

Turning on *the Charm*

This Dallas home beguiles with elegant architecture punctuated by lively colors and patterns.

WRITTEN BY MONIQUE MCINTOSH
PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEPHEN KARLISCH
STYLING BY RUSSELL BRIGHTWELL



Interior Design: Kara Adam, Kara Adam Interiors

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alling in love with a house can feel a bit like being cast under a spell. One Dallas family experienced such enchantment when photos of this abode popped up in the wife's inbox. The couple had no intention of moving their young children

from the home they had recently completed with interior designer Kara Adam. But once they saw its double-height foyer, they simply couldn't resist. "You're greeted by a Cinderella spiral staircase," the wife describes. "I immediately knew it was going to be difficult to walk away. It gave me that 'feeling.'"

News of their move surprised Adam, but she became equally enamored. Architecturally, "The house was in such great shape," the designer says, pointing to the formal living and dining areas and family room, where light pours in through vast arched windows. With no major structural changes needed, she focused on tailoring the interior design to the owners, leaning into the romantic verve that so captured their imagination. Adam and her project assistant, Ashley Ifert, added colorful, feminine touches, using the dining room's existing blossom wallpaper as a jumping off point. "I said, 'Let's lighten things up,' and began layering in textures and patterns," she notes. Most of the walls and kitchen cabinetry received a coat of fresh white paint. And, like brushstrokes on a canvas, lively prints and flushes of color appear throughout.

Some spaces remained restrained in their palette, including the serene primary bedroom cushioned in creamy comfort with an upholstered bed and wool carpeting. Others go deeper, such as the library with an atmospheric blue shade on its walls and bookshelves. The formal living room leans into the soft, dreamy tones of a Claude Monet garden, grounded by cool green walls and twin velvet loveseats—not to mention floral notes from the lilac linen armchairs and a tufted pink leather ottoman. The rugs and draperies share similar intersecting lines. "I love patterns in relation to each other," Adam adds. Yet, in a surprising move, she paired the dining room's flowering walls with a bold zebra-print rug.

More wallpaper choices create varying moods within the home, from the hand-painted pink-and-indigo design in the powder room to the

abstract lavender swirls in the daughter's bathroom. For a bar area adjacent to the dining room, "We wanted a moody jewel box," says Adam, who cocooned it in a dark geometric pattern with chocolate-gray lacquer on the ceiling and cabinetry. Cubist wallpaper brings a contemporary counterpoint to the breakfast nook framed by grand arched windows. Against the more formal architectural elements, the modern print "feels chic and cool," the designer explains. "I love mixing a little bit of contemporary into a traditional setting to add interest."

A similar push and pull guided the furnishings, which contrast genres in silhouettes and materials. In the same breakfast nook, a lantern pendant lights a classic Eero Saarinen dining table and cane Marcel Breuer seats. Meanwhile, the family room features two sculptural armchairs and an old-fashioned English roll-arm sofa upholstered in a friendly plaid—a charming yet practical choice for everyday use. "Patterns are your friend when you have small children," the designer says with a knowing smile. Against the more traditional architecture, graphic-leaning paintings by artists like Ethan Cook, Rachel Perry and Alex Kwartler—acquired with guidance from art advisor Lynsey Provost—feel "fun and contemporary," the wife explains.

Rear doors open onto a backyard pool area crawling with ivy and covered by a canopy of mature magnolia trees, alongside a trickling lion-head fountain. Here, Adam cultivated outdoor gathering spaces with dining and seating arrangements, and poolside chaise lounges from which the parents can watch their children swim. The choice of crisp white for the sculptural concrete tables and wicker-style chairs stands out against the lush greenery. "They love to entertain outside," Adam explains. "So we wanted areas where everyone has a spot, no matter if it's for an intimate conversation or a larger group."

Inside and out, the spaces are imbued with a little extra magic: whether it's everyday moments with the children doing homework in the breakfast nook, or the holidays with family draping garland along the fairy-tale staircase that forever rerouted this couple's life. "When you put your stamp on a house, it really feels like home—and you can create those memories forever," the wife muses. ■



In the dramatic foyer, a storybook spiral staircase is lined with a runner from Stark. Neatly fitting into the stairwell's rounded contours, a table is adorned with an Eskayel fabric and Samuel & Sons trim. Art is by Leslie Wilkes.

The living room features sofas in Ebanista velvet and an ottoman in Jerry Pair leather from Culp Associates. To the left hangs a work by Rachel Perry. A Stark rug and Linher Hollingsworth draperies complete the scene.





Above: Playing off the existing Gracie wallpaper, Vaughan's Montferat Leaf chandelier crowns the dining room. Hickory Chair seating rests on a zebra-print rug from Interior Resources. Art by Ethan Cooke punctuates the space. Florals are by Crisman Liverman.

Opposite: Library walls painted Farrow & Ball's Inchyra Blue complement pillows in an Élitis textile. Hickory Chair seats in a Schumacher fabric and Arteriors side tables form an intimate conversation area.





Above: Lindsay Cowles wallpaper animates the breakfast nook, which includes a custom banquette in Rosemary Hallgarten fabric from Holland & Sherry, an Eero Saarinen Tulip table and Cesca chairs. A Julie Neill for Visual Comfort & Co. lantern suspends above.

Opposite: Gatherings gravitate to the family room's custom sofa in a Kravet plaid situated alongside a coffee table and stools from Hickory Chair. The latter are covered in a Willie Weston fabric from Supply Showroom. An area rug from Abrash Galleries lies underneath.



Above: In the primary bedroom, the Hickory Chair bed is topped with linens from the Matouk Schumacher Collection and a gray lumbar pillow in a Holland & Sherry material. The nightstand is custom designed by Kara Adam Interiors.

Opposite: Patterns abound in the daughter's bathroom featuring Abnormals Anonymous' Flashdance wallpaper from Supply Showroom and draperies in Quadrille's Happy Garden print. A Hector Finch sconce from James Showroom illuminates the vanity.