

METRO EDITION

# design **aspire** home

*quiet*

*living*

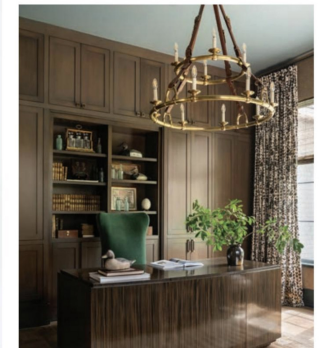
SUMMER 2022  
DISPLAY UNTIL SEPT. 15, 2022

**SEEKING THE SUBLIME**  
ASPTREDESIGNANDHOME.COM

# DRUMBEAT

THE PATTERN ENGINEERING OF THIS HOUSTON HOME TO TWO CREATIVES  
PULSES WITH RHYTHM AND GROOVE

TEXT **KAITLIN CLARK** PHOTOGRAPHY **JULIE SOEFER** INTERIOR DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE **NEWBERRY ARCHITECTURE**



**OPPOSITE PAGE:** BLACK STEEL FRAMING LINES THE MASSIVE, FLOOR-TO-CEILING WINDOWS AND DOORS OPENING TO THE BACKYARD, PATIO AND POOL AREA. "THEY HAVE ALL OF THIS PRIVACY OUT THERE, AND LIGHT WAS A REALLY BIG DEAL FOR THE HOMEOWNERS," SAYS ECHOLS. "WE REALLY MAXED OUT THOSE WINDOWS TO HIGHLIGHT THE LAWN AND YARD." **THIS PAGE LEFT:** ONE OF THE HOME'S FIVE TILE MOSAIC BACKSPASHES. THIS KALEIDOSCOPE OF PINK HUES LINES THE KITCHENETTE WITHIN THE GUEST SUITE. **TOP RIGHT:** THE HOMEOWNER PROVIDED AN INSPIRATION PHOTO FOR THIS STAGGERED, TIERED BOOKCASE AND WORKED CLOSELY WITH ECHOLS' TEAM OF MILLWORKERS TO BRING IT TO LIFE IN HER AIRY, FEMININE STUDY. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** LEATHER, DEEP WOODS AND NEUTRAL, EARTHY TONES DOT THE HUSBAND'S MORE FORMAL OFFICE WHILE THE ANTLERS WITHIN THE CHANDELIER ARE A NOD TO HIS LOVE OF HUNTING AND THE OUTDOORS.

HOUSTON, TEXAS



*THE HOMEOWNERS LOVINGLY REFER TO THIS ALCOVE AS THE WHISKEY BAR, STOCKED AND PREPPED FOR GUESTS AND/OR A BASH, FEATURING A TOWERING WINE UNIT AND CRATES OF WHISKEY HIDDEN AWAY IN THE DRAWERS. A CUSTOM, RECTANGULAR ICE BUCKET IS CUT INTO THE COUNTERTOP TO KEEP BOTTLES OF CHAMPAGNE CHILLED AND READY TO IMBIBE, WHILE THE LIGHT FIXTURE WAS CUSTOM BUILT BASED ON A PHOTOGRAPH THE CLIENT FOUND OF AN OLD BAUHAUS PROJECT.*



*THIS KITCHEN HAS A DASH OF EVERYTHING, VINTAGE FINDS, LUXE MATERIALS, CUSTOM MILLWORK AND PLENTY OF UPCYCLED WOOD WITH GRAINS THAT TELL A STORY.*



"SHE REALLY WANTED TO MAKE A STATEMENT WITH HER BEDROOM," NOTES ECHOLS OF THE HOMEOWNER, WHO DESIRED AN ULTRA-MODERN AESTHETIC OVERALL, WITH A HINT OF FARMHOUSE, AND ENLISTED A FRIEND TO HELP WITH ALL OF THE SOFT FINISHES AND FABRIC.

W

hen tastemaker and owner of the beloved Round Top Inn set out to build her new family home in Houston overlooking the Bayou, she made one thing very clear: she was up for anything.

Like most start-from-scratch home construction, the owner's vision for their home evolved as the project progressed from the initial cool-meets-farmhouse inspiration to a full-blown haven evoking a freewheeling spirit and cultivated artistic taste.

"The client was really inspired by the modern farmhouse, and she wanted to incorporate a lot of her artistic flair and love of color," describes project manager Elizabeth Echols. "A lot of Houston clients stay traditional in their palettes and don't necessarily enjoy the process of picking things out, but she treated her house as an art project, which opened endless possibilities of different layering techniques."

One element that didn't change, however, was the home's function. The homeowners sought to cultivate a lived-in sensibility designed to immediately put guests at ease, while also withstanding the spills and accidents of the couple's young children. As the owners are the consummate hosts who need no excuse to throw a bash, they needed large communal spaces with lots of seating to host family gatherings for holidays and celebrations.

One thing that the homeowner was not short on was ideas – for example, bringing a sample of a New Age-style, holographic deer-antler wallpaper to their very first design meeting. From then on – and for every weekly meeting thereafter during the nearly three-year endeavor – it was off to the artistic races.

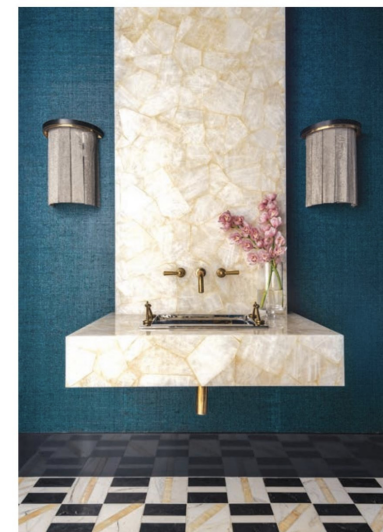
"She really wanted to push the envelope," explains Clint Johnson, principal at Newberry Architecture. "I mean, when a client comes to you with something like that holographic wallpaper, it makes the rest of being creative easy."

In a reprieve from the usual white-box kitchens, the expansive, light-drenched space is defined by bold textures, technicolor treasures and custom pieces, starting with the oven hood, a vintage find from the client. "It's actually an Italian altar with original pastel colors that really inspired her, and she knew she wanted to use it somewhere," describes Echols, adding that she came up with using it as a vent hood. "So we flipped it upside down and then turned it into a vent, hollowed it out and made it work."

The altar is flanked by white custom cabinets with glass panels and brass finishes on either side to complete a sense of flow and cohesion. Another dazzling antique find is the hardwood flooring throughout the kitchen, with the few leftover panels repurposed in the upstairs wet bar, while several other varieties and shades of vintage wood grace the home to deliver bespoke, artisanal details.



INSIDE THE PRIMARY BATHROOM, THE VANITY'S NATURAL WOOD TONES ARE TOPPED WITH SLABS OF WHITE MARBLE AND ACCENTUATED WITH THE WHITE-AND-GOLD-TILED FLOOR.



INITIALLY DISAPPOINTED WITH THE MINIMAL GOLD VEINING IN THE POWDER ROOM TILE, THE HOMEOWNER AND ECHOLS SWAPPED OUT SEVERAL TILES FOR ANOTHER SET WITH WARMER AND HEAVIER GOLD PATTERNS. "OUR TILE GUY HAD ALREADY LAID THE FLOOR, BUT WE PUT OUR BLUE TAPE ON AND SAID, 'POP THESE OUT,'" ADDS ECHOLS. "IT WAS FUN TO PLAY WITH THE PATTERN AND MAKE IT OUR OWN."



BRIGHT CORAL CABINETS ADORN THIS MINI WET BAR, OFF THE GAME ROOM ON THE SECOND FLOOR, TO MAKE IT "REALLY, REALLY FUN, DESPITE HOW SMALL OF A SPACE IT IS," DESCRIBES ECHOLS.



AS AN AVID HUNTER AND MOTORCYCLE ENTHUSIAST, THE HUSBAND REQUESTED A DEDICATED SPACE WITHIN THE GARAGE TO SERVE AS HIS MAN-CAVE.