

San Antonio
ESCAPE TO HOTEL EMMA

Dallas
DESIGN HOT SPOTS

Houston
LOVELY ALFRESCO GATHERING

TRADITIONAL HOME[®]

May 2017

ROUND TOP
ANTIQUING
TIPS FROM
THE PROS!

KITCHENS
TAKE CLASSIC
WHITE TO THE
NEXT LEVEL

TEXAS TAKEOVER

46 rooms with
Lone Star Style: Austin cool,
Houston bold, and Dallas chic

Brass Act

The classic white kitchen goes glam with metallic accents and a dash of color

WRITTEN BY SALLY FINDER WEEPIE
PHOTOGRAPHY BY NATHAN SCHRODER
PRODUCED BY JENNY O'CONNOR



Reclaimed beams and white-oak flooring lend earthy undertones to Monica Eastin's Dallas kitchen. The elegance of a marble-look backsplash meshes with feminine sparkle conveyed by Tom Dixon pendants, a brass-banded range hood by Modern-Aire, bar stools by Gabby Home, and hardware custom-plated by local artisans.

gatherings KITCHENS



Gathering zone Island seating is convenient to the Miele refrigerator, built into pretty blue cabinetry. **Work zone** A second blue “tower” near the showpiece range keeps necessities at hand. **Breakfast area** An RH table extends to seat 12. More of the leather chairs can be easily pulled in—they’re also used in the study.

Smartphone pointed skyward, Monica Eastin shot for the stars—or what would turn out to be an unexpected star in her new kitchen—capturing the glimmer of Tom Dixon mirror ball pendants shining down the stairway at the Dallas flagship Neiman Marcus store.

“When I saw that photo, I knew I had been playing it too safe,” designer Morgan Farrow says. “The lights were so modern, and I hadn’t been going there. But then I saw they would bring in a little sparkle, a touch of feminine glam to Monica’s kitchen.”

Farrow started out with the goal of creating a kitchen functional enough for a Dallas couple with three young kids and stylish enough for serious entertaining. “I was thinking rustic Mediterranean meets contemporary, with a fresh palette,” she says. “Monica’s previous kitchen was very

Tuscan, and I knew she wanted the opposite of that—light and bright.”

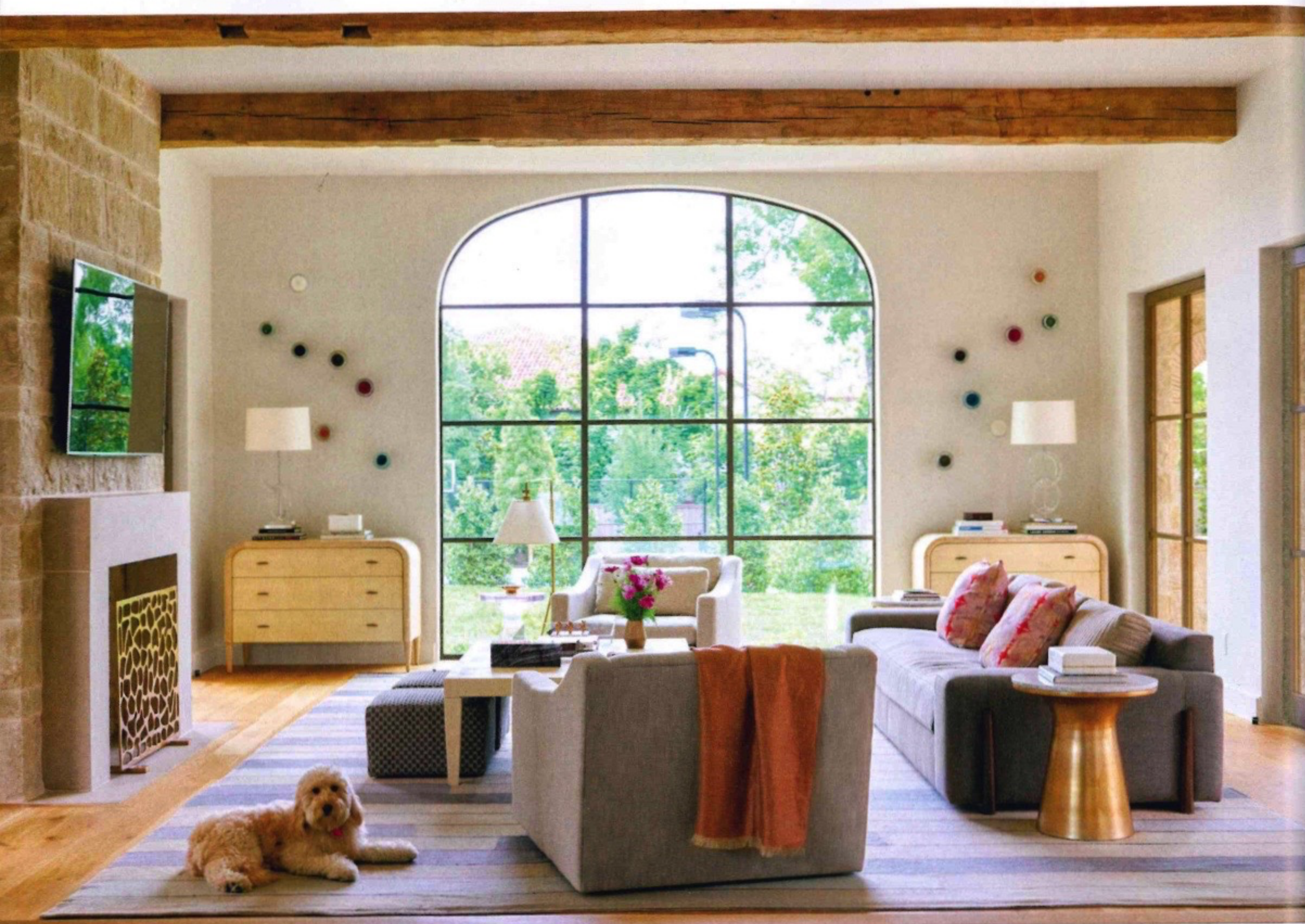
Farrow brought in the bright with white walls and custom cabinetry painted in Benjamin Moore’s “Seapearl” with a lacquer finish. That creamy white continues on the waterfall island top, backsplash, and perimeter countertops, which look like elegant Calacatta marble but are actually Neolith, a compressed natural stone surface that shrugs off pretty much everything, even bleach and scrubby pads.

An all-white kitchen, though, wasn’t the end goal for Farrow. “I think it makes a kitchen feel too floaty,” she says. So she brought in earthy elements—reclaimed Douglas-fir ceiling beams and white-oak floors—and rich color.

“I wanted a punch,” the designer says. “I flipped open a paint deck and boom—I ➤



gatherings KITCHENS



saw the navy blue I knew would be perfect on the perimeter cabinets.”

She had big cards painted with Sherwin-Williams “Outerspace” and left them hanging in the kitchen until she and Monica were sure the color looked good at all times of day.

The final layer of pizzazz comes from a mélange of brass, from the pendants to bar stools—and a showstopping La Cornue range.

“I saw Monica eyeing it in the showroom,” Farrow says. “She told me, ‘That’s what I want. It’s so pretty.’ I couldn’t argue with that. Holy cow—it’s beautiful!”

All the head-turning beauty could make it easy to overlook the kitchen’s function, but it’s there—in spades.

“I wanted the space to flow so we didn’t have the problem of people gathering in

the kitchen and blocking the way to the refrigerator or oven,” Monica says.

A smart floor plan moves traffic to the adjacent family room as it also establishes distinct zones in the kitchen. A galley-style work area includes the range, ovens, and main sink. On the opposite side of the room, a breakfast area is serviced by a second sink and dishwasher. A cold-storage wall made beautiful by blue, furniture-style cabinets bridges the two spaces and keeps beverages handy for anyone at the island.

“The kids like to sit there and do their homework or have a snack,” Monica says, “so it’s really convenient.”

Cabinets built into the island hold her baking pans, panini press, and party supplies. Other cabinets boast pullout drawers

with pegs that keep essentials in place and at hand. “I’m never digging in the back of a cabinet,” Monica says. Built-in electrical outlets mean the toaster and coffeemaker can stay in their home cabinets rather than take up counter space. There are even built-in bins for trash and recyclables.

“I have to be organized for my brain to work,” Monica says. “I love how everything in this kitchen is thought-out. That makes it work perfectly for the way we live.”

Kitchen designer: Morgan Farrow

For more information, see sources on page 130

Family room Flowing from the kitchen, the family room beckons with great views and comfortable furniture, including rolling ottomans that pull out for game night. Glass art on the walls adds a playful punch.