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A SOUTHERN CLASSIC

DESIGNER KRISTA LEWIS INFUSES HER LITTLE ROCK HOME WITH HER SIGNATURE AESTHETIC TO MAKE IT A COMFORTABLE AND WELCOMING PLACE FOR ALL WHO ENTER—INCLUDING HER YOUNG FAMILY

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THERE ARE CERTAIN TIMES IN LIFE WHEN A MOVE IS NECESSARY—a job change, a desire to be closer to family, or when your dream house goes on the market. For Little Rock-based interior designer Krista Lewis, the latter was the case. “I loved our old house; we all loved it, but we were at a point where we didn’t know if we could or should make updates,” she says. “Since this [interior design] is what I do for a living and it’s my hobby and my passion, I’m always looking at houses on the market,” she laughs. As fate would have it, a house—not so far from her previous residence—was looking for her as well.

FATEFUL FIND

Krista and her husband, Dan, along with their three children loved living in Pleasant Valley. So, it’s no surprise the home she had her eye on was located in the same west Little Rock neighborhood. And, while she had never been inside the home, she admired its curb appeal frequently. “I had always loved this house,” the designer says emphatically. She was especially smitten with the home’s courtyard, which reminded her of the ones she and Dan had seen during the early days of their marriage while living in New Orleans. “I had always said, ‘If that house ever goes on the market, we have to go look at it.’”

As luck would have it, the house did go on the market. Krista’s good friend, Emily Brown, drove by and saw a “For Sale By Owner” sign in the yard and immediately called her. After a year of negotiations, the house was theirs.

“I knew it was going to be a process. It’s a bigger house; it’s an older house; and it needed a lot of work—and it still does—but I really wanted my kids to grow up and spend their youth in the house they are going to come home to when they are grown,” she adds.

GOOD BONES

Much as Krista adored the exterior of the home, she was now equally enchanted with the interior.

“The light fixtures, paint, and carpet are all different but the architectural details were all here,” she says. For example, tall ceilings throughout the home as well as beams and a beadboard ceiling that are visible upon walking through the front entry didn’t disappoint. The loggia—which also serves as the foyer—is, perhaps, the most outstanding display of the home’s architectural design. “My husband refers to this room as the lobby,” Krista laughs. The long, gallery space, which



The designer in her home's entryway. Facing page: The loggia also serves as the home's foyer. It has a grand presence thanks in part to its size and architectural features as well as the silk draperies that line the doors, which lead to the home's courtyard. Krista toned down its formality with the addition of a seagrass rug, pottery, Asian-inspired lanterns, and exposed wood. The fabric on the table skirt (Lewis & Wood's "Floreat") was the starting point for the design and palette.



The dining room's chandelier was an existing feature left by the previous owner that pairs beautifully with the room's more simplistic table and ladder-back chairs. Facing page: The loggia's settee, a piece that Krista purchased from a client, is covered in "Penelope Spice" a Bunny Williams for Lee Jofa fabric. The Suzani pillow seen in the center was a find from market that Krista thought was "meant for the house" due to its palette and motif. Wicker baskets and a sunburst mirror with wooden rays complete the relaxed nook and offer a juxtaposition to the room's more formal architecture.

opens to the home's courtyard, connects the front entry to the kitchen while running alongside and offering access to the living and dining rooms. "It's perfect for entertaining," the designer adds. "We've even put a table with the bench we have here to create another dining spot for Thanksgiving dinner," she says.

The floorplan also seemed to have been constructed with the Lewis family in mind; there are four bedrooms and a tucked-away downstairs space that houses K. Lewis Interior Design. Krista notes that all of the rooms are spacious enough to accommodate comfortable furniture and allow one to move around freely yet they aren't large just for the sake of being large. "It seems cozy but a little more grand. It's Southern and very comfortable," she says of the home's overall design.

BRINGING IT TO LIFE

The previous homeowner also shared an affinity for one of Krista's favorite hues. "I have always loved orange—even my prom dress was orange," the designer says. Shades of the hue could be found in a few places around the home, and the designer ran with the idea to put a youthful modern spin

on the house. For example, a terracotta and indigo tile was the previous homeowner's choice for the kitchen backsplash. "Some people might not like the terracotta in our kitchen but I love it. I think it's timeless," Krista says. She carried this color scheme into the adjoining breakfast nook and family room with blue-and-white drapery panels that feature orange trim as well as a vibrant orange lantern that hangs over the table. Custom seat covers and throw pillows add touches of the colors without overwhelming the room. Similarly, light orange silk drapes that were in the formal dining room were relocated to the loggia and paired with a rug made of seagrass squares to make the area feel more casual while still giving the space a sense of grandeur.

While it's clear that many spaces throughout the home have been infused with the designer's aesthetic, Krista notes that creating a home is an ongoing process. "I'm doing things in increments," she says of the other portions of the home that have yet to receive her designer's touch. "For me—somebody that this is their passion in life, my hobby and my career—I'm not ever finished. It's something to look forward to, and I know I'll change my mind as I go," she concludes.

"I wanted some color in this house because everything in my previous home was neutral," Krista says. "I decided to have the thread throughout be orange and blue, and then threw in some green because it's very natural." The artwork over the fireplace is by artist EMYO. It was placed after the palette was set and the furniture was ordered. "Sometimes you start with the artwork but this one found me," she says. The ottoman is on wheels, allowing it to be moved easily when the Lewises' young son is ready to challenge friends in a Nintendo Wii game.





The orange-and-blue palette continues into the kitchen where a terracotta and indigo tile covers the backsplash. A round table from the family's previous home found new life in the breakfast nook where they often eat meals together. The lantern over the table echoes the style of the pair seen in the home's entryway. Facing page: The family room, which adjoins to the breakfast nook, features the same drapery panels to unite the two rooms.

KRISTA'S FAVORITES

Orange and blue are two of the designer's best-loved hues. These fabrics help to create a continuous palette throughout the home while still allowing each room to have a distinguished look.

LIVING ROOM
CHAIRS



ROBERT ALLEN:
ELERIA IN BISCOTTI

BEDROOM
DRAPES & BEDDING



MAGNOLIA COMPANIES:
COLONIAL IN SPA

LOGGIA
SKIRTED TABLE



LEWIS & WOOD:
FLOREAT IN SIENNA



Design Resources

Interior design Krista Lewis, K. Lewis Interior Design, Little Rock, (501) 952-6952, klewisinteriordesign.com

Accessories, bedding, fabrics, furniture, lighting, mirrors, rugs, wallpaper, and window coverings K. Lewis Interior Design, Little Rock, (501) 952-6952, klewisinteriordesign.com

Appliances Metro Appliances & More, Jonesboro, (870) 933-7800, North Little Rock, (501) 758-1988, Springdale, (479) 750-2200, metroappliancesandmore.com

Art—living room and dining room Cobblestone & Vine, Little Rock, (501) 664-4249, West Little Rock, (501) 219-3676, cobblestoneandvine.com

Carpet C & F Flooring & Rug Gallery, Little Rock, (501) 399-9909, candfcarpet.com

Paint—Sherwin-Williams, locations statewide, sherwin-williams.com

Painting Keith Holland Painting, Little Rock, (501) 231-6324

Painting—decorative Monica McNally, Stillwater Creations, Little Rock, (708) 548-4871

The master bedroom is a retreat for the couple. Magnolia Companies' "Colonial" fabric was used to upholster the headboard and create the bed skirt and draperies. "Toile is timeless, and I still love it," Krista says of the pieces which she has now used in three of her homes.

