



Back to the Beginning

A family of four finally feels at home, thanks to the savvy hand of this Texas designer.

BY CLAIRE HENRY | PHOTOGRAPHY BY AVERY NICOLE PHOTOGRAPHY



The breakfast nook offers a gorgeous backyard view and is a superb spot for morning meals and afternoon snacks. “[The homeowner] loves traditional prints, so this was a great opportunity to bring in a fun checkered pattern,” interior designer Raquel Skrobarczyk says of the drapery panels.



Starting from scratch can be a daunting task. For Raquel Skrobarczyk, owner and principal of Heather Scott Home & Design, the challenge of beginning again from square one is easy to tackle enthusiastically for a family with a vision.

"They wanted to create their dream house," says Raquel, who has worked in design for 18 years. The family loved the location of their home in Austin, Texas, but it didn't quite fit their needs. Undertaking a complete renovation on the same lot, the homeowners and Raquel collaborated every step of the way, along with the architect and builder.

Among the wife's goals for the remodel, she desired a more traditional style with a cozy feel, family-oriented designs, and lots of layered fabrics and patterns. "I wanted it to be special for their family and have a lot of little personal nods to it," Raquel says. "No detail was left unnoticed." From special hobbies to sweet portraits, these distinctive touches are dotted all across the abode.

The new living room serves as the heart of the home. "When you open the front door, you see the side profile of the blue couch," Raquel explains, noting this detail as





one of her favorites. The bright shade of blue makes a statement in the otherwise neutral scene, and the tassels lining the bottom add whimsy and movement. A bevy of hues pepper the drapery panels, creating a color scheme that runs throughout the home. “Since they have young kids, everything in here is durable and kid-friendly,” she says. “But we wanted it to still feel really elegant and a little preppy.”

Another well-loved area is the kitchen. “Everywhere else in the house has hardwood flooring, but in the kitchen, we transition to brick tile,” Raquel says. Choosing a thinner tile resulted in more consistent sizing, creating a smooth finish that’s comfortable enough for bare feet. A custom blue-and-white roman shade and petite sconces flank the sink, and beautiful quartz countertops are ideal for hosting.

For more formal gatherings, the dining room holds an air of refinement, with its subtle leaf-patterned wallpaper. The emerald dining chairs, trimmed with blue cording and brushed-gold accents, augment the stunning locale. “She had a bunch of gorgeous crystal, china, silver platters, and family heirlooms to display,” says Raquel. “We added built-ins on the left and right and did a stained-wood backing so her items would really stand out.”



Breaking from the running theme, the primary bedroom is suited with more masculine tones. “The blue grass cloth wallpaper makes it spa-like, relaxing, and inviting,” Raquel says. Accent pillows in a timeless Sister Parish fabric provide a sense of balance amid the modern design. Bedside lamps with a brushstroke detail and framed intaglios accentuate the four-poster bed.

Specific family members were kept in mind while designing particular areas. Shrouded in a forest green tactile wallpaper, the husband’s office features a fabulous burl wood desk, ideal for his at-home meetings as an attorney. A playroom for the owners’ two children includes a cobalt sofa and whimsical wallpaper on the ceiling. “The art above the sectional was found at Round Top [Antiques Fair],” Raquel says. “They’re very interesting, so we had them custom framed.”

As a designer, Raquel’s goal is to create something the homeowners will cherish for years to come. “I wanted to design in a sophisticated way that would grow with their family,” Raquel says. “They were in good hands with a great architect, a great builder, and us as her design team. I was there all along the way.”



Right off the primary bedroom, this screened porch serves as a quiet retreat. With the ceiling painted a light blue and the open air flowing all around, the homeowners can enjoy a cup of coffee in the morning or chat with friends on the neighboring deck.