



All in the Mix

ANN WOLF INCORPORATES COLOR, CHARACTER, AND COLLECTIONS INTO A HOUSTON FAMILY'S NEW-CONSTRUCTION HOME.

TEXT TIFFANY ADAMS | PHOTOGRAPHY CHRIS LUKER

Previous pages: Both the formal living room and entry feature classic architectural details with energizing hues and a carefully curated collection of art. In the living room, a decorative paint treatment in a dusty apricot shade covers the walls. Over the sofa hangs a contemporary photograph of an antique painting restoration shop in Italy, thus mixing the new with the old. The work at the right, by artist Ethan Cook, features textiles woven together to appear like a canvas, and the coffee table is a piece crafted by famed father-son metal artisans and furniture makers, Philip and Kelvin LaVerne.

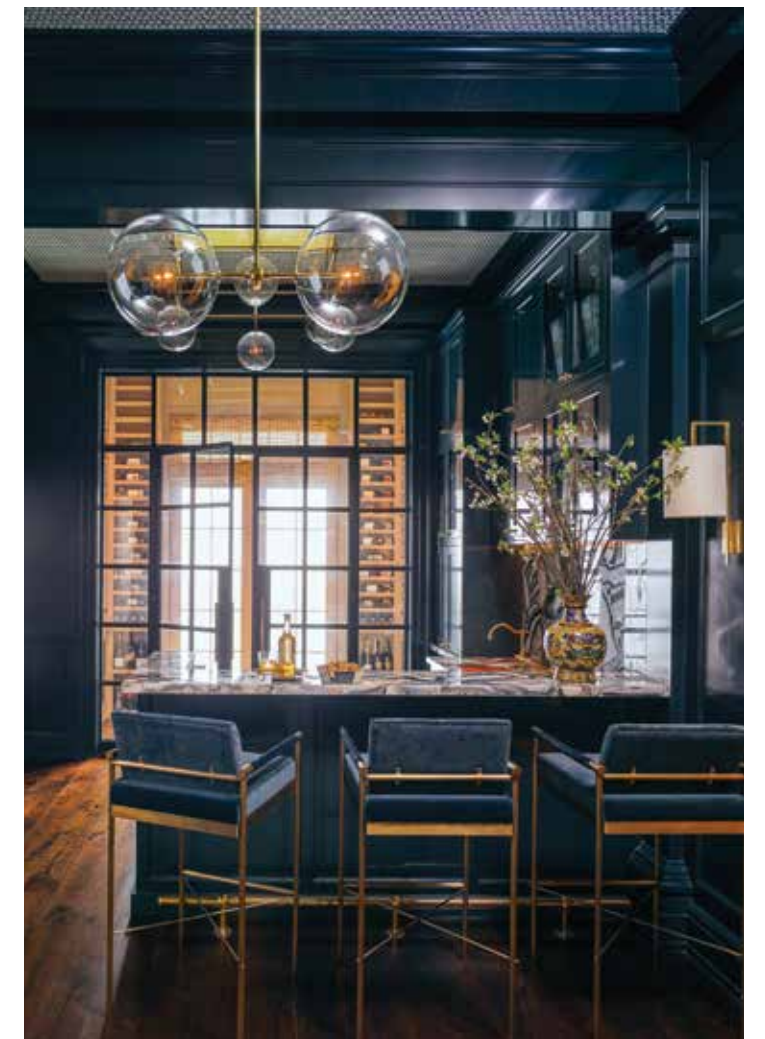




Sit down with Ann Wolf, and the Texas-based designer will tell you she was greatly influenced by her East Coast upbringing. Raised in Manhattan, she and her husband have lived in the Lone Star State for three decades, but her roots remain evident in her designs. “I think I bring an East Coast sensibility to my work. I’m always really inspired by American furnishings, and I love to mix pattern and color.”

It was this blend that prompted a young Houston family to hire her when they undertook a new build in the city’s Memorial neighborhood. “The wife knew she wanted a traditional house, and she was set on my aesthetic,” Wolf says. Early on in the home’s drawing phase, the designer came on board alongside the late architect Reagan Miller. “I think if a designer has input on the plans, there’s always a better outcome,” Wolf says, noting she enjoys considering details like window and outlet placement to make a home function at its peak.

Clockwise from top left: Cream-colored taffeta drapes and a scenic de Gournay wallpaper elevate the formality of the dining room. The adjacent hallway leads to a moody-hued deep blue bar with an Alex Katz print visible from the doorway.





Wolf's masterful mix of pattern, color, and time periods is perhaps most evident in the family room. "I love fabrics, and I like to work with a client to build collections of art and pottery to make a home feel layered from the start," the designer says.



Clockwise from top left: A wallcovering and chandelier bring what Wolf calls "a maximalist explosion of color" to the breakfast nook. The wife's office features a cheerful Galbraith & Paul wallcovering. Antique Portuguese backsplash tiles lend color and character in the timeless white kitchen.





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Of course these practical considerations proved useful, but being involved from the start also allowed her to get a sense of how the clients live day to day as well as what brings them joy and comfort. For example, to give the family—which includes four young children—more time together in the early evenings, she suggested dual islands in the kitchen. Parents can do prepwork and cook at one, while the kids complete homework and art projects at the other. "The kitchen is really the heartbeat of the house, especially for a young family, and this allows them to be together," Wolf says.

The home does more than simply function well,

it appears to draw you in as you travel throughout its spaces, all of which have layer upon layer of interest. "I love room-by-room discovery to create continuity," Wolf says, noting how features play off one another to keep visual interest piqued. For example, a collection of antique Delft pottery seen in the kitchen's bookcases ties into the blue, yellow, and green palette of the family room seen just beyond its shelves. "I helped them build collections of art and pottery to make it feel layered from the start," the designer says. "I love fabrics and consider myself a print-driven designer, so the rug in the family room also played off the

Outside the family room, a covered porch is a comfortable lounge spot near the pool. Opposite: With three daughters and a son, the children's rooms were an important part of the design. Wolf tailored each of the girls' rooms to their favorite colors, while the red-and-white bunk and playroom has colorful accents.



The owners' suite is marked by a shift to a more subdued palette. In the main bedroom, Wolf notes she was guided by the floral hand block-printed Lee Jofa fabric to create her "vision of a soft, restful space." Here, a grasscloth covers the walls while a framed quilt acts as art over the bed. The feel carries through to the classic bath and pale blue lacquered cabinetry in the closet.

backsplash in the kitchen," she adds. Upstairs, the kids' spaces were tailored to their likings with vivid patterns that manifested in the children's choice colors of yellow, blue, and hot pink. "I had a lot of fun in the kids' rooms," Wolf says, noting they adhere to this continuous whole-home approach.

Aside from creating a flow, Wolf adds visual appeal with a juxtaposition of pieces. "I like to mix mid-century modern furnishings into traditional designs because I think the mix is interesting and

fresh," Wolf says. This is evident in the entry, where a 1950s table stands out against the heavy molding and paneling that is iconic of classic architecture. Similarly, a Victorian wicker chair and ottoman covered with antique textiles feel at home next to a contemporary work by Alexander Calder seen over the mantel. "We worked with an art consultant to find pieces that are true to the client," Wolf says of the numerous paintings, sculptures, and photographs, all of which lend a personal touch to the design.

