

Traditional with a *Graphic Twist*



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PHOTOGRAPHED BY AARON LEIMKUEHLER



A COLORFUL KANSAS CITY HOME PUTS FAMILY FIRST

The warm gold walls of the front hallway of Tess and Trey Hawes home allow black-framed family photos and old-fashioned silhouettes of their children to stand out.

It's family, after all, that informs the design of this house. And a "family" of carpenters, painters, slipcover makers, upholsterers and other artisans helped complete the homeowner's vision.

"Our house is always evolving," admits Tess Hawes, a former corporate marketing executive who has recently started her own design business. "I want it to reflect our young, fun family but to be rooted in the past. Classic but

Above: The graceful twist of the wrought-iron railing leads to the second floor off the foyer. Left: In the formal living room, a hand-painted chinoiserie tea table from Amy Howard is flanked by a wing chair upholstered in a Vervain damask and a club chair upholstered in a Brunswig & Fils velvet-tufted fabric.



Above: During the summer months, white cotton slipcovers refresh the boldly colored fabrics that are in the forefront fall and winter. The painting is by Tess Hawes. **Right:** Hawes found the vintage botanicals on a foray to the Round Top, Texas, antique fair and had them framed by the Dolphin Gallery. **Opposite:** Hawes inherited the mahogany dining room furniture from her grandmother. The gilt mirror over the sideboard is a reproduction from Nell Hills. Flowers here and throughout are from Randy Neal Floral Design.

streamlined for family life.”

In 2007, Hawes and Trey, who is in commercial real estate, decided on a big renovation of their just off Ward Parkway property. While contractor Gary Fischer and his crew embarked on the extensive renovation, the family stayed in a rental home. “When we left we had three kids, but when we moved back in we had four,” Hawes says with a laugh.

“I love the way that children are so absolutely unafraid, uninhibited and unrestrained,” she says. In her home as well as in her art, “I look to capture the children’s movement. I observe that organic flow,” says Hawes, who recently exhibited her paintings at Studio B.

The kitchen took its inspiration from L’Hôtel Particulier in Arles, France. With antiqued-black lower and cream-painted upper cabinets, and traditional hardware given a new finish from Hiles Plating,





the kitchen has a graphic classicism. A large armoire-style cabinet hides baskets where all the stuff of family life can be put away so the large distressed wood dining table can be set for meals. Creamy Calcutta Gold marble countertops encourage a sense of tradition without seeming cold. "This eat-in kitchen works so well for us," Hawes says.

For the marvelous powder room, Hawes took a chest she found online and had it fitted with a sink. She designed the mirror hanging above and had Fischer's carpenters construct it, then had it painted to make it look like a vintage piece. Hawes had the powder room walls upholstered in Scalamandrè chinoiserie fabric, a technique

that helps with sound and temperature insulation. She reused the original sconces but reworked them to fit this space.

While the taupe-colored family room is family-friendly, with slip-covered seating and a large TV over the fireplace, the living room is luxurious. A commissioned oil-on-glass painting by Lisa Lala was a gift for Hawes' birthday. With Colefax & Fowler silk-tasseled drapes at the windows, an antique trumeau above the sofa, blue and red antique oriental carpet underfoot and Scalamandrè-upholstered wing chairs forming a conversational grouping, the room is quietly colorful.

Pine paneling in the small office was expertly painted in a washed-linen effect. A grouping of pastel portraits of the Hawes chil-



Opposite: The classic kitchen is a study in black-and-white. An apron-front farm sink sits at an angle to the stainless-steel Thermador range. *Left:* Six dining chairs that Hawes ordered from Ballard Designs pull up to the custom-made rustic farmtable. The chairs are slipcovered in a sturdy ticking fabric. *Below:* A cozy window seat is tucked into cabinetry just off the kitchen.

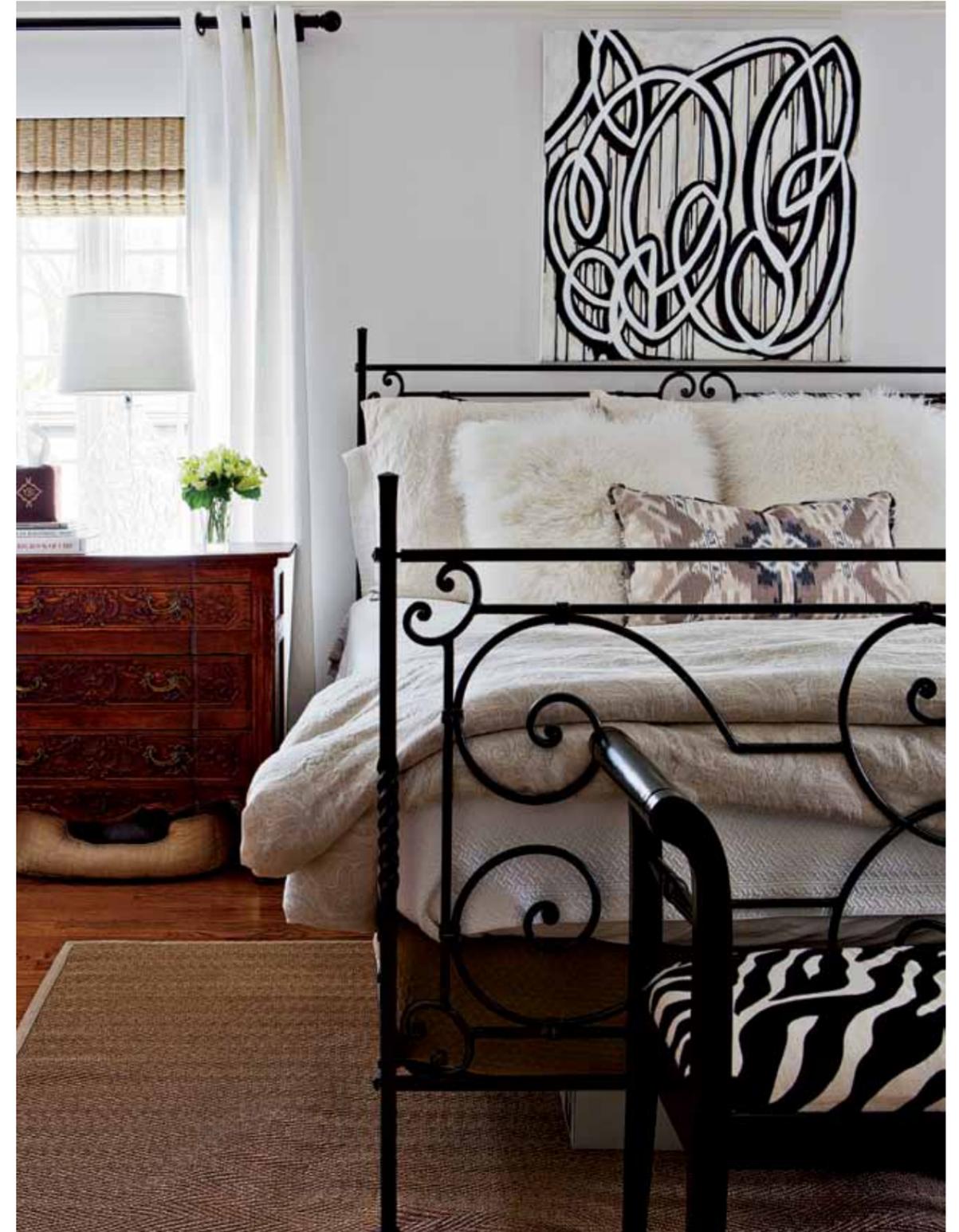
dren, done by Sara Bower-Youngblood when each child was 5 years old, flanks the bookcases. Wing chairs covered in linen slipcovers with dressmaker details complete the space.

The dining room, which looks out onto the backyard, features a loose and airy hand-painted wallcovering. "The dining room gets wonderful light," says Hawes, "so we wanted to keep that feeling." Kansas City artist Michael Jeran painted the bird and butterfly design on canvas, then applied it to the walls.

SEE GRAPHIC TWIST ON PAGE 138.

PHOTOS CONTINUED THROUGH PAGE 127.





Opposite: Gray-stained knotty pine panels the downstairs office. Linen dressmaker slips are summer covers for the two armchairs. The horn stool is from Christopher Filley Antiques. Above: In the master bedroom, Hawes excelled in the high-low mix, with linens from Terrasi European Collections and Target, a custom-made Scalamandré linen bolster and Mongolian lamb Euro shams from West Elm.

Graphic Twist

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 127



In the powder room, Hawes had the walls upholstered in a favorite Scalamandré fabric.

Upstairs in the master bedroom, another Hawes painting hangs above the bed dressed with linens from Scandia Home and Terrasi European Collections. The feel of this room is deeply personal, yet graphic. Billowy white curtains at the windows and flokati pillows contrast with sleek black metal. Antique pieces from Woodson Place Antiques add warmth, texture and a sense of history. "I love coming up here," she confesses. "Life in the rest of the house is so noisy and colorful with the kids that this truly is a retreat." ♦

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