designer, noting the House of Harris "Park" trellis print grass-cloth wallpaper, vintage vinyl swivel chairs and Schumacher Citrus Garden-upholstered sofa—which was customized to fit beneath the angled ceilings and leave ample walking space—as favorite details. "That's really the goal in all of our designs," Lucas continues, "To not make a room feel too specific. It just needs to be exciting and fun to be in!" charlottelucasdesign.com