

MODERN CHIC



Meets

CLASSIC DESIGN

by Deborah DOVE



In 2012, after seventeen years in their home in Watters Crossing, Tom and Kim Miller decided it was time to build the house of their dreams.

"I never really liked the floorplan with the media room upstairs," says Kim of their previous home. "So we decided to look for a big lot where we could build everything we wanted downstairs."

Finding enough space in Allen to accommodate their needs was a tall order. After months of looking, with the help of their realtor, the Millers finally found the right property—a large corner lot that faces a greenbelt and the Rowlett Creek Trail. However, none of the floorplans for the neighborhood were quite right. Just when the Millers were about to give up, the architect came up with the unique design that became their dream home. Built around a sparkling blue pool set in a courtyard-like center with several outdoor living spaces surrounding it, the Miller's beautiful new house is perfect for entertaining and has been

used for weddings, engagement parties and photoshoots.

Steps lead up to a front porch where the Millers like to sit in the evening and watch the world, and the neighbors, go by. An arched wooden front door inlaid with opaque glass leads inside, where soaring ceilings and an open floorplan seamlessly blend a modern, but relaxed family room, spacious kitchen and cozy eating nook.

The dining room marries tradition with modern whimsy. Chairs upholstered in gray and white geometric fabric sit at either end of the wooden dining table, providing an unexpected and updated contrast to the traditional dining room table and chairs. Silver woven placemats add a punch of vibrancy.

The wood-paneled study is the only room that contains anything from their old house. "It was very Hemispheres and Andersons," Kim says of the décor of her previous home. "This is light and bright."

Eager to create a modern, casual

and lighthearted ambiance, the Millers basically started from scratch when furnishing and decorating their new home. The end result is a comfortable blend of traditional and modern elements coupled with layers of textural interest that add up to sophisticated, but homey, chic.

This is most evident in the center of the home—both literally and figuratively—the family room. Despite the potential heaviness of the dark, hand-scraped wood floors, wooden ceiling beams, a large wood fireplace mantle and a medieval-looking metal chandelier, the large family room still manages to feel spacious and airy, thanks to a wall of windows that looks out onto the pool, and a mix of geometric fabrics in tones of gray, cream and gold coupled with gold and silver accent pieces. Metal nesting side tables, a mirror-topped coffee table and a blond entertainment console visually lighten the room. Persimmon and yellow accents add a pop of color.

"I like mixing textures," says Kim,



gold geometric fabric that Kim fell in love with. "We based everything on these two chairs," she laughs, pointing to two modernized wing-back chairs in the family room.

After that, everything seemed to fall into place. The woman who Kim worked with to create her window treatments had seen the perfect fabric to complement the chairs and created long drapes in a bold, geometric fabric for the windows. Kim

pointing out the way the light, smooth stone hearth and rough stone fireplace balances the wood mantle, which is clearly the focal point of the room.

The Millers worked with an interior designer to achieve the look they wanted. That look started with two chairs upholstered in a gray and

saw the black leather barstools with geometric fabric backs on the cover of a catalog and knew that she had to have them.

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A round iron and glass light fixture in the breakfast area echoes the shape of the round kitchen table beneath it. A silver tree in the corner adds the unexpected touch of elegant chic that is the hallmark of the Miller's home.

The spacious kitchen is a chef's and an entertainer's dream come true, with plenty of white cabinets for storage and long expanses of black granite countertops. Designer touches add to the upscale feel of the kitchen, such as a unique woven-looking backsplash and a big center island topped with gray, marbled granite.

"The kitchen is where everyone congregates," says Kim. "I figured let's at least make it a nice size.

Functionality in the kitchen was key for the Millers, and small conveniences make a huge impact. A pot filler faucet built into the wall over the stove is a time saver, as is the warming drawer built in underneath the oven. But it's the coffee bar, a small built-in space tucked next to the kitchen outfitted with an espresso machine that's the family's go-to spot. "It's the most used appliance in the house," laughs Kim.

Down a hallway are the couple's leisure rooms—a wood-paneled, windowless media room



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Towards the back of the house, lies the master retreat with cathedral ceilings, a rustic, three-tiered candle chandelier and an enviable view of the pool and hot tub. Kim's skillful mix of metallics is most pronounced here, where an assortment of gold and silver picture frames, art and mirrors repeat the colors of the reversible custom bedding—a gold side and a silver side, coupled with reversible throw pillows, allow her to change up the look on a moment's whim. Gray hotel-quality drapes ensure the east-facing room stays dark when needed, and a gray fur ottoman

with recessed lighting in the ceiling, a comfortable u-shaped sofa piled with pillows and a big movie screen.

The game room was created with adults in mind and is anchored by a large octagonal poker table the Millers found at a warehouse sale. A

shuffleboard table, flat screen TV, arcade video game and a wet bar suggest that fun is the priority in this room. Like the other rooms in the house, unique metal light fixtures and accents of bright colors create a comfortable, but contemporary vibe.

adds textural interest to the small seating area at the foot of the bed.

Not surprisingly, the master bath is a haven of luxury with details that transform it into something spectacular, such as a large walk-in shower with three rain shower heads,

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white custom cabinetry and gray marbled granite countertops.

Although the Millers' three kids are almost grown, everyone still has their own bedroom, plus additional space upstairs for watching TV.

Their son's bedroom is downstairs on the opposite side of the kitchen, since he was the last one still living at home when the family moved. His private bath with a black glass-doored, walk-in shower was the envy of his older sisters.

Upstairs are rooms for each of the girls, as well as a guest room, and each of the five bedrooms has its own bath with a stand-up shower.

Three outdoor rooms strategically placed around the pool extend the home's living space to the outdoors. The couple regularly enjoys the large living area behind the pool, which has a stone fireplace, ample seating, an outdoor kitchen and a full bath where guests can rinse off from the pool.

Although she had the guidance of



an interior designer, Kim obviously has an eye for decorating and the home's contrast of easy casual charm and elegance reflects her personality. "I'm very decisive," she says, adding that she quickly knew exactly what

she wanted when it came to choosing light fixtures, fabrics, furniture and accessories. ❖

*Deborah Dove is a freelance writer from Allen.
Photos: John Nervig Photography.*

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