

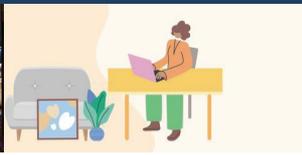
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# Cynthia Collins Creates a Magnificent Dallas Home Where the Courtyard Is the Heart

Her story will inspire you to get to know your neighbors.



BY [HADLEY MENDELSON](#) JUN 28, 2021



SEAN LITCHFIELD

Designer Cynthia Collins of [Dallas-based Collins Interiors](#) has lived on the same street for years. It's situated in the University Park neighborhood, which she describes as a "tree-lined, bike-friendly, friend-filled, family-oriented, small town within a big city"—a sort of "utopia," as she summarizes. Not to mention, she considers her neighbors family. When Collins recently decided she was ready to make a big change, she knew she didn't actually want to venture too far away from her roots. So she and her husband bought a property from longtime neighbor friends just three doors down from their former spot.

While redecorating it, she honored them by keeping the footprint and many of the original details and hardware. "They had great style," she tells *House Beautiful*, which made it much easier to work with instead of fight against. Their style was so great, in fact, that Collins even added a few special pieces to her own collection during their estate sale: A Chanel jacket and Hermès Kelly bag being the standouts. The property itself had beautiful bones and a great layout—it features an L-shape that centers around and enters through a majestic [courtyard](#)—but there was still quite a bit of work to be done in the three-bedroom house in order to make it feel like their own. **Keep reading to see how she injected it with new life.**