

BESPOKE BLEND

A TEXAS DESIGN FIRM INFUSES A RETIRED COUPLE'S LAKESIDE RESIDENCE WITH UPDATED COMFORTS AND SENTIMENTAL FLAIR. BY Ashley Shaw | PHOTOGRAPHY BY Michael Hunter



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As new retirees with a large extended family, Kathy and Jerry Noonan threw downsizing to the wind and opted to start their next stage of life in a 6,000-square-foot home with a private waterfront view. They brought many of their furnishings and several meaningful accessories along, reminders of the place where they raised their children, but they sought fast help from registered interior designers Margaret Chambers and Allen Keith to transform the enormous house from lackluster to luminous.

“We had to work with pretty much what was there, but we needed to add more personality and interest,” says Margaret, the principal of Chambers Interiors & Associates in Dallas.

She and senior designer Allen enlivened every room of the Noonans’ two-story haven, which includes five bedrooms, two laundry rooms, separate media and game rooms, and several living and dining areas. They also freshened the front porch and outfitted the back patio with stylish, cozy seating to give the Noonans and their guests a place to relax and relish the scenery.

Built in 2012, the dwelling had great architectural bones, plus attractive floors and finishes like the den’s coffered ceiling, white subway tile in the kitchen, and custom cabinetry throughout. “But we had to add some

character to the house,” Margaret says. She and Allen dressed up many smaller spaces with jazzy wallpapers and, in the bedrooms and larger gathering places, balanced modern touches with antiques. “They have a certain warmth and character that new things just rarely have,” says Margaret, whose career in northern Texas spans more than three decades.

“Originally [Kathy’s] style was a little more Old World, and I think we gave her a new traditional look,” says Margaret, noting that they incorporated as much of the Noonans’ existing décor as possible by reupholstering and repurposing many timeworn pieces for a fresh, up-to-date aesthetic.

Floral draperies from Kathy’s mother, myriad artwork, and other sentimental items from the Noonans’ previous home of more than 20 years mingle with an array of frills selected by the designers to accentuate the couple’s classic sensibility, such as a collection of Chinese Rose Medallion plates in the dining room and the ornate, locally forged lantern hung in the foyer.

Margaret takes pride in the overall result of marrying the Noonans’ belongings with well-appointed additions. Like all of her projects, she says, “It’s very individualized. We like being very creative for our clients and helping them have something that is uniquely theirs.”



Designers Margaret Chambers and Allen Keith kept the Noonans’ den casual and comfortable with a mix of seating in solid gray and blue hues. A pair of armchairs (opposite) embellished with a snappy print and matching throw pillows on the sofa lend contemporary panache to the space, while an Eastern-inspired tapestry and a Victorian-era chest topped with modish accents create an intriguing vignette.



Blue-and-white themes throughout epitomize a modern-day approach to classic style, a vision shared by the homeowners and designers. For the front entryway, the designers commissioned an ornate iron and seeded glass lantern (top). Hand-painted wallpaper panels in gilded bamboo frames line the upstairs hallway, visible from the foyer. Each depicts a slightly different waterside scene as a nod to the Noonans' lake view. A bold wallcovering in the powder room (left) gives new life to an existing black-and-white marble floor, while two playful patterns in the downstairs laundry room (above) create a sense of whimsy.

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The built-in shelves and cabinets in the study beg for light, bright accompaniments, like the cream-hued herringbone sofa and a duo of sky-blue crushed velvet chairs. With the avian-and-botanical-print curtains pulled back, abundant sunshine reflects off two glass-topped gold tables adorned with colorful trinkets. More eye-catching treasures, new and old, line the dark shelves.



For this dining room and dressed-up game room (opposite), Margaret and Allen selected high-quality wool carpeting and had each version cut to the exact size needed to properly fill the spaces. "It's more economical and quicker than hand-hooked rugs," says Margaret, who outfitted the dining area in all-new furniture and antiques store finds.





Floral draperies (above) that previously hung in Kathy's mother's house inspired the entire scheme of the guest room that is now hers when she visits. "Sometimes the biggest challenge turns out to be the most unique room," says Margaret, who used excess fabric to fashion an accent pillow for the bed and a matching shower curtain in the adjoining bath. The portrait and framed botanical were also part of the Noonans' collection. The master suite (top and opposite) is a serene, neutral retreat for the retired couple.

