



BATHED IN LIGHT

Bound together by a crisp, neutral palette, timeless architectural elements and fuss-free furnishings combine to make a new Nashville home an instant classic.

TEXT MARGARET ZAINY ROUX | PHOTOGRAPHY CAROLINE ALLISON



Work. Play. Live. That was Julie Couch's mantra as she conceptualized the interior design of her client's 7,000-square-foot home in West Nashville. The homeowner, a busy career woman and mother of three active middle schoolers, worked in tandem with Couch throughout the design process to assemble a series of family-friendly spaces that are cohesive and causal yet irrefutably chic. This wasn't the duo's first foray together—they previously collaborated 10 years ago on the client's former home just less than one mile away.

"The last house was beautiful, but very different," says Couch. "It was older and more formal with a traditional feel and lots of earth tones. So, when my client decided to build, she wanted a total departure. That said, we didn't completely start over from scratch. We used several of her existing pieces and revived them with new fabrics and paint finishes.

Previous pages: Couch paired slipcovered Parsons chairs with upcycled vintage Italian armchairs from her client's former home using new paint and new upholstery and by adding arrowhead finials as custom details. Opposite: Unique light fixtures in complementary styles and finishes define "rooms" within the open concept floor plan. Above: The home was designed with banks of windows and French doors across the facade to allow for sweeping views of the lush green landscape, a feature that initially drew the homeowner to the property. Right: Opulent French armchairs bring an air of unexpected elegance into the otherwise sleek salon.





Left: The salon's soaring 12-foot ceilings commanded a dramatic light fixture. The elongated wire basket of the two-toned metal chandelier nods to the French Empire style.

You could call it a refresh.”

Taking cues from the bones of the home designed in 2016 by architects Jamie Pfeffer and Jonathan Torode, Couch cultivated an aesthetic that reflected the style of the structure and, more importantly, the lifestyle of those who live inside. Flooring comprised of white oak and gray Ashlar concrete pavers lay a forgiving foundation for muddy footprints tracked in from a backyard barbeque, as well as scuffmarks from stilettos left behind after an elegant grown-up affair. Towering 10-foot ceilings and expansive banks of windows and French doors are fortified with aluminum-clad framing with subtle ceiling and wall applications, like exposed beams and vertical paneling, adding to the strength of character.

Cool whites, grays, and taupes offer a soothing backdrop for these architectural elements and convey a sense of continuity among the generously proportioned spaces that comprise the open concept floor plan. Metallic finishes—from burnished bronze to shiny brass—are thread throughout for a hint of glam along with luxe layers of textiles. Sprawling carpets in striking patterns impart warmth and define intimate conversation zones, while voluminous drapes in sumptuous velvets and linens call the eye down to a more human level. Rich in texture but soft in color, sofas and chairs are slipcovered and upholstered in high-performance fabrics making them approachable and inviting for all ages and occasions. Gently curved backs, arms, and seats relax the more rigid lines of the tables and case pieces that stand among them. Although many of these simple silhouettes are rooted in tradition, their amplified scale offers modern appeal and does double duty to maximize comfort and visual impact.

“It’s all about maintaining functionality and balance,” says Couch. “It was important for us to choose furniture that is hardworking but easy on the eye and to the touch. Because my client and I both love a good mix, we sprinkled a few antique and vintage finds among the contemporary accents and artwork. The result is a look that is calm, collected, and anything but contrived.”



Above: In the breakfast room, a suite of oversized swivel chairs and a twelve-foot banquette offer ample seating for an entire team of teenagers. Left: Affectionately coined "mom's office," the small nook off the kitchen is wrapped in a blush Lindsay Cowles wallcovering. Couch was drawn to its feminine color palette and mod damask pattern. Right: The eight-foot island acts like a partition between the kitchen, breakfast room, and the family room. Couch chose white quartz as a low-maintenance alternative to marble countertops.





Above: In lieu of a dark stain, the study walls and built-ins wear an ashy faux finish. Above right: The glamorous antiqued mirror tile and polished silver sink bring a bit of bling to the bar and distinguish it from the more casual look of the adjacent kitchen. Right: Natural brass nailheads accentuate the curvy shape and tall back of a contemporary wingback chair. Opposite: An oversized wood and brass lantern and industrial coffee table bring some weight and warmth to the monochromatic family room.



Above: The timelessness of white marble mosaic tiles and polished chrome fixtures complement both classic and contemporary interiors. Below: Tucked into second-story dormers, the guest room evokes a cottage feel with a contemporary edge. Right: From soothing celadon-ceramic lamps to moody moss-colored walls, the master bedroom features a garden variety of greens plucked from a large abstract painting.

