

# FEATURES

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# DESIGN MEETS DESIRE

ALAIR'S DIANE AND CHAD HATFIELD,  
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DESIGN AND BUILDING SKILLS TO THE  
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A-KIND HOME.

*By Rachel Feinblatt*



Sky-high ceilings and multiple windows make for optimal lighting.



ALL PHOTOS BY BLAKE VERDOORN

This corner nook  
creates a cozy spot  
for relaxation.





From left: Cocktail hour is ready; each room summons with plush bedding; the closet is a dream.

For Dallas-area homebuilders Diane and Chad Hatfield, independent partner of Alair; interior designer Kristen Stratton; architect Sarah Harper; and Bonick Landscaping, designing and building the perfect home to accommodate an empty-nester couple was a challenge they were apt to complete. Pooling the group's prowesses in the field, this property was crafted to cater to the client's every need with its shrewd and strategic design.

"Our clients started off the construction of their new home with another area builder. We took on the project about midway through when the homeowners were suspecting problems with the home and decided they wanted Alair to finish their dream home. They liked the approach and process we use to partner with everyone involved in building our projects," say Diane and Chad Hatfield. "Their vision was to build a U-shaped home, with a separate guest casita, a large open great room with a test kitchen, and an enclosed indoor-outdoor courtyard with a small pool. They also wanted to build it new and get a truly custom home that they could make their own."

Nestled on an old lot in Preston Hollow, this new 5,600-square-foot, 100% brick-exterior home was built with full-foam encapsulation. Maximizing both space and energy performance with each cutting-edge design, key home features include two courtyards (one of them an enclosed private covered patio and pool area), outfitted with the latest sound system, infrared radiant patio heaters and fans, and a wood-burning fireplace.

While it may not be reflected in the final product, building this property posed a lot of challenges to the design and building team, especially amid a global pandemic. The foundation as it had been built was not suitable for the wet conditions of the lot, so the team had to devise an elaborate plan to remedy that and all of the other problems and omissions they discovered.

"Upon taking on the project, the Alair team of experts put together solutions to address the challenging issues," say the Hatfields. "Because Alair picked up the project midway through its construction, we uncovered errors with the previous work that had been made. Unfortunately, the homeowners faced a long list of items that

had to be corrected for their home to be everything they had planned for. Most of the issues are not reflected in the beauty of these photos."

The kitchen was one of the most notable areas of focus, as one of the owners is a professional chef who desired that his ardor for cooking would be reflected in the space's design. Some quintessential furnishings include professional appliances, an indoor wood-burning grill and an indoor wood-fired pizza oven, where this owner tests recipes for the restaurants he works with. Situated in the heart of the home, the almost 1,300-square-foot expansive great room also embeds the client's passion for hospitality with a vaulted ceiling, wide sliding doors to the courtyard and multiple comfortable sitting spaces.

To capture the owners' wish of a casual and intimate feel for the home, the designer used neutral-colored shades accented with antique finds and a few family heirlooms. Muted colors ranging from greige to taupe, crema, gray and off-white were sparingly used to capture the informality of the home. The interior designer, Kristin Stratton, challenged the Alair team and trade partners



From top: J&S Wood Design created beautiful cabinetry for the kitchen; the backyard provides optimal space.

when she asked to carefully coordinate the stain color finish of different species of wood used on the floors, beams, doors, banquette and cabinets to match her vision for the spaces.

With the goal of hosting future guests in this multigenerational home, the client wished for a cozy casita that would be situated away from the main house. With a fully functional kitchen and banquette dining table, guests can wake up to pool views in their very own space. This casita is able to maximize the boundaries without sacrificing style or amenities, such as an ADA-compliant bathroom with both a roll-in wet area for the large shower and wall-mounted toilet.

In addition to their parents' comfort, the owners' adorable dogs were a key component in the design of the house. The large custom bed in the primary suite includes a special stair and bench for the puppies, in addition to the dog-friendly mudroom, custom-built dog wash station and a doggie door strategically placed next to the side yard and built-in dog beds.

"There were hundreds of skilled craftsmen who worked diligently to provide the end result that was achieved," say the Hatfields. "Despite all the hurdles that came up, the homeowners patiently worked through them, alongside the architect, designer, Alair and our expert team of trade partners, to overcome and achieve a beautiful home as a result." ■



Bathed in light, this primary bath is the perfect spot to get ready.



## DESIGN DETAILS

### LOCATION

Midway Hollow

### TYPE

Single-family home with guest casita

### INTERIOR DESIGN

Kristen Stratton, Smith & Stratton  
smithandstratton.com

### BUILDER

Diane and Chad Hatfield, MCKBR,  
CR, Alair  
alairhomes.com

### ARCHITECTURE

Sarah Harper, AIA, LEED AP,  
h design

### PAINTERS

C & P Painting

### MILLWORK

J&S Wood Design, Justin Schroeder

## RESOURCES

### ALAMO GLASS

Antique mirrors  
alamoglass.com

### ANDERSON TUFTEX

Chapel Ridge carpet in charcoal,  
upstairs media room  
andersontuftex.com

### DREAMWALLS

Mirrors in primary bath  
dreamwalls.com

### GROUNDWORKS

Hunt Slonem Collection Hutch  
wallpaper in cream, powder bath  
huntslonem.com

### J&S WOOD DESIGN

Cabinetry in kitchen

### JAMI & KRISTIN

Accessories, rugs, window coverings,  
art, fabrication, furniture (sofa,  
table, dining chairs)

### PHILLIP JEFFRIES

Rivets wallpaper in gold on black,  
living room accent wall  
phillipjeffries.com