



# SOUTHERN COMFORT

A top-to-bottom renovation of a landmark home in Nashville creates a warm and welcoming haven for Louisville transplants.

*Written by Bridget Williams / Photography by Tony Bailey*

Providing a different definition of a typical "as-is" sale, you know that your interior designer hit the mark when you go to sell your home, and the new buyers want nearly everything left in situ. That's the case for a Louisville couple when a job transfer to Nashville necessitated the sale of their home. Decorated by Crystal Smith of Bittners and featured in Louisville's May/June 2021 issue ("A Tale of Two Styles"), the colorful seaside-inspired style incorporated classic and contemporary elements.

The all-in sale provided a clean slate for the family's move to the Oman development in Brentwood. They were fortunate to score the original 1960s-era home, situated just inside the gated entrance of the 34-acre community, the first of this caliber in the area in nearly two decades. The covetable neighborhood, reminiscent of the family's bucolic Kentucky homesite, was once part of Ashlawn Farms, the 750-acre estate of Mr. and Mrs. Stirton Oman, prominent breeders of American Saddlebred Horses.





Renovation of the home, spearheaded by HV Urban, John MacCauley, III, and Jim Spangler, was well underway when the couple acquired it, meaning that some major design decisions, such as the kitchen cabinetry, had already been decided. However, there were still ample opportunities for personalization, and the wife once again called upon Crystal Smith, with whom she's collaborated on design decisions for over a decade, to work her magic once again.

Reimagined in Nashville's popular modern farmhouse style, the home's exterior is characterized by clean lines and a contemporary edge. Smith seized upon the wife's enduring affinity for color, particularly shades of blue, to infuse warmth and interest throughout what could have otherwise been cavernous and stark spaces. The drama begins as soon as you cross the threshold, where blossom-laden branches printed on high-contrast wallpaper from Phillip Jeffries follow the winding contours of a curved staircase in the entry from the first to the



second floors. Smith said the wallcovering "developed the vibe for the rest of the design."

Tempering the rustic character of a wide-plank paneled wall surrounding the fireplace in the dining room is a minimalist surround and crystal chandelier. Smith layered on the texture via grasscloth wallcovering, plaid wool and navy velvet upholstery on the dining chairs, and heavy triangle embroidery on the drapery. Blue hues predominate and are a recurring theme from room to room. Artwork surmounting the hearth is from local artist and friend Ed Nash.

An original long brick hallway running the width of the house delineates old from new. Wide, wood-trimmed openings provide access to amply proportioned rooms on either side. Suitably placed in the space is a stained glass window given to the wife by her father. It represents one of a few pieces that's traveled with her from house to house.







Ideally located, a bar at one end of the hall services the dining room, kitchen, and family room. The blue/black color of the bar's cabinetry repeats as an accent shade in the kitchen and on an accent wall in a hallway leading to a powder room. Here, Smith paired a floating vanity with a coppery-black marble top and backsplash with a fantastical wallpaper mural depicting a black and white forest punctuated by various flora and fauna rendered in technicolor.

With three children spanning middle school to college, Smith selected hardworking yet handsome upholstery for the family room. Ticking stripe-upholstered barrel chairs are oriented to face the chevron-tiled fireplace surround, while a pair of sofas square off across a round coffee table. A door on either side of the fireplace opens to a vast covered porch

with skylights, retractable screens, a fireplace, and comfortable seating for a crowd.

A classic two-tier ring chandelier accentuates the vaulted ceiling in the primary suite. Drapery from Romo frames the view of the lushly landscaped rear lawn and pool and calls to mind the nearby Smoky Mountains on a particularly foggy morning. The wife is particularly fond of the backlit mirror surmounting the vanity in the primary bath. She's also enamored with her office, tucked away in a quiet corner of the home and anchored by a lively rug, one of the home's boldest color applications.

Hard as it was to leave their old Kentucky home, the wife said that the family has quickly and happily adjusted to life in the Music City. And, as any parent can attest, the sounds of happy children represent the sweetest symphony. 