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AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2023 | Display until 08/22/2023

VOLUME 17, NO. 04 | \$11.99 US



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See a dreamy picking garden, set an alfresco Italian table and shop outdoor décor

GOING *CUSTOM*

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREG POWERS

- **Designer:** Tracy Morris
- **Location:** Great Falls, Virginia
- **Design Highlight:** "We created a 'split' bench as the outer seating. The pieces are on wheels and can be 'opened' to accommodate guests."

Tip: "Banquettes are permanent, so make sure you want to keep a long seating area in that space. If you have any doubt that the space may change, standard chairs may be a better fit for you. If you have lots of family members and need an additional homework or reading spot, a banquette may be the perfect fit!"

Choosing to customize when building a new home is a terrific way to get the design exactly as you want for your family's needs. When the homeowners of this elegant Virginia home reached out to Tracy Morris for design help, they had already lived in several homes and decided they did not want or need a dining room. "We created a 'Hearth' room with a fireplace and seating for twelve," Tracy says. "This allows the homeowners to sit at the table daily. When a larger group needs seating, they could easily fill in the banquette." There is a storage cabinet next to the space to provide functionality. "The cabinet faces the table and allows our clients to access dishes, placemats and other items to ease serving," she says.

