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FIT FOR A QUEEN

BY BECKY GOSNELL • PHOTOS BY JOE WITTKOP

FAVORITE COLOR COMBOS AND MEMORIES OF ROYAL ENCOUNTERS INSPIRE FUN DÉCOR FOR THIS ROGERS FAMILY



Foyer

When Shelly Cottrell begins a decorating project for her family's Pinnacle subdivision home in Rogers, she gains inspiration from a variety of places, people and visual resources — from Buckingham Palace to the homes of neighborhood friends, and many places in between. A self-described “writer by trade and a painter by hobby,” Shelly says she's in her element when engaged in anything that requires creating and designing. “That includes working on my house, which is like a big canvas to me,” she says. “And, when it's all said and done — especially on major projects — I look for a blessing from local designer Chris Goddard.”

With unique flair and clear professionalism — plus support and encouragement from husband Wes and daughters Kennedy and Gabby — Shelly has filled their 4,700-square-

foot home with vibrant color, but explains that this was not necessarily accomplished with a specific intent. “It just naturally happened that way. I didn't set out to make things so colorful. These are just the colors I love. At least today, that is — six months ago my dining and music rooms were lime green,” she laughs.

Chalk it up to having a busy mind that is led by creativity, plus surrounding herself with plenty of right-brained friends, the décor in the Cottrell's house is constantly evolving. Shelly says that she loves jewel-toned colors but adds, “Steel gray, canary yellow and most any shade of purple are definitely on my radar.” And, of course, so is another decorating project. “I'm planning on redoing the living room's fireplace façade... and painting the guest bedroom...and redoing the backyard.”



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Dining Room

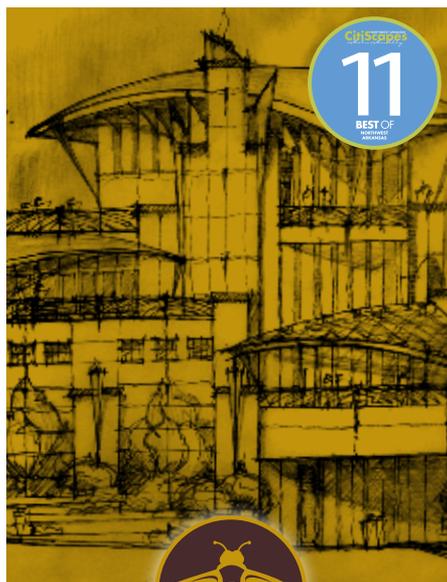
For the time being, however, the Cottrell's beautiful house remains fit for a queen — complete with fun British touches that are the focal point in some rooms and subtle additions in others. Shelly explains that this design scheme with royal flair was inspired by real-life experiences. "I have a dear friend who has a connection to the royal family, so I've had the opportunity to have dinner with Queen Elizabeth's husband, Prince Philip, in Holyrood Palace in Edinburgh, Scotland. Also, my friend and I went to a tea party at Buckingham Palace with Queen Elizabeth and her son, Prince Edward, and his family. In fact, the first time my husband and I visited London, we ran into the Queen at the National Gallery! So, I guess all of those brushes with the royal family have rubbed off on me!"



Kitchen

In addition to the use of the blue-and-red British flag greeting guests as they walk through the front door, the Cottrell's house exudes a comfortable and cozy feeling that is reminiscent of the beautiful pubs, dark libraries and antler-lined trophy rooms found in England and Scotland. "I have adopted some of their characteristics into my décor," Shelly says. "But, having dinner in my house, with people I love, is like dining with the queen to me."

Things are also a bit more relaxed and unofficial at the Cottrell's home than at Buckingham Palace. Shelly, Wes and their daughters are quite happy in their casual home. "We are 'put-your-feet-on-the-coffee-table' kind of people," she says. "I have pine floors that show every scuff and ding, my dining room table is pinged and weathered, and I love it!"



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the Cottrell Home in
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In fact, that's Shelly's secret to a wonderfully decorated home: Fill it with things you love — whether it be paint color, furniture, art or fabrics — and create an environment that perfectly fits your family's lifestyle. "I'm a tactile and visual person — I love texture and pattern as much as I love color," she explains. "But, really, I believe the best way to enliven a room is to fill it with things that you love. That always works!"

With such a keen appreciation for art, it's not surprising that many of Shelly's favorite things in her home are the pieces hanging on the walls, such as a Carol Cooper watercolor painted in Italy, the guest bedroom painting by friend and local artist Jane Garrison Davidian ("She could paint with her eyes closed and it would still be a masterpiece!"), the Christina Mariotti painting hanging in the kitchen ("It's the first piece I would grab if the house caught on fire!") and a special one by her late father.



Master Bedroom



Daughter's Bedroom



Girls' Bathroom

Guest Bedroom



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Keeping their home fresh, easy, relaxed and fun is a priority for Shelly. She thoughtfully includes meaningful items in each room of the house, paying extra attention to keeping the frequently used living and family rooms warm and “ridiculously comfortable,” and remaining ever-mindful of what’s really special about her house. “I love that my kids have grown up in this house. It’s full of incredible memories of people and events that I love — and it’s just so dang comfortable. It’s like my favorite pair of jeans...it just feels good.” ■



Office

LOCAL PROS & RESOURCES USED

Builder: **Mark Smith Construction, LLC**, Rogers

Appliances: **Metro Appliances & More**, Springdale and Bethel Heights

Cabinets: **Latham Cabinets Inc.**, Rogers

Flooring: **Wood Floor Gallery, Inc.**, Springdale

Carpet: **Carpet Smart**, Centerton

Drapes: **Interior Fabrics & Design**, Fayetteville; **Pottery Barn Kids** (pink panels in purple teenage girl’s room), online

Home Audio & Visual: **Lowell Electronics**

Electrician: **Snow Electric**, Bethel Heights

Lighting: **Lighting Emporium** (living room chandelier, kitchens light/ceiling fan and back room chandelier), Springdale

Furnishings: **Goddard Design Group**, Northwest Arkansas; **I.O. Metro**, various Northwest Arkansas locations; **Lewis and Clark** (red Electra bike), Springdale; **Lighting Emporium**, Springdale; **The Rug Company**, Dallas

