

The background image shows a bedroom with pink floral wallpaper. A bed with a leopard-print headboard is covered in a white sheet with a purple and yellow gradient. Several pillows are on the bed, including red, green patterned, and white with red polka dots. To the left, a side table holds a lamp with a pink shade and a vase of red flowers.

# At Home

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THE FAMILY HOMES ISSUE

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Fate seems to have played a role in this young family's central Arkansas house hunt. Having met while living and working in New York City, marrying, and then moving to Dallas, the couple welcomed the possibility of being closer to family—with his in Little Rock and hers in Memphis—and were able to do so at the start of the pandemic. After settling into a rental house in the capital city, they began searching for a place where they could raise their son and daughter and make lasting memories. "We were driving around with sleeping kids in the car when my husband remembered he had a friend who grew up in this neighborhood," the owner recalls. They decided to check it out, and immediately fell for a red brick Colonial home with charming curb appeal. After writing a letter to the then-owners, the process for it to become theirs began to unfold.

While no major structural updates were needed for the family to move into the home, they did want to personalize the space. In the beginning, the owner worked with a family friend on small updates before turning to a dear college friend, Katie Wolf of Atlanta-based Wolf Interiors. Katie notes it was a very collaborative project, with the two friends working side by side and enjoying the process. "There are a lot of pieces that are meaningful to her and to her family, and she had great ideas but wanted help implementing them," the designer says. "I love home stuff—and I probably have a lot more opinions than the average client—but I believe a house benefits with more eyes on it," the owner says. "It makes a home feel richer and more layered."

These sets of eyes included not only the aforementioned pair but also members of her family. "My dad has a big, big love of design," the owner says, adding that he taught her to ask questions such as *Why do I love this?* to get to the root of her style. His influence played into the house in specific ways, like the mural in the living room and gallery wall on the landing, as well as in pieces that were collected with his help through the years. "Both of my parents love history, and I grew up surrounded by antiques. My dad has such a great eye, and my parents always took me antiquing with them," she says, noting that the experience trained her own eye.

Just as these experiences shaped her, she hopes to instill this appreciation in her children while also creating a comfortable family home. "She is so welcoming and gracious. She loves nice, beautiful things but also wants to be able to really *live* in her home," Katie explains. "She is okay with a scratch, a stained fabric, or a bit of patina because those are signs of life." **AM**



The "storybook" exterior was one of the first features that attracted the owner to the classic, Colonial-style home.



#### COMFORTABLY CHIC

While the couple originally planned to use this space as the dining room, they discovered it was well-suited to become the living room. "My sister was visiting and suggested swapping the furniture in the two rooms; I immediately agreed, and we moved half of it that night," the owner says. The Iksel mural on the walls was already in place when the change was made. "It's like a dark cocktail lounge—so cozy and happy," the owner says of the effect. Schumacher's "Pyne Hollyhock" fabric covers the chairs while a brown velvet sofa is an equally practical and comfortable addition for the young family. "We usually have a puzzle on the coffee table, and I love to always have a fire going and music playing," the owner adds.