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# Southern Lady

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# Elegant Intrigue

*Classic pieces and a restrained palette place the spotlight on a distinctive paint color and thoughtfully selected textiles that inject personality into this dining room.*

BY Elizabeth Bonner Czapski | PHOTOGRAPHY BY Kaylan Bradley/Happy Everything Co.



When designer Maggie Griffin initially set eyes on Emily and Russ Lambros' dining room, she described it as "just a white box." While it did have some redeeming architectural interest—distinguished molding and expansive windows—she knew this first-impression space needed something special.

"It's the first room you see when entering the home, so I wanted it to

be both intriguing and calming," says Maggie, founder of Maggie Griffin Design in Gainesville, Georgia. She achieved this two-fold aesthetic by cloaking the space in a nuanced hue enhanced by traditional furnishings, diverse fabrics, and understated dashes of chinoiserie.

Antique Pewter by Benjamin Moore offered the perfect amount of pizzazz to introduce the elevated style

Emily desired for the Decatur, Georgia, abode. "The color took it to a much more high-end level right off the bat," says Maggie of the versatile shade that has become her most requested paint color. "It's one of those colors that we call an 'un-color.' It's not a true green or gray. In some light, it even looks blue."

She was also drawn to how the pewter suited Emily's coloring.





“The lady of the house is a redhead and looks fabulous in the space,” Maggie says. “I always tell my clients, ‘Let’s find colors that complement you.’”

With this foundation in place, they filled the room with a few prominent wood furnishings in varied rich tones, from a deep-hued sideboard with baroque trim to an oval dining table with a lighter stain and strong, modern lines. The Chippendale bamboo-style chairs were a favorite find, especially after they got new cut-velvet emerald cushions that enliven the tint of the walls.

Host chairs with a tailored linen slipcover and sleek sloped arms soften the space. “Dining rooms tend to have a lot of hard edges, so it’s nice to balance that with more texture,” Maggie says. Concluding the duo needed some fun, she added bolsters in Schumacher’s Chiang Mai Dragon pattern to develop the chinoiserie motif.

To mellow the look further, Maggie selected a jute rug that stretches nearly wall-to-wall, making the room appear larger, and elongated linen draperies that harmonize with the host chairs. The neutral elements allow the paint color to shine.

Mixed metals infuse the space with a finishing flourish, such as a mottled silver mirror frame that brings out the gray notes of the walls. An antique bronze chandelier imbues a bit of glamour, but its dainty profile keeps it from becoming a distraction. Conversely, a pair of creamy lamps with golden bases boast eye-catching bulbous silhouettes. “When I choose lamps, I go big or go home,” the designer says.

“The room works because of the gorgeous balance in deep color and texture. I love a mix of old and new and all kinds of design styles—it’s true that it’s really all about the mix. A mix with a nod to chinoiserie is the homeowner’s style to a tee. The pop of the host chairs’ pillow print reminds you to smile,” Maggie says.