



# A Refreshing Renovation

A dire need for a refresh led this young family to create a spa-like space that's perfectly theirs.



Before Erin and Charley Burks hired neighbor and designer Jennifer Schoenberger to update their newly purchased, 2003-built home, the Georgia abode was best described with one word: depressing. “The home has massive wainscoting everywhere, and it was all painted black,” Jennifer recalls. It was clear, then, that the redesign needed to focus on brightening things up and making a suitable space for a family with two young daughters—which meant a complete and total overhaul.

After gutting multiple rooms—including the kitchen, master bedroom, and basement—Jennifer set about working with the couple to nail down a color

palette that would encourage a breezier spirit. They landed on a palette of whites, tans, and a range of subtle blues perfect for reflecting abundant natural light and creating cohesion throughout the home.

“This home was so thoughtfully curated,” Jennifer notes, and that thoughtfulness especially shines in the kitchen. Everything from the ceiling-high brick backsplash and bronze-look range hood to the blue-painted, gray-washed island received a custom-painted finish. New touches like the metal windows that open onto the screened porch made the space personal to the Burkses, and the island pendant lights top off the more rustic elements with a dash of glam style.









“They wanted a modern farmhouse cottage vibe, with a little bit of French, too,” Jennifer notes. Details like sophisticated lines and touches of gold display that influence, as does the opulent beaded chandelier just steps away in the breakfast nook. An ostrich vinyl on the banquette plays into both a desire for function and Jennifer’s love to mix in a variety of textures.

“I just think it gives it a lot of depth, and it looks like it’s been there for years,” she says, “[like] we didn’t pick it all out at once.” In the dining room, the curated spirit makes itself known in a pairing of a Galbraith & Paul wallpaper and a sleek chandelier with a weathered blue buffet and a farmhouse-style table. Brass frames hung atop the refreshed wainscoting add a casual touch of elegance and antique warmth.







OPPOSITE: What was originally a mudroom area was transformed into a butler's bar. Erin and her father DIYed the shelves, and a cloche filled with antique books contributes the needed touch of timeworn charm, while a metallic sheen in the grass cloth adds an extra hint of elegance.





Upstairs, the master bedroom makes expert use of the natural light to create something that fits well within the definition of a haven. “They have so many windows; there’s so much natural light, it kind of felt like we were in the clouds,” Jennifer says. “So, I wanted to make it very ethereal.” A pair of antiqued mirrors leans against one wall across from the window, not only catching the light but also making sure the view is visible from nearly every angle.

Offering a bit of respite for Erin, the small-scale sunroom serves as a sunny, cozy corner whose ceiling mimics the summer sky while supporting a chandelier dripping with beads. In the master bath, a complete renovation makes the most of an in-shower skylight, casting a spa-like glow on textured gold accents and antique mirrors set above custom cabinetry.



As the Burkses' daughters, Baylor and Collyn, enjoy having cousins stay the night, a bunk room was essential, and the white shiplap offers a charming contrast to the blue-and-white gingham carpet.



Serving as artwork on the wall, the wooden piece in the basement was originally the top of the table that now sits in the breakfast nook. "I just thought it was too pretty to throw away . . . and we needed some texture, so it was perfect," Jennifer says.

"Navy is a favorite color of Erin's," Jennifer says in reference to the grass cloth that tops the wainscoting in the powder room. A Ralph Lauren cheetah-print wallpaper covers the ceiling, and a custom roman shade features a Schumacher fabric designed by Martyn Lawrence Bullard.

In contrast to the rest of the home, the finished basement takes a more masculine turn, making it the perfect place to incorporate Charley's hunting memorabilia. The existing brick floor provided the perfect foundation for moody tones like the black

cabinets and matching pool table, and layered rugs soften the more masculine notes, creating cohesion with the rest of the home. Throughout, the renovation swapped out an oppressive design style with a sunny spirit that, for this family of four, was a true breath of fresh air. ❄️

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