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# THE SECOND TIME AROUND

AFTER OUTGROWING THEIR BELOVED HOME, A PARK CITIES FAMILY REASSEMBLED THE DREAM TEAM RESPONSIBLE FOR BRINGING IT TO LIFE TO CREATE A NEW AND IMPROVED VERSION THAT WILL LAST A LIFETIME.



**Panels with Panache**  
Designer Tracy Hardenburg chose stained oak in a Shaker style with a small beading detail for the wall of the family room.





*Nice Niche!  
A cozy corner of  
the living room  
is outfitted  
with a daybed,  
complete with  
leather panel-  
ing and plush  
cushions.*



Every now and again, buying a “spec” house leads to a “spectacular” experience. That was definitely the case for Megan and Paul Generale. When the couple found out they were relocating to Dallas about 11 years ago, they were dead set against building a custom home.

“All along, we said, ‘No way. We’ve done it too many times,’” explains Megan. Instead, they turned to the internet, where they pointed, clicked, and added a totally-done University Park traditional built by Jon David Smith of J.D. Smith Custom Homes to cart. “We bought it sight unseen, and we ended up loving that house,” says Paul. “We have four kids, and everything was so open. There were no hidden spaces, and the floor plan really allowed you to stay connected with your family.”

But 10 years later, as the kids were getting older, the square footage began feeling a little more finite. So Paul and Megan decided to bring everything they admired about their beloved residence to their next forever home in Highland Park. The best way to do that? Recruit the same people. Enter Smith, along with architect Clay Nelson of C.A. Nelson Architecture Group LLC.

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**previous spread (from left):** Designer Tracy Hardenburg used a painting by Kirk Mechar that the homeowners had found on a trip to Nevis, West Indies, as a building block for the formal dining room’s decor. “My clients came with most of the art for the house that they had collected together over time, and we decided where pieces would go during the design phase,” she says. Along with dog Goose, children Alexander and Ava take five in the family room, which opens to the kitchen. “Large steel-cornered windows provide great views and also bring in tons of light,” says builder Jon David Smith. “There’s always a house full of kids here, so there are lots of good hangout spots.” The bowl on the side table is by Matthew Gilley. **opposite page:** At one end of the living room, Hardenburg carved out a sophisticated spot for rest and relaxation. “There’s a table for games and puzzles or poker,” she says. “There’s also a daybed that’s perfect for weekend reading and naps.” The black vessel on the table is by Matthew Gilley. **this page (from top):** In the entry, a large mirror above a classic console reflects the abundance of light that shines throughout the home. The small bowl is by Carrie White. Outdoor space is a must for a family of six. “We needed everything laid out so we could eat out there and have a place to sit. Our kids are older, so we don’t need a huge yard—we just want to sit by a fire,” says owner Megan Generale. “Paul also wanted to be able to grill without smoking everyone out.”





**opposite page:** Daughter Gemma and pup Odette hang out at one of two islands topped with Calacatta Borghini marble in the wide-open kitchen. "One island is part of the working triangle of the kitchen, and the other is more for informal gathering," explains Smith. "It's nice to have a spot for people to hang out while you're cooking, and Megan is a really good cook."

**this page:** (clockwise from top) From the start, Megan had her heart set on using blues and rust in the formal living area, where a painting by Hunt Slonem fits right in. Says Hardenburg, "The living room is my favorite room because it serves so many purposes. I love the settees facing each other—perfect for drinks with friends—and the

two chairs by the fire create such an intimate space." While the glass wine room is very much a focal point for display, it's also hardworking and keeps all 700 bottles safe at a steady 55 degrees. "Paul needed a bona fide wine room for his growing collection, so that was a big part of the new home's design," says Smith. "Tracy created a cool brass door that connects to the bar area." After spending years in Santa Fe, the Generales grew used to having kivas in every room. That made having a fireplace in the breakfast room an essential. An acrylic-on-paper painting by Dave Muller—"My favorite piece that we bought together!" says Hardenburg—hangs above the mantel.



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"If it ain't broke ...," says Paul with a laugh. "It just made sense. We all spoke the same language, and it was a team we already trusted."

That trust was especially appreciated by the architect. "Planning was more just an exercise in listening, so it was a very easy project. We had a model that they were very familiar with—they had already lived in it," says Nelson. "They came to the project with a list of a lot of things that they liked from the existing house, along with few things they wanted to change."

One big change the Generales were ready to make was to the overall style of the home, which they wanted to lean more transitional than traditional. "It's similar framework to the former one, so to speak, but it has more 'transitional' features, like cut stone, steel doors and windows, and cleaner lines," says Smith. "Everything here is a little more updated."

Most of the other items on the family's must-have list were practical, including additional square footage, an open floor plan, a larger formal living area, and a butler's pantry. But there were also plenty of dreamy requests on there, too. Megan asked for an abundance of charming fireplaces ("As many as we could have!" she says); Paul petitioned for a wine cellar ("The only room I care about," he teases); and everyone agreed they needed a large outdoor space fit for swimming, grilling, and hanging out.

Perhaps more importantly, the Generales were just as firm about what they didn't want. "Because we've built quite a few homes in the past, we knew we didn't really need a movie room or a card-table room," says Megan. "You just need what you need. We mainly wanted a little more space for all of us to spread out. Hopefully, even as they get older, this will be a home our children will continue

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**this page (from left):** Hardenburg says Megan drove the design of her fabulously feminine office. "She is super stylish and always dressed beautifully," she notes. "This little space was all about her. She wanted it to feel layered and bold, like a stylish

boutique. The red rug was a push for me, but it ended up amazing and just the right piece to finish." Crisp white walls and well-placed windows keep things light and bright in the upstairs gym while the family works on their fitness.

## IF YOU BUILD IT

Builder Jon David Smith shares what's happening in the world of high-end homebuilding.

- 1 You'll have to wait for Sub-Zeros.** While Smith says some supply-chain delays are getting better, you may need a Plan B if you have your heart set on certain appliances. "It's hard to plan ahead enough to get Sub-Zeros here on time," he says. "The last two homes I had with Sub-Zero kitchens had to be outfitted with temporary fridges."
- 2 No one wants to share a desk.** Even as more people are heading back to the office, he's still being asked to carve out separate workspaces that offer plenty of privacy. "We've always done private offices for Dad, but now we're seeing more of a dedicated space for Mom, too," he says.
- 3 Color is having a comeback.** Clients are shying away from those stark white finishes of recent years. "I feel like people are gravitating back toward rich colors," he muses. "It might not be whole-house, but it's a study or a powder bath that's done in a vibrant teal or rich blue."
- 4 Embellishment is everything.** The builder notes that infusing homes with one-of-a-kind works by craftspeople is the ultimate way to customize. "People want curves and elaborate touches and designs, so there's been a return to intricate moldings, unique finishes, and architecturally significant and traditional detail."



Because the Generales have four kids—and an open-door policy for their friends—there's always plenty going on. On summer days when it's too hot to hang by the pool, everyone is encouraged to head to the all-gray game room to shoot some pool.



Hardenburg assembled a variety of textiles, cool metals, and different textures in the serene primary bedroom, along with a soothing palette dictated by the artwork by Jason Craighead.



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to come home to.”

When it came time to bring the transitional style to the interiors of the 8,000-square-foot, five-bedroom home, the couple looked to someone they hadn't worked with before: interior designer Tracy Hardenburg of Tracy Hardenburg Designs. “From the first time we met, I knew it was going to be a very fun project. We ended up meeting every Friday with a glass of wine,” says Hardenburg. “They both wanted the house to be unique—not cookie-cutter in any way—and they asked for rich colors, diverse textures, mixed metals, and various woods.” The designer more than delivered with the timeless burl, white oak, and walnut woods she chose for paneling, flooring, and custom cabinetry. From there, she spiced things up with brass accents, interesting textiles, contemporary furnishings, and thoughtfully placed artwork chosen from the homeowners' collection.

Now that the house is complete, the family says it's far lovelier than anything they could have dreamed of, and for that, they're quick to credit the all-star team they assembled. “We felt strongly about achieving a good balance, and once we expressed that, we just sat back and let everyone do their thing,” says Paul. “It was a good dance.” **D**



**this page (clockwise from top):** Bold flooring tiles from Ann Sacks and cool marble countertops pair well with a fluted vanity and brass accents in the primary bathroom, where Megan greets the day. The white vessel is by Matthew Gilley. The more masculine boys' bathroom features stunning walnut cabinets and paneling, black hardware and lighting, and even bolder tiles from Ann Sacks for the floor. The vessel is by Carrie White. When son Mark comes home from college, he recharges in a bedroom that's layered with a just-right array of grays that span the graphic rug, drapes, bedding, furnishings, and paint.

