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Home

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PHOTOGRAPHY: RETT FEEK



Interior designer Krista Lewis transformed a dated and underutilized screened porch into a welcoming oasis for entertaining and relaxation. Turn the page to see the full story.

AtHome
IN ARKANSAS



Newly APPOINTED

INTERIOR DESIGNER KRISTY LEWIS REVAMPS A NONDESCRIPT HOME IN WEST LITTLE ROCK TO CREATE A RICHLY PERSONALIZED DWELLING FOR HER BROTHER AND HIS YOUNG FAMILY

STORY: ASHLEY GILL PHOTOGRAPHY: REIT PECK STYLING: CHIP JONES



The dining room serves as a perfect example of Lewis's approach of breathing new life into a rather formal space by keeping the color palette serene and soothing and introducing artwork and accents that have a more contemporary feel. Ornate carving and detail in the mirror, buffet, lamps, and chairs is counter-balanced by their airy, antiqued finishes. A china hutch (seen here in the reflection of the mirror) features a custom-painted backing in Benjamin Moore's Palladian Blue, which compliments the blue tone in the Thibaut wallcovering. Facing page: Contrasting finishes add visual interest in the kitchen, and new light fixtures create a more proportional relationship between the furnishings and the scale of the room.



There comes a time when the mismatched and makeshift décor you've acquired through various life transitions simply no longer fits your lifestyle or taste level. That was the case when Heather and Scott Allmendinger, along with their two young children, Vivian (6) and Croix (4), set out to purchase and furnish a home where they could picture themselves living long-term.

Even before buying a new place, the couple turned to Scott's sister, interior designer Krista Lewis, for guidance. "They were ready to move into a house where they could put down roots and be comfortable for a long time," Lewis says. Having an expert in the family certainly has its perks, and Lewis guided the couple through the process of choosing—and then renovating—their new home. Lewis gave her stamp of approval to this particular house, because, she says, "the basic floor plan was ideal." Though it didn't need many major structural changes, Heather and Scott "were eager to personalize the space," she adds. Prioritizing Heather's fondness for formal interiors, Scott's desire for the home to be optimally functional, and the couple's shared love of hosting friends and family, Lewis created a deeply meaningful setting for this next chapter in their lives.

PALETTE CLEANSE

Lewis's design clients gravitate to her signature casual-comfortable design style, and—as Heather was selecting

her favorite images from design books and magazines—the designer noticed that "her taste leans more formal, with lots of dressy textiles." Country-French décor, therefore, became the decorative aesthetic that united the visions of both designer and homeowner. Though the Allmendingers favor a very traditional style of furnishings, Lewis intentionally kept the atmosphere youthful, in order to best represent the family's vibrant spirit. The designer's key to keeping the tenor of the design from being overly serious was carrying an airy and fresh color palette throughout the floor plan. "The home is primarily done in light taupes, warm whites, blues, and gold," Lewis says, and "the master bedroom is celadon, rose, and taupe, because Heather really wanted a touch of pink somewhere in the home." The luxurious master bathroom is almost entirely neutral with gold accents.

HOSPITABLE HOME

Because the Allmendingers entertain frequently, for different sizes and types of gatherings, they required a variety of spaces that would serve this purpose. The formal dining room offers an atmosphere of easy refinement, featuring a damask wallcovering by Thibaut, an oversized mirror with a gilded frame—which hangs above a distressed painted buffet—and custom pinch-pleated silk draperies in a checkered pattern that follow the contour of the graceful, arched window.



A green, flame stitch, accent pillow fabric by Schumacher and a celadon velvet bench brighten the master bedroom's neutral envelope of cream and taupe. Facing page: In a flourish of sweet sentiment, the touch of pink Heather requested during her consultations with Lewis appears in the upholstery of a delicate armchair she inherited from her grandmother.



The living room, similarly, layers texture and pattern for an elegant effect. Antiqued mirrors, exquisite silk drapery panels, and glimmering gold finishes throughout the room imbue the palette of blues and yellows with a reflective sheen. The sofa and two club chairs are tailored and traditional, while select accent fabrics lend a slightly more contemporary attitude; for instance, a high-contrast chevron pattern livens up the two upholstered armchairs situated fireside. The kitchen, an adjacent keeping room, and the fully updated screened back porch are better suited to casual entertaining and everyday family living.

PRIVATE LUXURIES

One of the most private spaces in the Allmendingers' home—the master bathroom—ended up being the most sumptuous of all. To achieve the “high-end hotel feel” the couple wanted, a major transformation was necessary. “We didn’t change the layout of the plumbing fixtures, but by enclosing the shower and selecting new finishes from top to bottom [it] feels like a completely different space,” Lewis says. The existing base cabinetry was repainted and topped with quartzite countertops. The redesign makes the space feel more intimate and private, whereas, before, the room felt

too open and exposed for comfort. Gold leaf was applied to the mirror frames to match the Visual Comfort light fixtures, and an inset marble mosaic—an idea drawn from Heather’s inspiration images—embellishes the porcelain-tiled floor.

MEANINGFUL MEMENTOS

The design details of the Allmendinger home that are the most personalized are also the most *personal* to the family. For instance, the painting of a pelican that hangs above the living room fireplace is by Louisiana artist Elaine Gleason and serves as a reminder of Heather and Scott’s engagement (which took place in New Orleans) as does the grouping of mixed-media crosses by Helen Bolin—another Louisiana artist—that hangs above the skirted console table in the same room. The touch of pink Heather requested appears in the upholstery of a delicate armchair she inherited from her grandmother and which now sits in her bedroom—a daily reminder of a much-loved family member. It is at these intersections of personal style and personal memories that Lewis says she can see the higher value of a truly unique home design: “I love that they personalize the space and bring such happy memories to the house.”

“They were ready to move into a house where they could put down roots and be comfortable for a long time.”

—KRISTA LEWIS



TAKE IT FROM KRISTA

FOUR WAYS TO PERSONALIZE YOUR HOME

1. KNOW THYSELF

To define your personal style, find images from books, magazines, and social media that catch your eye. Look at all of your favorite images together to see what themes emerge. These common characteristics of the spaces you find inspiring are exactly the elements you should incorporate into your design solutions.

2. DISPLAY YOUR COLLECTIONS

The treasures we collect tell the story of our values, interests, and hobbies. Displaying them in your home will bring those parts of your inner self to light. Plus, grouping many similar objects together in one place can make a big decorative impact. Consider this tip when designing personalized spaces for kids, too!

3. CHOOSE ART THAT YOU LOVE

Original artwork is a perfect way to infuse your home with your unique taste. Invest in pieces that you find both beautiful and meaningful, and you’re sure to keep them forever.

4. SHOWCASE YOUR HEIRLOOMS

Instill a deep sense of character and history in your home by bringing inherited furnishings and objects out of storage and into full view. Seeing and using cherished pieces is often a better way to honor the memory of loved ones and times past than stowing them away.





In order to make the porch a more attractive and hospitable gathering place for the family, Lewis replaced the green Astroturf floors with antique bricks, which she had cut into pavers. Facing page: Removing the master bathroom's shower stall and building walls around the shower area created a niche for the bathtub that gives the space a more enclosed, private atmosphere. Framed intaglios, a starburst mirror, and a Visual Comfort chandelier—along with the other warm, gold accents—help to establish the feeling of luxuriousness the couple envisioned for the room.

Design Resources

Interior design [Krista Lewis, K. Lewis Interior Design, Little Rock, \(501\) 952-6952, klewisinteriordesign.com](http://www.klewisinteriordesign.com)
 Contractor [Jon Callahan, Callahan Construction, Jacksonville, \(501\) 837-3575, jcbuilds.com](http://www.jcbuilds.com)
 Accessories [Cantrell Furniture Design Center, Little Rock, \(501\) 225-0002, cantrellfurniture.com](http://www.cantrellfurniture.com); [K. Lewis Interior Design, Little Rock, \(501\) 952-6952, klewisinteriordesign.com](http://www.klewisinteriordesign.com); [Providence Design, Little Rock, \(501\) 372-1886, providenceltdesign.com](http://www.providenceltdesign.com); [Tanarah Luxe Floral, Little Rock, \(501\) 372-1400, tanarahluxefloral.com](http://www.tanarahluxefloral.com)
 Art [Cantrell Furniture Design Center, Little Rock, \(501\) 225-0002, cantrellfurniture.com](http://www.cantrellfurniture.com); [Cobblestone & Vine, Little Rock, \(501\) 664-4249, West Little Rock, \(501\) 219-3676, cobblestoneandvine.com](http://www.cobblestoneandvine.com); [K. Lewis Interior Design, Little Rock, \(501\) 952-6952, klewisinteriordesign.com](http://www.klewisinteriordesign.com); [Providence Design, Little Rock, \(501\) 372-1886, providenceltdesign.com](http://www.providenceltdesign.com)
 Bedding, carpet, fabrics, fixtures, hardware, lighting, mirrors, and wallpaper [K. Lewis Interior Design, Little Rock, \(501\) 952-6952, klewisinteriordesign.com](http://www.klewisinteriordesign.com)
 Cabinets—bathroom, millwork, and painting [Callahan Construction, Jacksonville, \(501\) 837-3575, jcbuilds.com](http://www.jcbuilds.com)
 Countertops—bathroom [Pacific Shore Stones, Mabelvale, \(501\) 455-3600, pacificshorestones.com](http://www.pacificshorestones.com)
 Flooring—master bath [Inside Effects, North Little Rock, \(501\) 954-8866, insideeffects.com](http://www.insideeffects.com)
 Flooring—outdoor area [Acme Brick, locations throughout Arkansas, acmebricktileandstone.com](http://www.acmebricktileandstone.com)
 Florals [Tipton & Hurst, locations throughout central Arkansas, \(501\) 666-3333, tiptonhurst.com](http://www.tiptonhurst.com)
 Framing [The Showroom, Little Rock, \(501\) 372-7373, theshowroom.us.com](http://www.theshowroom.us.com)
 Furniture [Cantrell Furniture Design Center, Little Rock, \(501\) 225-0002, cantrellfurniture.com](http://www.cantrellfurniture.com); [Cobblestone & Vine, Little Rock, \(501\) 664-4249, West Little Rock, \(501\) 219-3676, cobblestoneandvine.com](http://www.cobblestoneandvine.com); [K. Lewis Interior Design, Little Rock, \(501\) 952-6952, klewisinteriordesign.com](http://www.klewisinteriordesign.com)
 Lampshades—custom [The Shade Above, Little Rock, \(501\) 374-3555, theshadeabove.com](http://www.theshadeabove.com)
 Outdoor furnishings and mg. [Cantrell Furniture Design Center, Little Rock, \(501\) 225-0002, cantrellfurniture.com](http://www.cantrellfurniture.com); [K. Lewis Interior Design, Little Rock, \(501\) 952-6952, klewisinteriordesign.com](http://www.klewisinteriordesign.com)
 Paint [Benjamin Moore, locations statewide, benjaminmoore.com](http://www.benjaminmoore.com); [Sherwin-Williams, locations statewide, sherwin-williams.com](http://www.sherwin-williams.com)
 Painting—decorative [Angelfish, Little Rock, \(501\) 960-4826, angelfishstudios.net](http://www.angelfishstudios.net)
 Upholstery [Howard's Upholstery, Little Rock, \(501\) 225-0476](http://www.howardupholstery.com)
 Window coverings—dining room [Mounjoy's Custom Draperies, Mabelvale, \(501\) 455-2216; Pam Meredith Sewing, Lonoke, \(501\) 266-2325](http://www.mountainjoy.com)