



From Blank to Beautiful

A couple with three children but no furniture enlist a longtime friend to work her design magic

BY GENE MENEZ

The inside of Jared and Lynn Jordan's home in the Treemont neighborhood of Austin is a pleasant mix of aquas, oranges and reds, with some grays and blues thrown in. The furniture, both old and new, fills the 3,800-square-foot home.

It has come a long way.

When the Jordans and their three young children moved into the four-bedroom house in August 2011, they had, in essence, no furniture. To be accurate, they had furniture, but the pieces largely were hand-me-downs and temporary solutions, which were fine for their previous home in Woodhaven but were never intended to make the trek to Treemont.

"We wanted to make sure we did the house right," Jared says.

Enter interior designer Sarah Wittenbraker. The Jordans had known Wittenbraker since their undergraduate days at the University of Texas, and Lynn had seen and been impressed by Wittenbraker's own home in Tarrytown. So the Jordans enlisted her to work her magic on the entire downstairs: the entry, living and dining rooms, den, breakfast area and powder room.

"They were starting completely from scratch," Jordan recalls. "There was not one piece of furniture to incorporate."

"It was a really blank slate."

The design process got rolling when Lynn bought a settee without any upholstery at the Round Top Antiques Fair. When Wittenbraker first saw it, she immediately imagined covering it in an orange poppy and white

fabric and sliding an aqua rug underneath it in the living room.

"I just love that color combo," she says, "and that dictated the color scheme for the rest of the house."

Unlike the rest of the home, which is painted white, the walls in the living room are painted a dark gray.

"I wanted this room to feel a little more dramatic," Wittenbraker says. "I had to talk them into doing a darker gray and promising them it wouldn't look cavernous. I just didn't want the whole downstairs to be white."

Says Lynn of the living room: "I love the wall color. Aesthetically, it's probably my favorite room."

Because of the home's open floor plan—a

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Aqua appears throughout the home, from the lamps and curtains in the dining room (top) to the curtains and accessories in the breakfast area. All light fixtures in the house are new as well.

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guest can see the living room, dining room and den from the entry—the color scheme flows from room to room. The aqua appears in the curtains in the den and breakfast nook, in the lamps in the dining room and in the chandelier hanging in the entry. (All light fixtures were replaced in the project.)

A single, antique chair in the entry also feeds off the color scheme with its wild upholstery. “We covered it in the most modern, groovy fabric we could find so it wouldn’t look too granny,” Wittenbraker says.

In the den, the family’s main living space, a Mitchell Gold+Bob Williams sofa is covered in fabric that’s the same dark gray of the walls in the living room. A supersize, blue-gray rustic wood coffee table from Wildflower Organics also complements the color palette.

The Jordans are ecstatic with how the house turned out. “We love it,” they both say.

Says Wittenbraker: “I think we reached our goal, which was to breathe some life and some personality into the home.” ■

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