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Interiors

TEXAS

WELCOME HOME

AN INSIDE LOOK
AT THE STATE'S HOT
REAL ESTATE MARKET

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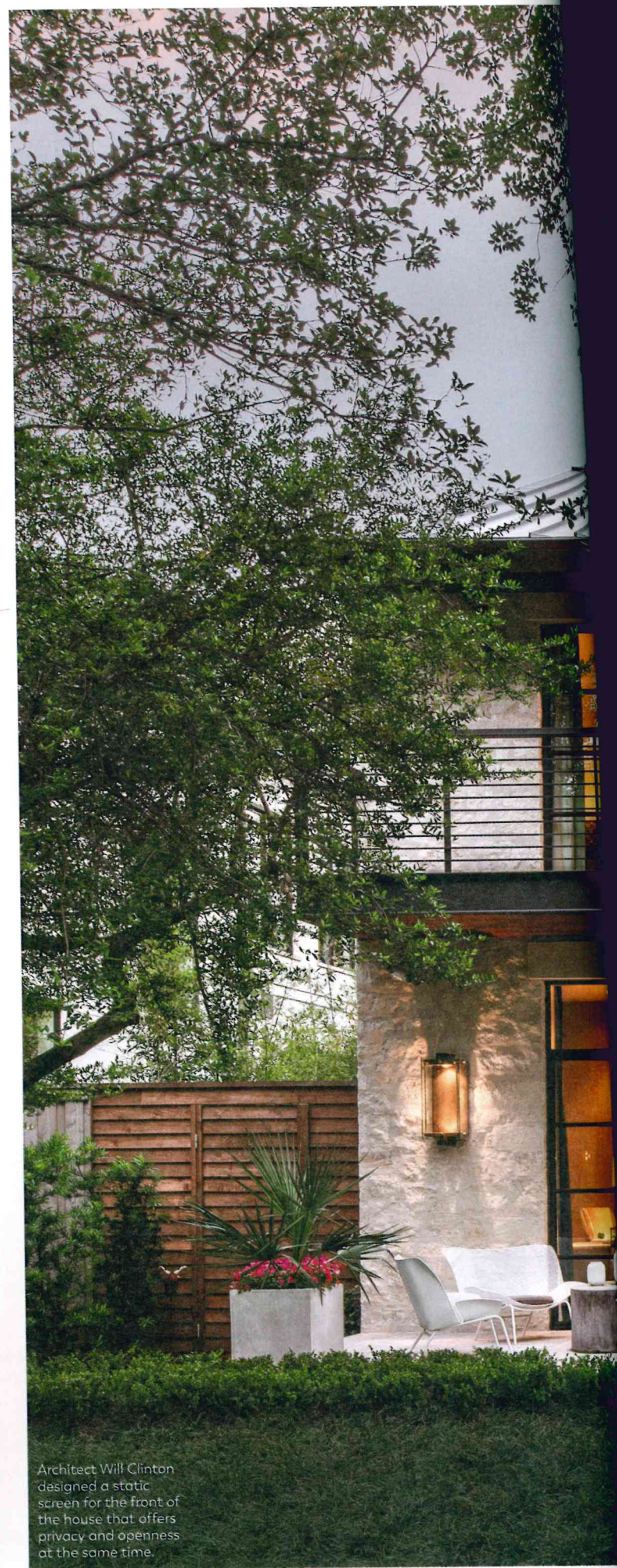
Christine and Mark Danuser put their personal spin on a warmly modern abode designed by Dallas architect Will Clinton.

By Rhonda Reinhart // Photography by Costa Christ

As the owner of Tatum Brown Custom Homes, Mark Danuser spends his days helping clients construct the houses of their dreams. So when it came time to build his own dream home, he and his wife, Christine, were ready for the challenge. They found the perfect lot in University Park, designed the ideal layout, chose flawless finishes and hired interior designer Morgan Farrow to help decorate. Then, they settled in with their son, daughter and family dog. Within the year, however, the Danuser clan would be on the move. As it turns out, they did such a good job on the place that people started taking notice, and even though the house wasn't on the market, they soon received an unexpected—and hard-to-resist—offer. So the Danusers made a deal, and just 50 weeks after moving in, they were moving out.

At the same time, Mark was putting the finishing touches on a spec house, also in University Park, that he had been working on with Will Clinton, an up-and-coming Dallas architect with a flair for regional contemporary design. A big fan of Clinton's work—and this house, in particular—Mark saw a chance to turn the duo's development project into the next Danuser dwelling. "It's not a house you see up and down the blocks of University Park," Mark says of the 6,000-square-foot wood and limestone contemporary. "We ended up liking it so much, we moved into it."

Clinton was thrilled with the results as well. "It's modern architecture," he says, "but it has such warmth to it." Using highly durable garapa wood and handselected cream-colored Texas limestone both inside and out, the architect created a seamless flow between the interior and exterior. Adding to the warm and welcoming feel are the hickory floors, a refreshing departure from ubiquitous oak, and the kitchen's walnut cabinetry, which plays nicely off the room's white walls and countertops.



Architect Will Clinton designed a static screen for the front of the house that offers privacy and openness at the same time.



Only the lightest-colored pieces of Texas limestone made the cut for the fireplace in the family room. The masons selected each piece of stone by hand, ensuring that the finished product would have a consistently creamy hue.





The kitchen's open shelving provides an ideal place to display a commissioned piece by Dallas artist Amee Calloway. The custom counter stools are from Scout Design Studio.

Lovely as it was, the house required some tweaks before the Danusers could call it theirs, so they reached out to Farrow, their go-to interior design pro. "It became a custom project overnight," Mark says, listing the various changes he and his wife wanted to incorporate in order to make the house suit their individual tastes and needs. "We worked with Morgan to take what was existing and what was amazing about the house and put our own twist on it," Christine adds. With just a few months to pull together a design plan, Farrow went to work fast, looking for ways to personalize the house for her clients. In addition to bringing in new light fixtures and window treatments, the to-do list included adding wallcoverings and finding a new backsplash for the kitchen. "We just needed to energize this house," the designer says. "It felt like it needed a punch."

In the dining room—where the homeowners host events ranging from small dinner parties to large family gatherings—that punch came courtesy of a spiky Kelly Wearstler chandelier and floor-to-ceiling, wall-to-wall sheer drapes. "It made it feel sexy in a way," Farrow says of the room's new look, "and hotel lobby-esque." The swanky vibes continue in the lounge, a room overlooking the front yard and the quiet street beyond. It's where the Danusers drink coffee in the morning and sip pre-dinner cocktails in the evening. Blue velvet drapes layered over a subtle but textural wallcovering by Phillip Jeffries bring a glamorous touch to the space and what Farrow describes as "a rock 'n' roll feel." "The drapes add that really big punch right when you walk in," she says. "It sets the tone of how you're going to experience the rest of the house."

Custom elements like these and other fresh additions throughout the house—combined with the existing stellar architecture—created a home that perfectly reflects the personalities of the Danuser family. It's a sophisticated mix of elegance and playfulness, and it has won over everyone who worked

From top: The Danusers purchased the Gear Patterson piece that hangs in the breakfast nook at last year's MTV Re:Define art auction; in the dining room, Thayer Coggin chairs surround a custom table by East Side Creations. Opposite page: The second-floor master bedroom has a treehouse feel thanks to the sizable branches visible through the front window. The bench is from Made Goods; the Moroccan rug is from Interior Resources; and the chairs are upholstered in blue mohair by Pindler.



on the project. "We didn't expect to fall in love with this house like we all have," Farrow says. "I think we injected this youthful, energetic vibe that just feels good." Christine concurs, noting that she and her family have been in the house for more than a year now—longer than they spent in their previous home. "It's like my arranged marriage," she jokes. "Every day I fall more in love with the house." ■





DESIGN DETAILS

TYPE

Single-family home

LOCATION

University Park

ARCHITECTURE

Will Clinton
Clinton + Company Architects
clinton-company.com

BUILDER

Tatum Brown Custom Homes
tatumbrown.com

INTERIOR DESIGN

Morgan Farrow
Morgan Farrow Interiors
morganfarrow.com

LANDSCAPE DESIGN

Bill Bibb
Archiverde
archiverde-us.com

RESOURCES

ARTERIORS

Pendants in kitchen and breakfast
nook, lamps in dining room
arteriorshome.com

CONTEMPO DESIGNS

Sectional in family room, chairs in
breakfast nook and dining room
contempodesigns.com

KATE ERICSON

Custom pillows in family room,
custom bedding and drapery in
master bedroom
kateericsonsewing.com

MADE GOODS

Side tables in lounge, bench in
master bedroom
madegoods.com

MITCHELL GOLD + BOB WILLIAMS

Bed and side table in master
bedroom, console in dining room
mgbwhome.com

PEACOCK ALLEY

Coverlet in master bedroom
peacockalley.com

SCOTT + COONER

Armchairs in family room
scottcooner.com

SCOUT DESIGN STUDIO

Custom ottoman in family room,
custom counter stools in kitchen
scoutdesignstudio.com

VISUAL COMFORT

Chandeliers in dining room and
master bedroom, pendant in lounge
visualcomfort.com