

THE FALL ISSUE

DH Home

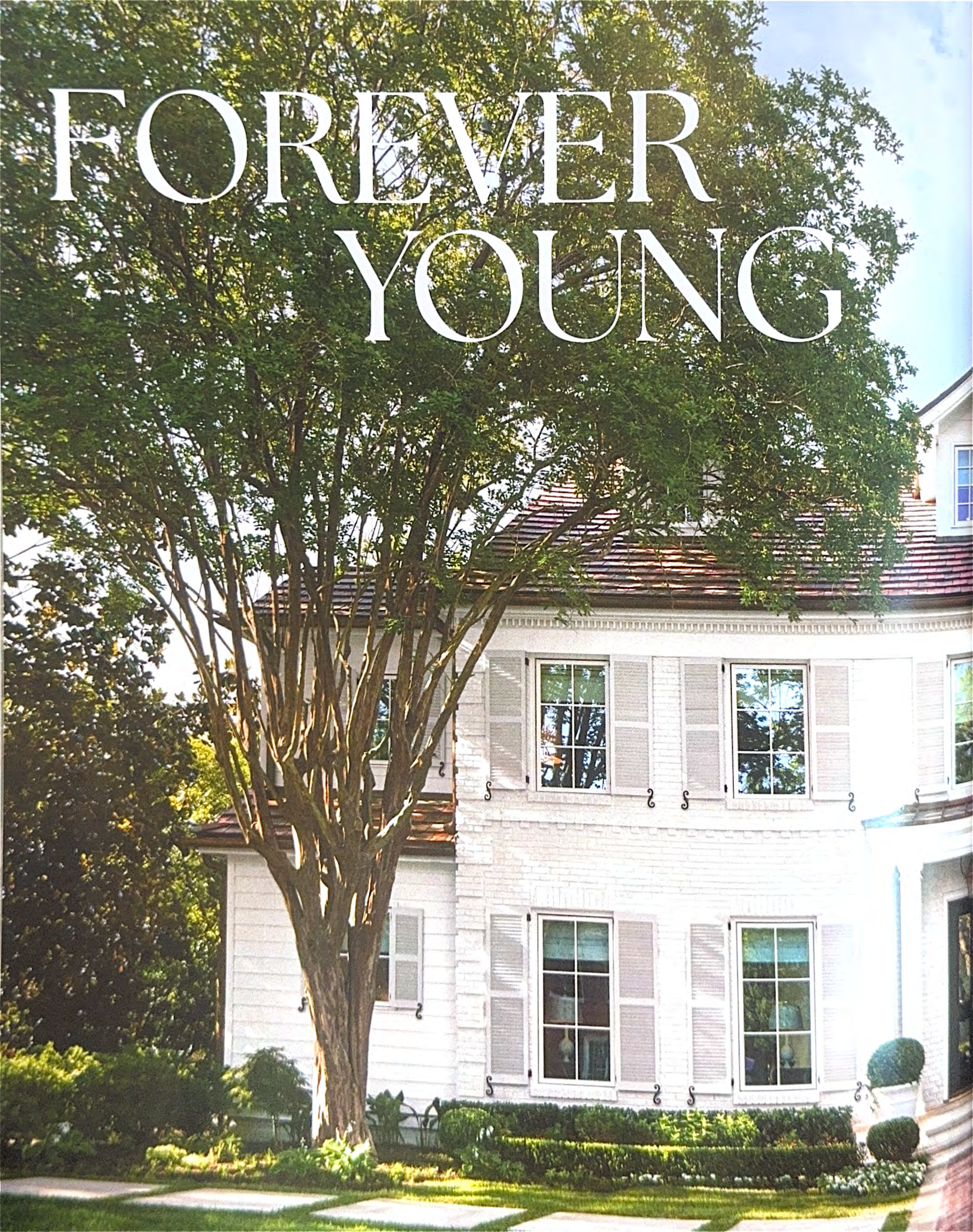
YOUR GUIDE TO LIVING A BEAUTIFUL LIFE IN DALLAS

WARM WELCOMES

COZY SPACES, SAVORY RECIPES,
and LUXE LAYERED LOOKS

Plus:
The Best
Architects
in Dallas
2025
PG. 70

*the 10 Most Charming
Houses in Dallas* PG. 78



FOREVER YOUNG



University Park
transplants
entrusted designer
Cynthia Collins,
builder Carolyn Isler,
and architect Harris
Briggs with
transforming a
1930s Georgian
into a chic and cozy
family haven.

Exterior

The University Park home, which was originally built in the late 1930s, features a new red tile roof and an updated exterior. There are hints of Colonial and Georgian influences in the architecture, which Harris Briggs nodded to in the redesign.

text by RYAN CONNER photography by NATHAN SCHRODER interiors by COLLINS INTERIORS built by ISLER HOMES
architecture by BRIGGS ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN styling by JENNY O'CONNOR floral by HAILE WOSSEN

Dining Room

In the formal dining room, designer Cynthia Collins selected a mix of antiques and custom touches, like the ceiling medallion by Casci Ornamental Plaster, for a layered look. While formal, the room isn't just a showpiece. "We had a Christmas dinner party in this

room, and it was such a ball," says homeowner Sterling Evans. "I love the flow of the house for entertaining."

wallpaper: Pierre Frey;
light fixture: Legacy
Antiques; ceiling medallion:
Casci Ornamental Plaster;
chairs: antique; chair fabric:
Groves Brothers



A

fter a five-year stint in Fort Worth, couple Sterling and Rob Evans were ready to put down roots in the Park Cities area, but they weren't exactly sure what that would look like. At the time, they had two young daughters and Sterling was pregnant with their son, so a family-friendly house that would grow with them was a priority.



Real estate agent Meredith Ferrell showed them an array of houses, but the couple kept striking out. "We were looking at a lot of types of homes," says Sterling. "But I would want to change this, or I didn't like that."

However, when Ferrell showed them a 1930s Georgian on a quiet street lined with large oak and magnolia trees, they instantly felt at home. "I didn't realize that was what I was drawn to at the time, but this house was so charming," she says. "Right when we walked in, we could see the potential. It gave us *Father of the Bride* vibes."

The couple liked that the home needed a little work. The bones were perfect, but Rob and Sterling wanted to reimagine some of the spaces and infuse their personal taste, all while honoring the original architecture. They hired architect Harris Briggs, principal of Briggs Architecture & Design, to work up the plans. "It started with the front porch, and then it all spiraled out of control from there," Briggs says. "But in the best way."

That aforementioned design spiral led them to an 18-month renovation with builder Carolyn Isler at the helm. "Carolyn's expertise in renovating older homes and keeping the integrity of the house was so important," says Sterling. "She has a passion for it." Changes included exterior overhauls such as an updated

front porch, new windows, and a reclaimed Ludowici red tile roof, a detail Sterling was passionate about. "We were fortunate that we found that tile," says Isler. "It's an absolutely beautiful color. That roof sealed the deal."

Interior updates included a reconfiguration of the kitchen, swapping a living room for a formal dining space, and adding on a butler's pan-

Vignette

Collins hunted for the perfect antique chest for this spot in the living room. This Biedermeier dresser was perfect, she says, because "it doesn't feel too heavy."

dresser: antique Biedermeier chest; painting: Andrea Rosenberg; lamp: Blue Print

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Design notes

Add detail to a ceiling for a layered look. Here, a lattice treatment brings a light and airy texture to the room.



Play Space

Knowing that children need room to pull out toys and get creative, Collins opted to keep this play area, located off the living room, largely open. "We left it very un-styled on purpose so that they could sit on the floor," she explains.

drapery: Salvesen Graham;
light fixture:
The Urban Electric Co.



Kitchen:

The renovated kitchen features a large white oak island, which warms up the space. Collins opted for a neutral palette so as not to compete with the breakfast room's green tones. Wipeable barstools are kid-friendly.

barstools: Janus et Cie;
backsplash tile: Ann Sacks;
light fixtures: The Urban
Electric Co.

"I love how much color we used. It's vibrant and happy."

—HOMEOWNER
STERLING EVANS



Breakfast Room

Collins designed the light-filled breakfast room with a lattice ceiling and painted trim detail. But she kept the children in mind when it came to furniture and accessories, including laminated chair cushions, an easy-to-clean rug, and a durable table.

light fixture: Vaughan Designs;
table: custom piece designed
by Collins Interiors; chairs:
Blue Print; wallpaper: York
Wallcoverings





Butler's Pantry

"It gave us the opportunity to do something that is not wallpaper but still gives us a good pattern," says Collins of the hand-painted backsplash tile.

tile: Lascaux Tile



Bar

"One of Sterling's favorite colors is orange, so we made an orange bar for her," says Collins. "It ended up being in the middle of the house so you could see the orange bar from other places in the home."

light fixture:
The Urban Electric Co.



Practically Perfect

Designer Cynthia Collins is known for designing with antiques and luxurious textiles, but she also made sure to keep the Evanses' home fresh and fun for the young family. "It guided us on everything we did," she says. Here are her tips for designing a traditional home that is both playful and timeless.

MIX FORMAL AND INFORMAL

In the dining room, Collins mixed antique pieces and a Pierre Fray wallcovering with a sisal rug so as not to overly formalize the space. "I really wanted the wallpaper to shine," says Collins. "I also felt like the sisal rug makes all of these lovely things approachable. If we did a Persian rug, it may have felt off with the paper."

PLAY WITH BOLD COLORS

Choosing a bright hue for a space like a bar is an easy way to infuse personality into a space. In the Evanses' abode, Collins chose Sterling's favorite hue of orange to cover the cabinetry. "Sterling was not afraid to have fun," says Collins. "This bar was a spot where she stretched herself in that direction and didn't take herself too seriously."

CONSIDER LOW-FUSS FABRICS

Corded and braided upholstery trim has evolved from strictly silk to include more relaxed varieties. Collins added a Samuel & Sons cotton fringe to the family room chairs, a spot where the Evans kids love to snuggle up. Collins also chose linen and cotton upholstery for the chairs and sofas, which make for a more approachable aesthetic.



Living Room

"I wanted a cozy family room that was colorful," explains Sterling. Her girls love to lounge in the chairs or color at the game table. Sliding glass doors open up to the back porch, making the space perfect for entertaining.

slipper chairs near fireplace: upholstered in Schumacher fabric; chairs with trim: custom designed by Collins Interiors with Lee Jofa fabric and Samuel & Sons trim; light fixture: Porta Romana

design notes

Paint can be used unexpectedly to add a subtle pop of color, like on the window casings in the adults' lounge. "It's one of those moments where Cynthia got really creative," says the homeowner. "I love how fun and different it is."



Lounge
Collins repurposed what was originally an office into an adults' sitting room/lounge with paneled walls. "It has more of a masculine feel, in a good way," says Collins. "A lot of the other rooms feel very light and airy, and people really enjoy cozy spots where the rooms are smaller and the colors are darker."

sectional: upholstered in George Spencer Designs fabric; chair: Blue Print



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try and showstopping orange bar. Briggs added arched details throughout the home, like in the kitchen and formal dining room. "I had fun suggesting things that [the Evanses] didn't ask for, and they stuck," he says.

To complete the project's roster, the Evanses looked to designer Cynthia Collins, owner of Collins Interiors and co-owner of Blue Print, the popular furniture and accessories boutique with a cult following. Over the years, Sterling had purchased a pair of vases, several pieces of art, and other items from the store, so she already knew her taste gelled with Collins'. "My style already was her style, so I think that's why we worked so well together," says Sterling.

As they were coming up with the design plan, Collins was steadfast in making sure the home's aesthetic was youthful and fresh while still looking polished and traditional. "Our goals lined up with hers in that I wanted to make this house feel young," says Collins. "I also wanted to make it suitable for a young family." This meant bold pops of color, timeless antique pieces, and stunning wallcoverings and tile, mixed in with performance fabrics and durable rugs. "She was really wise from the beginning," says Sterling. "She said, 'Sterling, your kids will run around with markers. You don't want to be terrified.' So we always looked at appropriate fabrics. We didn't want anything to drive us crazy."



Powder Bath

"In the '30s, they had tile wainscoting that went behind the counter, so we nodded to that, but in a fresh and updated way," says Collins of the powder bath.

wallpaper: Lewis & Wood;
mirror: custom design by Casci
Ornamental Plaster; lighting:
antique gold-flecked Murano
glass sconce

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Playroom

In the playroom, Collins designed a stage, complete with custom curtains. "My girls love to do performances in here," says Sterling.

swivel chairs: custom designed by Collins Interiors with DeLany & Long fabric; pouf: custom designed by Collins Interiors in Alan Campbell fabric



→ Primary Bedroom

The primary suite features a comfortable sitting space. "They wanted it to be lovely, but they wanted it to be approachable, where the kids could come in and have family time in their room as well," says Collins.

bed: custom designed by Collins Interiors in Meredith Ellis Textiles; bench: custom designed by Collins Interiors in Marvic Textiles; chair: custom designed by Collins Interiors in Manuel Canovas fabric



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For instance, in the breakfast room, Collins opted out of heavy fabric drapes and upholstered pieces that could show wear and tear. Instead, she focused on special details—like green trim, a Vaughan Designs chandelier, and a latticetreatment on the ceiling—in places less likely to be touched by messy hands or impacted by food spills. "You need people to be comfortable in dining areas, where they are eating every day," says Collins. "You want to be able to live hard in those areas." She added laminated-fabric cushions, enabling Sterling to wipe down seats without fuss, and a patterned wool rug, which disguises spills and is a cinch to clean. The best part? The design didn't have to suffer. "I love how much color we used," says Sterling. "It's vibrant and happy."

As much as theirs is a family house built for making memories, the Evanses regularly share the 5,500-square-foot home with loved ones. Sterling and Rob enjoy hosting friends for occasions like their annual Texas/OU party and want their kids to be able to have friends over to perform on the playroom's stage. "They were our number one priority in designing this home," Sterling says of her kids. "They love it. It's such a happy home." **D**

→ Primary Bath

While freestanding tubs are en vogue right now, Collins suggested an undermount tub with a thin deck. "It feels like a fresh approach to an older bathroom," she says.

light fixture: Visual Comfort;
floor tiles: Ann Sacks;
drapery: Meredith Ellis Textiles

