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In the dining room, Inman embraced the deeply-rooted local tradition seen in the great James River houses of using scenic wallpaper, opting for a pattern from de Gournay depicting birds perched on delicate, white-bloomed tree limbs. "One of the things my clients spoke of the most was nature," shares Inman. "So bringing in a sense of outdoors really drove our decisions." In the sitting room of the master suite, Inman hung a panoply of metal flowers made by North Carolina artisan, Tommy Mitchell. "We chose species that grow in Virginia," explains Inman. "Everything was about crafting a story that celebrated this location and the homeowners' love of nature."

Conceiving each room as a sort of narrative was an approach that shaped the detailing of the spaces. A handpainted backsplash in the kitchen pays homage to family pets. A painting in a guest bedroom recalls a pear tree that once stood on the property. "We were able to draw from each storyline to evoke a sense of place through object selection, placement, playing with different materials and juxtapositions," notes Inman's colleague, interior designer Dani Blake.

The essential story of the house is *home*. From the paneled library to the billiard room, from the kick back kitchen to the sit-up straight dining room, this residence accommodates all kinds of activity. Envisioned by its owners as a haven for family and friends, it has become just that, brimming – as author Carson McCullers wrote in "The Member of the Wedding," – with "that old sense of company and communion."



## HUNT & GATHER DESIGN SOURCES

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