

HOME / VOGUE LIVING / INTERIORS

Step inside a stylish Dallas home that includes an Andy Warhol moment

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Designed on a head-spinning timeline, the hundred-year-old house is now an impressive family residence. Photographed by Douglas Friedman, styled by Jenny O'Connor.

You may think you can either have interior design done well, or you can have it done fast. But a recent home renovation carried out in Dallas's tony Highland Park neighbourhood makes a compelling case that maybe, in the right hands, you can have both.

The 6,500-square-foot Federal-style house received a facelift around the turn of this century. Flash forward to today, and its new owners decided it was in need of some decorative touch-ups as well as some strategic thinking around how to integrate the family's museum-worthy art collection. Enter interior designer Chad Dorsey, who helped transform the 100-year-old home for a family of recent Manhattan transplants.

But, in spite of pandemic-related supply-chain delays—when lead times can reach nine months or more—it would have to be fast. “Given the fact that my daughter was already a sophomore in high school at that time, we knew we didn’t have a two- or three-year timeline to work with,” the client says.

Years? Try months: After arriving in Texas in September 2020, the family needed to be moved in within five months. That left only around four weeks for a design concept, and an additional four months to pull it all off. “Even under the best of circumstances, getting the project done in that time frame is a challenge. And, clearly, we weren’t operating under the best circumstances,” the client says. Fortunately, Dorsey understood the situation from day one.

“Sometimes the deadline helps you,” Dorsey says. “It was a big design exercise in looking for things that we could get within a three-month window.” Where some decorators might have been pulling their hair out, Dorsey describes the experience as “actually kind of fun.” With the race officially on, Dorsey leaned into strategies like shopping vintage, where pieces are often available immediately. (1stDibs was a favourite resource.) “It was about found pieces that were very special,” Dorsey adds.

It helped that the family already owned some phenomenal items of their own: tables by Zaha Hadid and Marc Newson; art by Andy Warhol, Julie Mehretu, Ugo Rondinone, and more. As those pieces might suggest, the client’s tastes skewed modern—they weren’t “into pottery or anything like that,” as Dorsey tells it. Fittingly, the furnishings followed suit: De Sede sofas; lighting from Gabriel Scott, Allied Maker, and the Urban Electric Company; and stools and chairs from Maison Gerard were all brought in.

The biggest task at hand was the overhaul of the galley kitchen, a relic of the home’s previous empty-nest owner, who was often on the road. “For us, it’s a family dinner and hangout space,” the homeowner explains. Therefore, a number of first-floor areas—the mudroom, cooking zone, and breakfast nook—were combined into one open and bright kitchen during a second phase of the renovation.

A welcoming atmosphere extends throughout the ground level, where public areas—including a sitting room and burnt orange bar room—are stationed. The dining room is where the Zaha Hadid table gets a starring role, thanks in part to an invisible intervention from Dorsey: To counter the platform’s naturally sloping surface, the designer fashioned a glass top that keeps plates, glasses, and silverware from sliding.

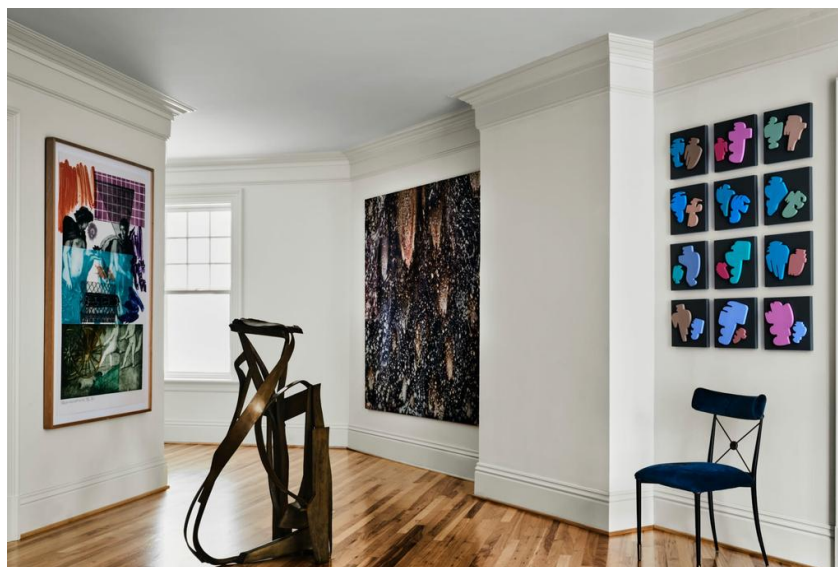
The high-ceilinged upstairs bedrooms are similarly filled with furnishings by A-list designers and famous artists—Kelly Wearstler and Sol LeWitt, for starters. Yet there are also more attainable pieces, like a Room and Board bed in the guest room, that hit the mark in terms of both attractive design and accessibility.

As a whole, the project retains the qualities the client says he sought out in his choice of an interior designer—a contemporary sensibility and abiding sense of comfort. Even among Warhols, LeWitts, and statement-making Italian sofas, Dorsey says, “they wanted it to be livable.”



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Ready to make an impression at the home's entrance is Andy Warhol's portrait of Jackie Kennedy, a favorite in the family's impressive collection. A reflective console table by Marc Newson (transplanted from the homeowners' Manhattan apartment) sits underneath. A stool from Maison Gerard and a grey rug from the Rug Company accompany the arrangement, as does a large chandelier from Allied Maker.



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Because the family often loans works to museums, pieces in their collection rotate regularly. Here, a sculpture by Michael Steiner foregrounds walls featuring works by Robert Rauschenberg (left), Keith Tyson (middle), and Allan McCollum (right). Crozier Fine Arts transported the pieces from New York to Dallas; Artemis Fine Art Services performed the installation.



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A sofa by De Sede snakes through the living room. The mirrored coffee tables are by Carl Springer; chairs are by Jean Royère and from Maison Gerard. Dorsey also specified a steel side table from his own line. The walls display art by Glenn Ligon (left), Sam Gilliam (middle), and McArthur Binion (right).



A table by Zaha Hadid anchors the dining room, which also features work by Ugo Rondinone (left) and Sean Scully (right). Chairs by Nina Seirafi flank the table, and lighting by Lindsey Adelman hangs overhead.



Because of the short timeline for move-in, major renovations were out of the question—with one exception. “The kitchen is the area that we went all out on,” Dorsey says. There, the designer removed walls, opening up spaces that were previously enclosed, and added millwork from Christopher Peacock. “The house’s [original] small kitchen didn’t work,” he says. “They wanted to be able to entertain.” Like the rest of the home, the kitchen has its own artistic addition: a painting by Hans Hofmann. Lighting is by Flos; appliances are Thermador.

Christopher Peacock cabinetry wraps a working area in the kitchen. Though the family and designer initially wanted Italian countertops, shipping and customs delays proved prohibitive. Instead, they opted for a close second, which came from a Texas warehouse and “looked terrific,” Dorsey says.



A sunny breakfast area features Flos's Aim Pendant, armchairs designed by Naoto Fukasawa, and a cantilevered table by Marc Krusin.



Though neutral tones run through the majority of the home—a decision made to help support the blue-chip art collection—a notable exception is the home bar, which was painted a rusty shade of orange. (Dorsey says the shade evoked Hermès orange—and the state of Texas.) Photography by Jenny Holzer enlivens the walls.

Leaning on local and domestic suppliers helped Dorsey meet the client's aggressive timeline for move-in. In a mirrored powder room, decorative lighting is from the Urban Electric Company. The sink basin and fittings are by Waterworks.

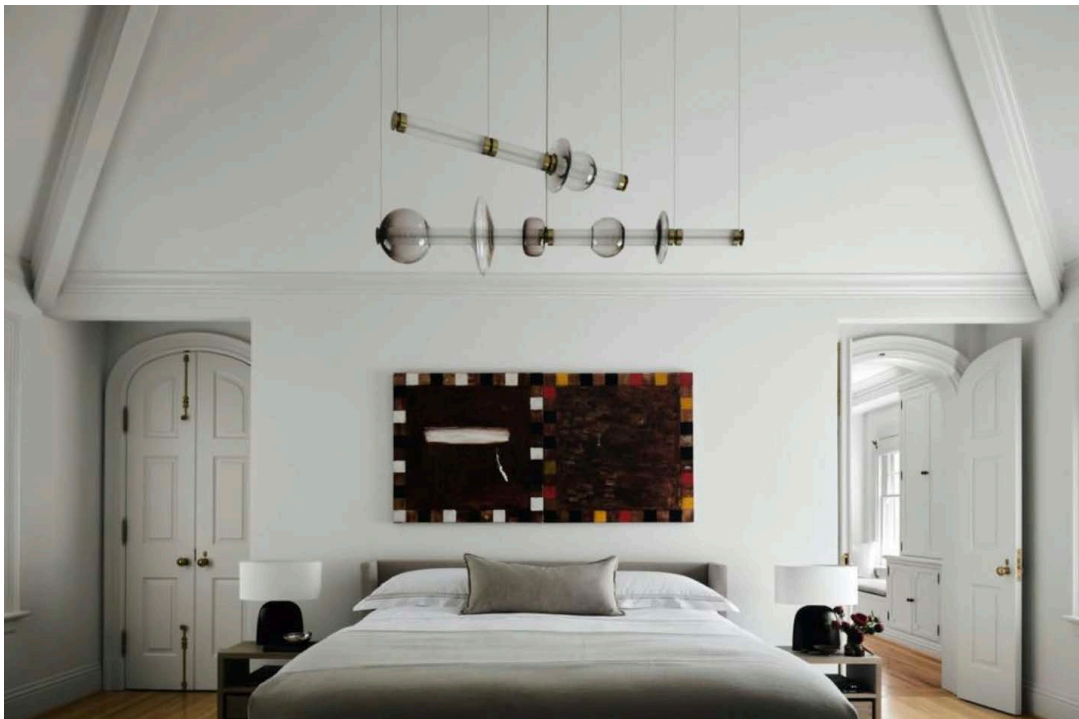


A neutral palette dominates much of the home, including the den, which is outfitted with a sofa from B&B Italia, vintage George Nelson floor lamps, and rug and coffee table by Liaigre. Out of shot, the room also features a chandelier by David Weeks.





A sunny, wood-wrapped window hosts a work-from-home setup. Maria Pergay designed the desk; the office chair is by Porsche and was inspired by the sports seat found in the GT3.



Upstairs, the primary bedroom's soaring ceiling makes for a dramatic chandelier moment. Dorsey opted for a smoked-glass Luna fixture by Gabriel Scott. Liaigre produced the bed; the art is by Julie Mehretu.



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From the soaking tub in the primary bath, the homeowners can look onto work from Sol LeWitt. Dorsey kept the original floors intact but commissioned custom millwork and added slabs of stone in the shower and behind the tub.



The guest room takes on a layer of rustic texture thanks to a vaulted timber ceiling studded with knots and burls. The bed was purchased from Room & Board and outfitted with textiles from Society Limonta. Kelly Wearstler designed the armchairs.



Architectural details, like the wainscoting seen in this guest bath, run throughout the home. The room's fittings are by Waterworks.

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