

City Sophisticate

In Northwest Arkansas, designer Melissa Haynes adds polish and personalization to a second residence—prompting the owners to make it their primary home during the process.



Artwork by Joey Lancaster pairs perfectly with the dining room's understated, shimmering wall covering.



On a corner lot near Fayetteville, Arkansas's, idyllic Wilson Park sits the 1930s home designer Melissa Haynes's client shares with her two teenage children. Stately and classic inside and out, Haynes notes the residence was hardly in need of an overhaul—it had been kept up-to-date—when the owner purchased it several years ago. Yet, parts of the design and some of her client's furnishings needed to be fine-tuned in order to better reflect her style, and a few reconfigurations and additions were required to make it more practical for a family.

At the time of the purchase, Haynes had just completed what was then the owner's primary residence, a home 30 minutes outside of Fayetteville. As the children grew older and attended school in the city, they found they were spending more and more time there and jumped at the chance to purchase this property with the idea of it being an in-town respite during the school week. "At first, she told me 'This house is great, we don't want to do anything,' and then we came in and did a few things to make it function better," says Haynes. "Once they decided to make it their full-time residence, we ended up really going for it to make it a home they would love."

Previous pages: In the living room, Haynes kept the existing paneling and pearlescent wall color, noting, "It felt like a part of the house and had the look we were going for." Pieces like the Biedermeier chest and contemporary coffee table mix effortlessly. Above right: The home's sophisticated patterns and pieces start at the front entry, where a large-scale Schumacher wallpaper pairs with an abstract work. Right: The dining room gives an air of drama while Haynes notes the chandelier feels like the "jewelry of the room."



Outdoor designer Daniel Keeley of DK Design worked with Haynes and the owner to create a covered space usable throughout much of the year. The columns mimic the style seen at the front entry, while classic plantings, including boxwoods and hydrangeas, are in line with the elegant exterior style.





Above: The kitchen received the biggest functional update. Haynes maximized space by taking the cabinetry to the ceiling and relocating the fridge and ovens to an opposite wall. The center island has room for prep space as well as dining. Opposite: Both indoors and out, spaces were reimagined to give the owner, along with her teenage son and daughter, lounge areas where they can spend time as a family, do homework, or entertain friends.

“Going for it” came in the form of several structural changes, all of which Haynes was careful to keep in line with the original style of the home. One of the biggest transformations was the expansion of the home’s outdoor living area where a small, screened porch was traded for a veranda with defined areas for dining and lounging. “This was a very natural progression,” says Haynes, noting the space is accessed through French doors in the dining room, making for a continuous flow from space to space.

Inside, additional living space was added by enclosing a one-car garage adjacent to the kitchen. Haynes outfitted the newly created room with comfortable furnishings and bright accessories to create a hangout for the owner’s daughter and son. “Since it was previously a garage, this room is very narrow. We really tried to maximize every square inch,” says the designer. Haynes also reworked the kitchen, giving the family an abundance of storage in perimeter cabinetry and a two-in-one prep and dining space at a center island. “This is probably the most efficient kitchen we’ve ever created,” says Haynes, noting she relocated the refrigerator, oven, and microwave to a wall opposite the front bay window. She was also able to create a pantry and small laundry room in the space gained from enclosing the garage.

Aside from functionality, the home exudes a cosmopolitan feel in its mix of styles, patterns, textures, and finishes. “The homeowner really got excited about this being a ‘city’ home and wanted to play that up,” says Haynes. Guests get a taste of this when





Above and right: Subdued hues signal serenity in the master suite. In the bedroom, a Hodson McKenzie fabric softens the wall behind the bed and covers an offset window. Opposite: At the front of the home, opposite the kitchen is the owner's office. An inlay chest lends femininity while a rich charcoal gray (Farrow & Ball's Down Pipe No. 26) brings drama to the walls.

stepping into the front entry, where large-scale patterned wallpaper, vivid abstract art, and a timeless Oushak rug blend harmoniously. This continues throughout the main spaces, where a shimmering wallpaper catches the eye without being overwhelming in the dining room and pairs well with the pearlescent finish on the living room's paneled walls. "We had just renovated her primary residence, and—understandably—she had a bit of fatigue from that, so I appreciate so much that she really let me take this house to the next level and make it something they love," says Haynes.

