

AN ARTFUL APPROACH

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Domestic Bliss



Oftentimes, the perfect location does not play host to the perfect home. Such was the case for an active family of five looking to plant their roots in Cherry Hills Village. While the serene golf-course setting of their mid-century Tudor was indeed picturesque, the interiors were in need of a top-to-bottom renovation.

With that, the homeowners embarked on an architectural journey that would take the dated space down to the studs, ultimately reemerging as a colorful and current abode.

Because the family had a blank slate from which to work, the design process was fraught with possibility. Led by designer Beth Armijo, the homeowners turned the project of creating a new dwelling into a collaboration between mom, dad and their three children. "The clients had fun making design decisions together. Once we narrowed down the choices for wallpaper and finishes, it went to a family vote," Armijo laughs. To that end, each of the three young children chose

their own bedroom color palettes based, of course, on their favorite sports teams. The littlest family members even made decisions on accents like their bathroom light fixtures and knobs, giving the home a more personal and whimsical sensibility.

Just as essential as making the process all-inclusive was incorporating the homeowner's beloved antiques. "It was important that the overall aesthetic be modern while also in keeping with the traditional pieces that the client inherited," Armijo says. "We wanted to reuse the stunning heirlooms that evoked so much sentimentality for the family. At the same time, we also wanted to infuse the client's playful style in a way that felt seamless and natural."

With this edict in mind, they built a home that was both beautiful and livable. Taking Armijo's lead, the homeowners made perfect use, not only of their antiques, but also of their extensive contemporary art collection. With deep roots in

Louisville, Kentucky, the family's matriarch comes from a long line of fine art patrons. As such, cherished pieces led the design in many of the home's rooms including a dining space that was built around an abstract painting originally given as an anniversary gift from husband (a graphic designer) to wife.

Color was also a driving force throughout the process. "The homeowners were not afraid of color. Typically, I am trying to talk clients into bolder hues. In this case it was the opposite – we had to decide where to infuse more neutral tones to give the space balance." Touches such as yellow leather bar stools in the kitchen and a custom painted staircase in a gradient of blues – one shade ever so slightly lighter than the last – transformed an otherwise traditional home into one brimming with character and quirk.

"Ultimately, we wanted the homeowners' playful personalities to shine through in the design. This is a space with something interesting to see at every turn." ▶



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Family Room: Custom, hand woven rugs by Authentic Rugs are both beautiful and family friendly, making for easy clean ups on unexpected spills. A coffee table by Grunge is gorgeous and functional – hidden inside are tray tables that easily fold in and out. Upholstery by Kravet and an from local gallery Bobbi Walker Fine Art round out the space.

Staircase: A blue staircase painted in a gradient style added a pop of color and interest.

Powder Room: Graphic wallpaper by Kravet and a vanity by Waterfall Vanities in an unexpected hue make for a powder room that's both inviting and eclectic.

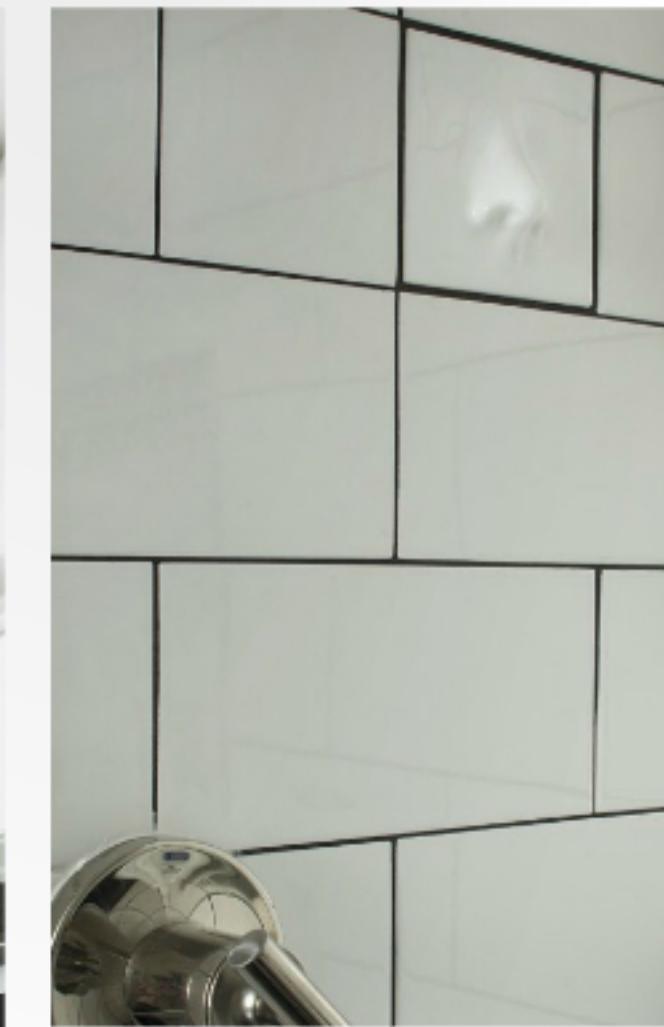
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Kitchen: A kitchen that is open, airy and filled with charm serves as a gathering spot for the family. Bright yellow stools add a welcomed pop of color, while a backsplash by Decorative Materials and cabinets by BKC Kitchen & Bath are timeless and on trend.



"We wanted to infuse the client's playful style in a way that felt seamless and natural."

— Beth Arnijo



Opposite Page

Dining Room: A statement art piece gifted from husband to wife sets the tone for a dining room that blends both classic and contemporary looks. Pendant lighting by Robert Abbey and Lee Industries upholstered dining chairs are neutral but interesting accents.

Master Bedroom: The family's children are memorialized on the walls of the master bedroom in art painted by the homeowner's mother. Nightstands by Ryan Schlafer and lamps by Arteriors accent the space.

Bathroom: The family's children helped in the design decision making process, including the selection of tile and lighting fixtures for each of their personal bathrooms.

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Master Bathroom: The master bath is a perfect example of the overlying design theme for the home – classic with a playful sense of quirk. Seemingly neutral bath tiles, when viewed closely, reveal specialty tiles in various body part shapes. Here, a nose greets the homeowners in their master shower.