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DESIGNER BROOKE MCGUYER HUTSON
MARRIES OLD WITH NEW AND STYLE WITH
FUNCTION IN HER CLIENTS' TEXAS HOME.

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PHOTOGRAPHY MICHAEL HUNTER

Perfect PAIRINGS





We wanted a new house with old elements," says the owners of this Houston residence. Their vision fell into place over the course of several years with the help of interior designer Brooke McGuyer Hutson of Brooke McGuyer Interiors, architect Michael Dreef of Eubanks Group Architects, and builder Andy Abercrombie of Abercrombie Custom Homes—all of whom were on the project from its start. Beginning with the exterior, the team blended Old World style with present-day sensibility in what Dreef calls an "English Georgian-style home with classical details."

Inside, Hutson continued this custom blend with a symphony of antiques, fabrics, and accessories to illustrate the couple's love of traditional manor style while giving them all the modern conveniences and warmth recently built homes afford. "They wanted a house where they could entertain but that was also comfortable and cozy when it's just the two of them," says the designer.

To convey authenticity, a number of reclaimed



Previous pages: In the great room, the Knole-style sofas fold down to allow for relaxation. Their exquisite nailhead trim and pinecone-style finials add to the detail, while a collection of European stag mounts over the mantel are a nod to the home's country estate influence. Above: Salvaged 19th century Cedar Bayou Brick from a church in downtown Houston was used for the exterior, which the architect refers to as an English Georgian style. Opposite: In the entry, a table skirted with a blue-and-white Fortuny fabric displays pieces from the couple's tortoiseshell box collection, creating a statement and alluding to the character-rich design found throughout the home.



building materials and timeless finishes were used. Starting in the foyer, antique wood floors flow throughout the main level, while overhead, repurposed beams from a south Louisiana farm give the structure an understated grandeur. Each of the home's seven fireplaces were outfitted with antique mantels, and reclaimed doors were used throughout when possible. In addition, Houston-based finish design firm Segreto Finishes covered the majority of the walls with a veneer plaster as a nod to the European design influence. All of these elements work to give the effect that the home has been in place for decades, if not centuries. However, none of the features were happenstance. "The reason we were able to do this is because the couple formed such a lovely team from the start. I really leaned on the architect and builder in asking, 'Will this reclaimed surround work with the firebox?' and 'Can millwork be fitted to these doors?'" says Hutson of the detailed plans.



Leather-upholstered doors lead into the library. Opposite: Limestone blocks carve out a niche for the dining room's fireplace, where the antique mantel features a crest. The clients brought their chandelier, dining table, and chairs from their previous home, and Hutson had skirted slipcovers made from a stripe fabric to contrast with the Fortuny drapes and tone down the formality of the space. A light blue plaster by Segreto Finishes covers the walls.



The kitchen, breakfast nook, and family room flow one into another, a feature that was important to the couple in the initial plans, and allows them to spend time together in the most-used areas of the home. Below: The outdoor kitchen is located just off the home's kitchen for ease of use. A pool pavilion with a fireplace is a year-round respite. Bevelo lanterns and a fireplace with an antique look keep the space in line with the home's overall design.



Hutson notes the kitchen has a New Orleans influence that is apparent in the brick. "It's a warmth you can't achieve with a tile or marble backsplash," the designer says. Below, from left: Function abounds in the catering kitchen, butler's pantry, and mudroom, where a combination of concealed and visible storage has an elegant, orderly appeal.





Much of the home's second floor is dedicated to guest rooms for the couple's children and grandchildren. In the sitting room, seating and an oversized ottoman invite movie nights and rounds of board games. Below, from left: A guest room with twin beds serves as the grandchildren's primary room. A bee motif stenciled on the walls brings whimsy to a guest bath. At the top of the stairs, a sitting area gives a communal space outside of the bedrooms.



This thoughtful approach carries throughout the interiors, where style is balanced with function and practicality. In terms of layout, having the kitchen, breakfast room, and family room open to one another was important to the owners. "They live in this area," Hutson says of the adjoining rooms that flow gracefully one to another thanks to unifying design treatments. In the kitchen specifically, an Officine Gullo range provides all the bells and whistles a chef could want, while a coordinating custom hood and antique bell jar pendants bring the style.

"There's a very Southern, Lowcountry feel here," says Hutson of the space, pointing to the room's brick surround. "To me, when you mix materials and antique styles into a home versus doing all-new pieces, you create a home with so much interest." Similarly, the catering kitchen and butler's pantry don't deviate from the aesthetic: A Delft tile-inspired backsplash makes a statement in the kitchen, while the owners' exquisite china collection is displayed as art behind glass in the



Clockwise from top left: Rather than wallpaper, the walls of the lady's study are covered with a feminine Quadrille fabric. The desk is an antique piece she brought from a previous home. Upstairs, a guest room features a canopy and drapes in a pattern by Bennison Fabrics. A collection of antique silhouettes creates an artful gallery wall in the room's sitting area.



In the master bedroom, a Colefax and Fowler fabric is complemented with a blue decorative finish on the walls. Over the antique mantel, a custom grid of framed intaglios conceals a television. Hutson notes the lady's bath is designed to be "clean, bright, and happy," while his bath is meant to feel like stepping into an elegant European hotel with elements of burled wood, marble, and limestone.



pantry's cremone-bolted, built-in storage cabinets. As avid antiques collectors, the couple didn't start from scratch when it came to furnishings. "Furnishing this house was like a big puzzle, because they had so many great pieces; it was all about figuring out what looked best where," says Hutson. The collectibles were complemented with inviting upholstered pieces to convey the desired sense of comfort. For example, in the great room a pair of new custom, velvet Knole sofas are a luxurious spot to relax and strike a balance amid the room's wooden pieces, including the flooring and beams. Upstairs in the family room, a blue floral fabric was repeated on plush upholstered pieces, pillows, and draperies to create a comfortable but polished look. "This house has a European sensibility that is met with Southern hospitality," says Hutson. "They get all the perks of a new home, but it feels lived in and curated over time."

