



The rug in the main living room, with its bold and warm colors, was the launching pad for the design of the entire house.

FROM BLANK
to
BEAUTIFUL

An Austin family sells all of their old furniture and, with a little design assistance, begins anew in a sprawling, Lakeway home.

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he view of the lake is what sold Doss Rogers to buy the Lakeway home that he shares with his wife, Laura, and their fifth-grade daughter. “He said he wanted to be on the lake,” Laura Rogers says of her husband, who works part of the week in Midland,

where he serves as the president and owner of the Rogers Lincoln Ford dealership. “But then we thought more about boat dock maintenance. So he said he’d settle for a lake view. I walked into this house when he was in Midland, and I knew immediately: He’ll definitely go for it. Sure enough, he walked in and fell in love right after that.”

Perched atop a lakeside bluff in the gated community of Vineyard Bay, the four-bedroom, 4,470-square-foot home is all about the view and the generous light. Nearly floor-to-ceiling windows allow sunlight to pour into the home, highlighting its fresh, modern interior design. That design is due almost exclusively to LOFT Home—and more specifically to LOFT design consultant Jim Chappelow, who became Laura Rogers’ partner-in-crime.

Chappelow had the unusual pleasure of working from an almost entirely blank slate, because of a bold move by the family. “When we sold our house, my husband sold all the furniture and everything in it,” Laura Rogers says. “He wanted a fresh start, and the new homeowners wanted everything in it.”

Everything in that house was very traditional: “Lots of browns, golds, Tuscan style,” she says. Rogers was ready for a change but felt overwhelmed by all of the modern options. That is, until she stepped into LOFT and met Chappelow.

A custom rug in the living room is the piece from which the design of the entire home began. “I built all of the design off of the rug,” Chappelow says. “It was softly contemporary with bold and warm colors, and it was used for direction of pillows and accessories. She really likes silver, and we did a lot of that—chrome mostly—but because of the gold in the rug I introduced a good bit of brass into the metal mix.”

The ideas of mixing metals, not matching everything precisely, working with contemporary materials like acrylic (for the barstools) and colors like chartreuse and teal were all new to Rogers. But that was part of the excitement. Rogers, who hung one of her own paintings on a wall in the living room, has

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Soft-contemporary furniture and accessories (top) fill the interior while starburst-like pieces (bottom) are repeated to help tie the house together.

OPPOSITE PAGE
Before moving into the Lakeway home, the Rogers sold all of their furniture from their previous residence.



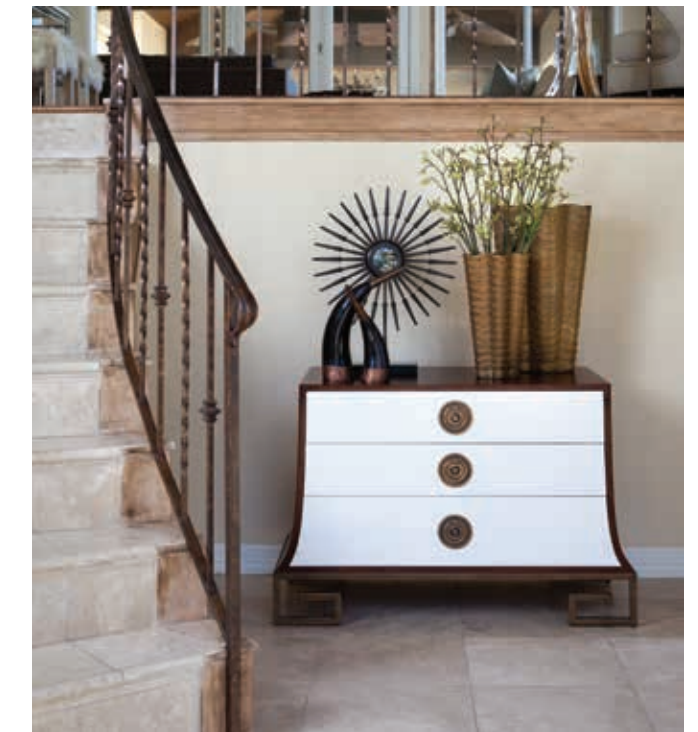


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Upon entering the front door, guests are greeted by a three-drawer chest and the first of many starbursts.

OPPOSITE PAGE

The master bedroom features a tufted, beaded headboard in a rich leather.



long had an artistic eye. She just needed someone to help her curate all of the available options.

Chappelow was there from day one, before a single piece of furniture was moved in. He had convinced Rogers to allow him to help using this argument: "If you can afford to buy furniture for your home all at once, then let's have a cohesive plan."

They rarely disagreed. "Jim's been great to work with," she says. "Before, I'd walk in somewhere and go, 'Oh, that's so cool,' but have no idea where to start. He emailed me pictures and ideas, and I'd say yay or nay. I think I hardly said nay."

But while she was ready for a change, Doss took a bit more convincing. "The goal with this project was to blend her husband's desire for more rustic or tribal design with Laura's desire for a modern and clean space," Chappelow says. To do that, he introduced a number of rustic accessories into the fireplace bookcases and more tribal elements in the bedroom. "It helped that the owners of LOFT had just returned from Bali with a number of blankets and baskets."

Perhaps nowhere is this balance more prominent than in the master bedroom. A custom tufted, beaded headboard is done in a rich leather, while side tables and a media console employ altogether different materials. The media console is an intriguing mix of white lacquer atop reclaimed boat wood, knots and all. Among such a mix of textures and materials, Chappelow and Rogers employed a repeated motif throughout the house to help tie it together: starburst-like pieces that look like suns, or fireworks. They show up in the entryway; as

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Chappelow's design doesn't shy away from color, such as in the sitting area (right), or experimentation, as with the "egg waterfall" in the powder bathroom (below).

OPPOSITE PAGE
The dining area has a virtually unobstructed view of Lake Travis.



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cabinet knobs in the dining room seating area; atop a console and furry seats in mirror form; and spread across a wall high above the spacious living room (that formerly featured a heavy tapestry), bringing it to life. The metal blossoms were a favorite for Rogers and Chappelow.

"They look like sea urchins, but they're called 'booms,'" Chappelow says. "They look like an explosion of fireworks. It was our way to create some visual interest without just hanging something."

An echo to the booms comes in the powder bathroom, in the form of what Chappelow calls "eggs." "My favorite design element is one that was difficult to photograph well," he says. "In the powder bath off the living room I did a series of wall 'eggs.' It was totally my inspiration and my idea to do a 'waterfall' from the top corner down to the sink. And then we put in an amazing art piece of embalmed butterflies."

Says Rogers: "He actually took little pieces of tape and made

a design, color-coding them." The result is unique 3-D wall art that makes a statement without overwhelming the small bathroom space.

The one room that changed the least in the house was the kitchen—aside from a few crucial lighting swaps. The former fixtures above the bar were heavy and dark, so Rogers instead brought in nickel-plated fixtures to match the glass and nickel chandelier above the dining table. "When the light's on, the room actually turns very warm, because of the yellow glow," Chappelow says.

The end result of the eight-month process is a place for Doss to retreat to after a busy week of work and a home that makes Rogers happy. Though she had to wait for many pieces because they were custom-made, she says it was worth it: "Doss loves it here," she says. "He loves Austin so much, and he loves the lake. He's by himself three days a week, so he misses us, but when he gets here, he totally relaxes." ■

