

An original abstract painting in the living room was acquired from a Nashville artist who integrated the homeowners' birthdates into the piece.



## A FRESH, HIP APPROACH

A home in a prominent subdivision is cookie-cutter no more, following a timeless facelift as it passes the quarter-century mark.

*Written by Bridget Williams / Photos by Robert Burge*

The black diamond-beveled double front doors signaled this wouldn't be a run-of-the-mill upscale neighborhood home. Since they moved in seven years ago, the homeowners have lived in a state of perpetual renovation, minimizing turn-of-the-20th-century architectural hallmarks to create something better suited to seamlessly transitioning the ensuing decades in timeless style.

For the latest round of enhancements, which included the kitchen, double-height living room, and hearth room, the wife turned to Bittners, looking for a "young and hip designer of like mind." Her criteria were met in spades with Kari Ferris, who has been with the venerable interior design firm for over six years. "It's always a bonus when tastes align," said Ferris of their collaboration.

The seating area in the living room is anchored by a rug from Anabel's Oriental Rugs in a tranquil palette.







The substantially reconfigured kitchen boasts brushed gold hardware from Willis Klein.



The cozy hearth room overlooks the manicured back yard.



A handsome custom table designed by the master craftsmen in the Bittners woodworking studio in the dining area.



Tambour detail in the wet bar is also present on the kitchen island.







"Bitch Likes to Party," a whimsical original artwork by painter and Instagram star Ashley Longshore hangs in the hearth room.

The homeowners, who also maintain homes at Blackberry Mountain and in Florida, have a defined design ethos that leans heavily on a neutral palette and lots of editing. When it came to reworking the kitchen, Ferris recalled with a laugh that the wife's directive was, "Make me the most badass kitchen you've ever seen." The space went from having two islands to one, and the singular window was removed to make way for two more. Ferris described the "ballet white" color of the cabinets, crafted by Mike's Woodworking, as "cream without going cream." She also pointed out that "earthier" elements, such as the tambour detail on the island and nearby wet bar, harken to their Blackberry Mountain residence. In place of a formal dining room, a handsome Bittners-made table bridges the space between the kitchen and hearth room.

Open to the kitchen, Ferris remarked that the living room rug resulted from a "heck of a hunt" in tandem with Anabel's Oriental Rugs due to its size and the need for a neutral palette. The wife, a self-professed "neat freak," keeps clutter to a minimum so that the items that make the cut, including endearing travel souvenirs, art, and

hefty coffee table tomes, play prominently in the overall design. In the hearth room, for example, is "Bitch Likes to Party," a whimsical original artwork by painter and Instagram star Ashley Longshore depicting the wife's prized baubles and favorite bubbly. An original abstract painting in the living room was acquired from a Nashville artist who integrated the homeowners' birthdates into the piece.

The L-shaped living and kitchen areas open to a covered terrace with a corrugated roof and retractable screens that lend a subtle loft-like feel. David Alvey is credited with the design of the outdoor oasis, which includes a pool with limestone coping and artificial turf, prompting the homeowners to keep the pool open year-round to enjoy the vibrant greens and blues even in the doldrums of winter. Towering arborvitae ring the perimeter, imparting the corner lot with an enviable level of privacy.

Delight is found in the most minor details throughout this carefully curated home. Raku figures procured during a trip to France and a lion sculpture by South African artist Dylan Lewis are among the treasures on display in the living room. "I look at them and remember the best days," said the wife. <sup>54</sup>

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