

Seth and Sugar cool off with a dip in the pool. They share their Bluffview home with many other animal (and human) siblings.

*A BLUFFVIEW ESTATE
packs plenty of design wow for
a CLOSE-KNIT FAMILY*

text by **CONNIE DUFNER**

interior photography by **NATHAN SCHRODER**

dog portrait by **CODY ULRICH**

interiors by **COLLINS INTERIORS**

built by **ELLERMAN HOMES**

ONE BIG HAPPY



this page:
Architect David Stocker incorporated intimate spaces into the exterior of the home, like this quiet cove.

opposite page:
On the porch, outdoor rockers from Gloster are ready for guests to sit a spell—iced tea optional. Below, phantom screens let the family enjoy the outdoors even when summer heat is in full swing.



S

ETH THE RESCUE DOG LOVES TO SMILE. SURE ENOUGH, HE SMILES ON CUE FOR HIS HUMAN MOM—THE WARM, PERSONABLE HOMEOWNER OF HIS WELL-LOVED HOME.

And why wouldn't he? He lives with two adoring teens; sister pooch Sugar; two rabbits; two indoor birds; and a veritable menagerie of bluebirds, owlets, purple martins, and more outside. He's the eldest child's sprinting partner on the backyard trail and generally has the run of the 14,000-square-foot home.

One big happy—that's how the homeowner envisioned the home eight years ago when she assembled the talents of architect David Stocker, builder Brad Ellerman, and interior designer Cynthia Collins.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 112 >>



“She really wanted a very comfortable, livable, inviting home.”

—DESIGNER CYNTHIA COLLINS



>> CONTINUED FROM PAGE 111

“She really wanted a very comfortable, livable, inviting home,” Collins recalls. “She used a lot of adjectives that were more textural. She didn’t know exactly what she wanted it to look like; she just wanted everyone to feel good there.”

The house is Texas modern with stone arches, antique wooden beams from Pennsylvania, antique heart pine floors, stately antique maple paneling in the library, and a deep front porch outside with a half dozen rockers—think iced tea and lemonade (spiking optional). As expected are all the design chops befitting the team: a fluttery Swarovski chandelier in the living room to balance the textures of stone, wood, and thick rugs; custom furnishings, including a blue mohair sectional; and a sun-washed palette of vivid citrus, as well as a growing modern art collection.

In the master bedroom, serene blue rugs, seating, and bedding provide a retreat for the busy mom, co-owner of a thriving small

CONTINUED ON PAGE 118 >>

this page: (clockwise from top) A runner by Stark leads up the stairs, while a Farzin rug welcomes guests under a fixture from Culp Associates. In the cove of the stairs, artwork by Shelley Hesse catches the eye. On the chest, coral from Nick Brock Antiques sits between custom lamps made from antique marble candlesticks. Near the spiral stair, a hidden door with bookshelves leads to a closet. The rug is Tai Ping. In the living room, Texas limestone and antique beams from Pennsylvania create a textured atmosphere. Above, a fixture from Scott + Cooner sparkles with Swarovski crystals. A custom sofa is covered in Schumacher fabric and Osborne & Little pillows. Facing artwork by Jean Jackson is a custom leather chair. **opposite page:** Antique pine creates a dramatic space built by Brad Ellerman. A herringbone pattern in the fireplace echoes the sentiment.





this page: In the spirit of mixing old and new, Saarinen Tulip armless chairs from Design Within Reach blend perfectly with Parisian creamware plates on the wall. Window treatments are outfitted in Galbraith & Paul "Trellis." **opposite page:** In the family room, a custom light fixture by Collins Interiors hangs above the blue mohair sofa, complete with cozy pillows from Etamine and Sandra Jordan. The Foscarini "Twiggy" floor lamp from Scott + Cooner adds a swoop of drama to the room.



this page:
(clockwise, from top left)
A custom pink settee by
Collins Interiors is
outfitted in Brunswick &
Fils fabric. A fireman's
pole—complete in
fire-engine red—lets the
children to slide into some
fun. A desk space allows
for work and play.

opposite page:
A fun, orange-and-white
custom light fixture by
Collins Interiors hangs in
the children's playroom,
flanked by hanging chairs
that add a beachy,
textured element.

*"She didn't know
exactly what
she wanted it to
look like; she just
wanted everyone to
feel good there."*
—DESIGNER CYNTHIA COLLINS





“This is an open house. Nothing can really hurt it.”

—THE HOMEOWNER



>> CONTINUED FROM PAGE 112

business. And my, the playroom—swings, sling hammock, disco ball, and more. Both children’s suites have a sleeping loft and balconies for sliding down a fire pole into the playroom. Birds living and inanimate are part of the decor, and everywhere the homeowner’s desire to bring the outside in is on careful display.

Etched into the stone at each of the entrances is a verse from a traditional Welsh blessing for the home: For example, “May each room resound with laughter,” reads part of the verse leading to the backyard loggia, pool (complete with a jumping-off wall), gym, and sport court. “We all play and work out together,” the homeowner says.

The walls are lined with photography taken by the older child, a rising high school senior, and his sister’s paintings. Together, the family created a manifesto drawing that hangs in the sitting area facing the kitchen that includes the words “faith,” “abundance,” “gratitude,” and more. Chalkboard markers find their way to mirrors where mom and daughter write inspirational quotes for each other. In addition to the permanent residents, the homeowner frequently offers a room to those in her circle that may be in need of a place to stay for a couple weeks to several months.

It’s a house where you are drawn to the sheer beauty, design, and craftsmanship, but you hang around for the love. “This is an open house. Nothing can really hurt it,” the homeowner says. **D**

this page: (clockwise, from top left) Tile by Ann Sacks leads into the bathroom, while fixtures by Visual Comfort & Co. draw the eye upward. Towels are Leontine Linens. Patricia Urquiola’s “Caboche Grande” chandelier from Y Lighting illuminates the closet. Paul Ferrante’s “Rope” chandelier and Porta Romana sconces adorn the den. **opposite page:** A custom bed and custom bedside tables act as the focal point in this calm, cool suite. Black-and-white photography by Drew Doggett from Blue Print hangs above. A Rosemary Hallgarten rug from Holland & Sherry adds a little fun.

