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IF YOU BUILD IT, --- THEY WILL PLAY

*Toy store owners
create **A MAGICAL
FAMILY HOME** for
three generations
to enjoy.*

text by **CONNIE DUFNER** photography by **CODY ULRICH** styling by **JENNY O'CONNOR** florals by **HAILE WOSSEN**



interiors by **TRACY HARDENBURG** architecture by **CHRISTY BLUMENFELD** built by **TATUM BROWN CUSTOM HOMES**





previous spread: The kids grab a snack while sitting on custom barstools by Tracy Hardenburg. A clean-lined Phoenix Day chandelier hangs in front of artwork by Steve Smulka from Gallery Henoch in New York City. A rug from The Rug Girl accents the Kelly Wearstler tiles from Ann Sacks that cover the bar.

this page: The boys scoot along in the foyer. An Interior Resources rug sits below a custom chandelier by Tracy Hardenburg. The console by Robert Kuo perfectly envelops a bench from Laura Lee Clark. A custom mirror reflects the wide, open space.

opposite page: (from top) The grand exterior features landscape design by Harold Leidner. His work continues in the back of the house, which boasts a pool, verdant green space, and perfectly manicured shrubbery.

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SO, WHERE ARE THE TOYS? IT'S A FAIR QUESTION IN THE HOME OF KATHRYN AND HAL COOK, GRANDPARENTS OF EIGHT AND OWNERS OF LEARNING EXPRESS TOYS, THE BELOVED PARK CITIES SHOP.

But even someone who breathes toys at work knows her limits at home. "We have plenty of toys here," says Kathryn. "They just get put away when the kids leave."

When there aren't grandkids around, which isn't all that often, it's easy to see how the Cooks' stylish, sprawling Park Cities home is a sophisticated retreat for grown-ups. Created by the team of interior designer Tracy Hardenburg; architect Christy Blumenfeld; Tatum Brown Custom Homes; and Harold Leidner Landscape Architects, the look is elegant without being stuffy, modern without harsh edges. And when the grandkids come over, the house opens itself into a wide, welcoming embrace.

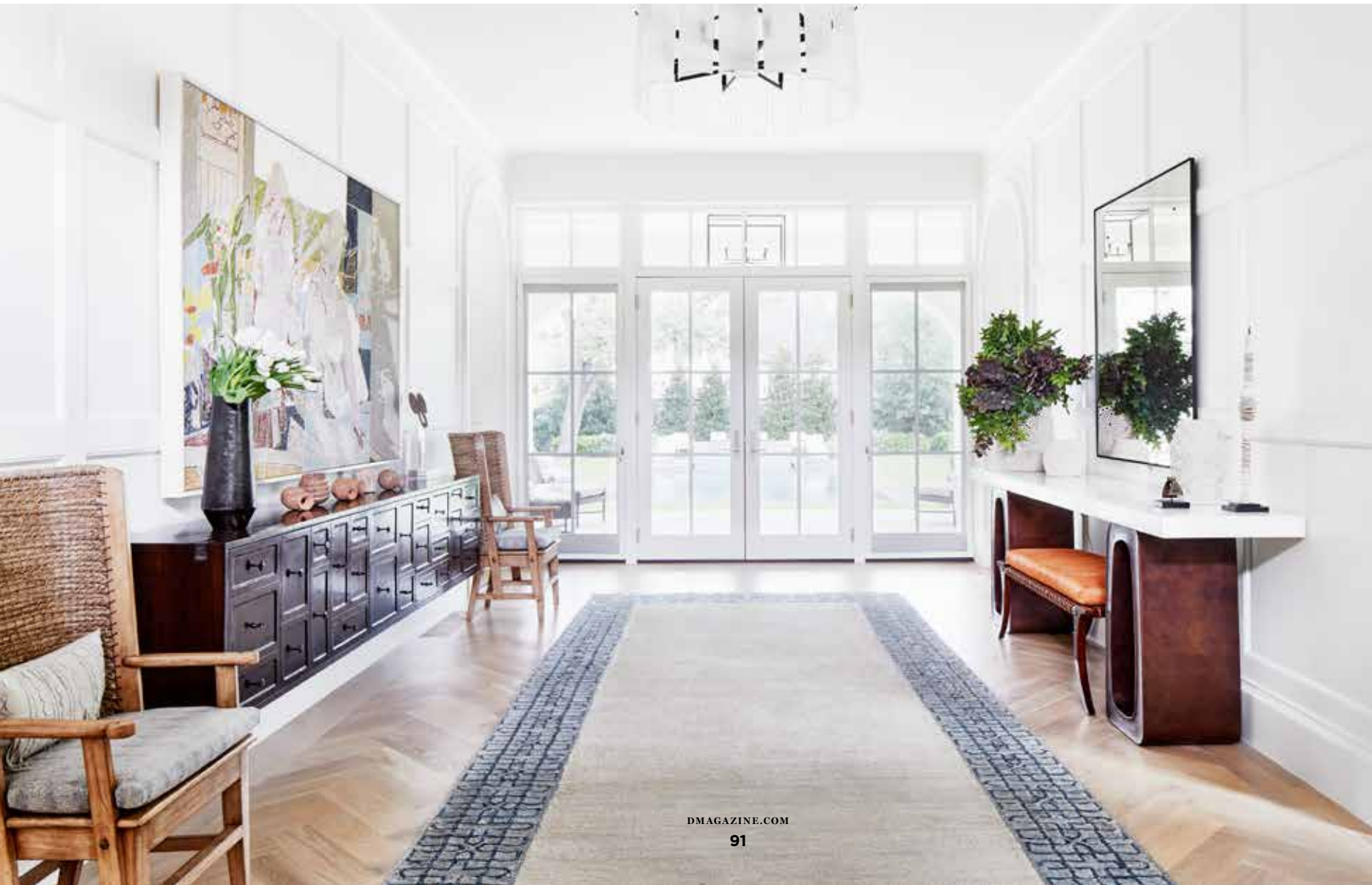
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this page: (clockwise, from top) An alternate view of the backyard showcases the enticing pool, designed by Harold Leidner. In the breakfast room, Andy Fleishman concrete tiles from Ann Sacks give the floor a neutral canvas, while McGuire chairs create texture and fun artwork from the Sears-Peyton Gallery in New York City adds color. A chandelier from Hollywood at Home mirrors the tone of the chairs, just as a custom bench by Tracy Hardenburg mixes well with the white frames. Back in the foyer, a custom floating cabinet by Tracy Hardenburg sits underneath artwork by Otis Hubbard from the Valley House Gallery & Sculpture Garden. **opposite page:** More Andy Fleishman concrete tiles from Ann Sacks cover the floor and blend nicely with the Ann Sacks tiles under the hood. Custom lanterns by Tracy Hardenburg echo the clean, white walls.





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“They play football in the yard,” says Kathryn. They ride their scooters in the foyer, carve pumpkins on the lawn, and plug in their laptops and munch on snacks at the curved custom sofa table in the living room where they have their choice of two TVs. Even the freezer gets to play. “All we have are Popsicles and ice cream in here,” Kathryn says with a laugh. That’s just fine with her. “We wanted a place with enough space where the kids could play, eat, and sleep over.”

The Cooks moved into the house in August 2016, after a nearly two-year design and build project. “I gave Christy just a few ideas. I wanted a downstairs master, a porte-cochere, and something with a classic, timeless feel. I also wanted to be able to see through from the front to the back.”

For the interior design, Kathryn turned to Hardenburg (who had recommended Blumenfeld to the Cooks). “I called her and said, ‘OK, we’re getting this lot. Can you help me? Because if you can’t, I’m not doing it,’” Kathryn recalls. The homeowner gave Hardenburg the designer’s dream of plenty of freedom and a willingness to start from scratch. “She did it right and all at one time,” says Hardenburg.

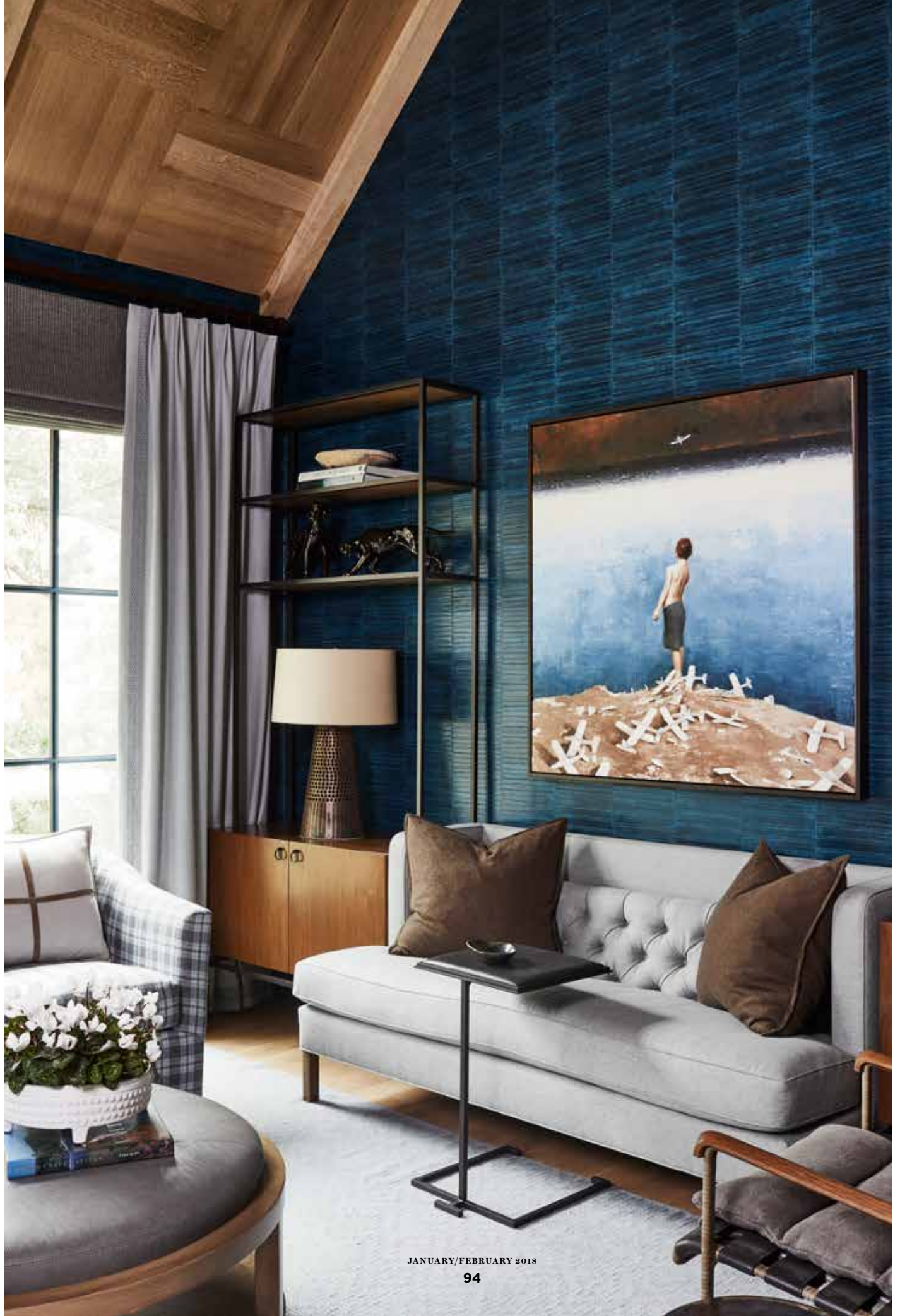
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this page: (from top) A custom rug anchors the room, flanked by two McGuire chairs and a sofa by A. Rudin. The custom coffee table features a coffee-table book collection and bowl from ContextVintage. In the dining room, Baker chairs surround a custom table by Tracy Hardenburg, while a chandelier by John Pomp drips from above. A sleek, custom sideboard sits below artwork by Paul Manes from Cris Worley Fine Arts. A blue-toned rug from The Rug Girl brings together the dining room's cool hues.

opposite page: (from top) A custom chandelier and sconces by Tracy Hardenburg match the stark, clean lines of the windows. The family's golden retriever lounges between the chairs and swivel chairs, both by McGuire. The side table is from Made Goods, while the tall, white lamps are from Victoria Morris Pottery. A bowl from ContextVintage sits on top of an acrylic cocktail table from Cory Pope & Associates. In the stairwell, blue wallpaper by Phillip Jeffries gives off a cool tone, while custom sconces by Tracy Hardenburg warm things up. A carpet runner from Interior Resources prevents speedy feet from slipping, while a bulbous chandelier from John Pomp keeps the space bright.





“We wanted a place with enough space where the kids could play, eat, and sleep over.”

—KATHRYN COOK

this page: (from left) The kids hang out in Kettal swings. A side table and cocktail table, both from Dedon, make the perfect nesting spot for the occasional toy or two.

In the game room, characters owned by the Cooks sit on brackets made by E&D Plastics. Colorful artwork by Mary Vernon from the Valley House Gallery & Sculpture Garden continues the playful theme. Chairs and sofa are McGuire, while the table is custom made. A rug from The Rug Girl balances out the neutral palette.

opposite page:

Deep blue leather wallpaper by Élitis keeps with the watery mood from the artwork. Custom bookshelves house a lamp by Ryan Mennealy Ceramics, just next to the custom sofa. A McGuire side chair and Lee Industries swivel chair (covered in a Holland & Sherry plaid) sit atop a Lee Jofa rug. The cocktail table is custom.





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this page: (from left) A fun, printed wallpaper by Studio Four NYC adorns the boys' bathroom. A round mirror with sconces was custom made for the space. A woven leather rug adds texture, while the Ann Sacks tiles create a smooth surface. In the girls' room, perfectly pink bedding from John Robshaw sits atop beds by Robert Allen and matches the rosy Jan Showers lamp and leather gator wallpaper from Elitis. A custom nightstand complements the white chandelier from Made Goods. Vintage mirrors add fun interest to the wall.

opposite page: (clockwise, from left) In the powder room, an Elloise Abbott mirror hangs between Ochre sconces. The metallic grasscloth wallpaper by Phillip Jeffries and custom console with Bettinger Studio paper add to the silvery aesthetic. The marble floor is from Ann Sacks. In the master, a custom bed, nightstands, and sofa create a neutral space, with lamps from Allan Knight. Donghia wallpaper allows artwork from Cris Worley Fine Arts to steal the show. A rug from The Rug Girl mimics the blue tones. In the boys' room, Urban Electric sconces hang over a custom built-in bed.