

A Style Story

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“The key to mixing prints is
varying the size.”

This Tennessee home is revamped to suit a young couple's love for entertaining, family life and all the good things that come with Southern living.

GOOD TALK. Encouraging good conversations was key with the family room, so Scarlett carefully positioned the Bernhardt sofas and Lee Industries chairs for easy discussions among friends and family.

SPACE GAMES. The living room was made smaller to allow for a larger master closet. With the high ceilings, floor-to-ceiling window and custom mirror, it still feels sizeable for entertaining. Scarlett approached the décor with one inspiration: the rug, which was a gift from Raj's father. She went for a neutral color palette, which allowed the rug to be the focus.

[OPPOSITE] ARTFUL AESTHETIC. Since the homeowners have an extensive art collection, Scarlett was able to use unique pieces throughout the residence. This Christina Baker painting was placed in the family room to give the area color and elegance.



When it comes to renovating a home around the needs of a family, style must meet function in a synthesis of beauty and form.

Such was the case with Raj and Lee Patnaik, a young couple with three children, whose suburban residence in Brentwood, Tennessee, was in need of an update. The family had bought the 1981 house six years ago and occupied it long enough to see the ways it needed to change to fit their lives. They hired Scarlett James, the principal designer at The Mix Interiors, along with a builder and architect to reimagine the home around two main focuses: opening up the existing spaces for hosting while also fulfilling Raj and Lee's other priorities. "The couple loves to entertain, so we wanted to create room for both parties and everyday life with three children," Scarlett says. "The home had a fantastic lot, location and good bones. It just needed the updates for modern life."

TO HOST AND TO HOLD

The family room, which is centrally located in the residence, became the heart of the home after its floor-to-ceiling facelift. "We wanted it to be kid-friendly but still feel sophisticated," Scarlett says. She covered the floor with a vintage Oushak rug and had the ceilings coffered to add architectural interest. "We also added about 12 feet to the space so it could accommodate a large group," Scarlett explains.



SOUTHERN COMFORT.

"The exterior received a fresh coat of paint and a new railing to add interest," Scarlett explains. The Benjamin Moore Grey Mist body paint, Sherwin Williams Black Fox shutter paint and the Chippendale rails give the home fresh, dynamic curb appeal.

[OPPOSITE] NOT GARDEN VARIETY.

By mixing the various patterns of the rug and host chairs, Scarlett gave the dining room immediate dimension, depth and loads of interest.



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Now party-friendly touches like a fireplace and wet bar give the room a warm, welcoming environment that makes guests want to stay long into the night. And, since the family room is open to the kitchen, the homeowners can easily serve appetizers and snacks to their guests. Scarlett also imbued the space with stylistic personality, characterized by the Noir lighting fixture she suspended over the seating area and the art hanging on the wall by the door. Since the family has an exquisite art collection, Scarlett used various works throughout the home, surrounding them with their favorite pieces.

INVITATIONAL DINING

When it came to the dining room, Scarlett's goal was to make it inviting for both guests and the family. "We made it really comfortable with the host chairs and loveseat," she says. "It's a nice spot to work, do homework or have friends over for coffee." With the Regina Andrews chandelier giving the dining room a stunning focal point, Scarlett also added interest with the patterned CR Laine

JEWELRY IN THE ROOM.

The blue pendant lights are fun and lighthearted, and their strategic positioning over the island draws the eye upwards and elongates the room.

host chairs and the upholstered Lee Industries dining bench. The comfy seating options encourage the family and their friends to linger, while the custom mirrored cabinets add the perfect amount of chicness. The round shapes on the cabinetry, echoed in the rug (which Scarlett had cut from a carpet by Myers Flooring), give the room a pleasing sensibility. "The large-scale patterns work really well with the fabrics and art in the space," Scarlett says.

KITCHEN CONVERSION

Since Raj and Lee love cooking, the kitchen needed a fresh start that would elicit their culinary creativity while also working well with their little ones. The original kitchen was completely gutted and new plans were made. "Function was a huge priority," Scarlett says. "We wanted timeless beauty and texture." An oak floor was the perfect stage for the all-white cabinets and the honed Calcutta Michelangelo counters and backsplash. But challenges were discovered in the form of a support beam that could not be moved but obstructed the plans for a range. "It

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JEWEL OF ENTERTAINING. The wet bar, which is located in the family room, allows Raj and Lee to serve drinks without having to walk to the kitchen. "Since the kitchen has the navy pendants, we wanted a navy reference on this side of the house," Scarlett says. "We used a navy grasscloth to wrap the spot and it feels like a little exclamation point."

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CLASSY COHESION. In the master bedroom, a hide-shaped rug was used to break up the symmetry of the room, while the light and mirror incorporated the brass notes from the main living area, giving the home a unified aesthetic.



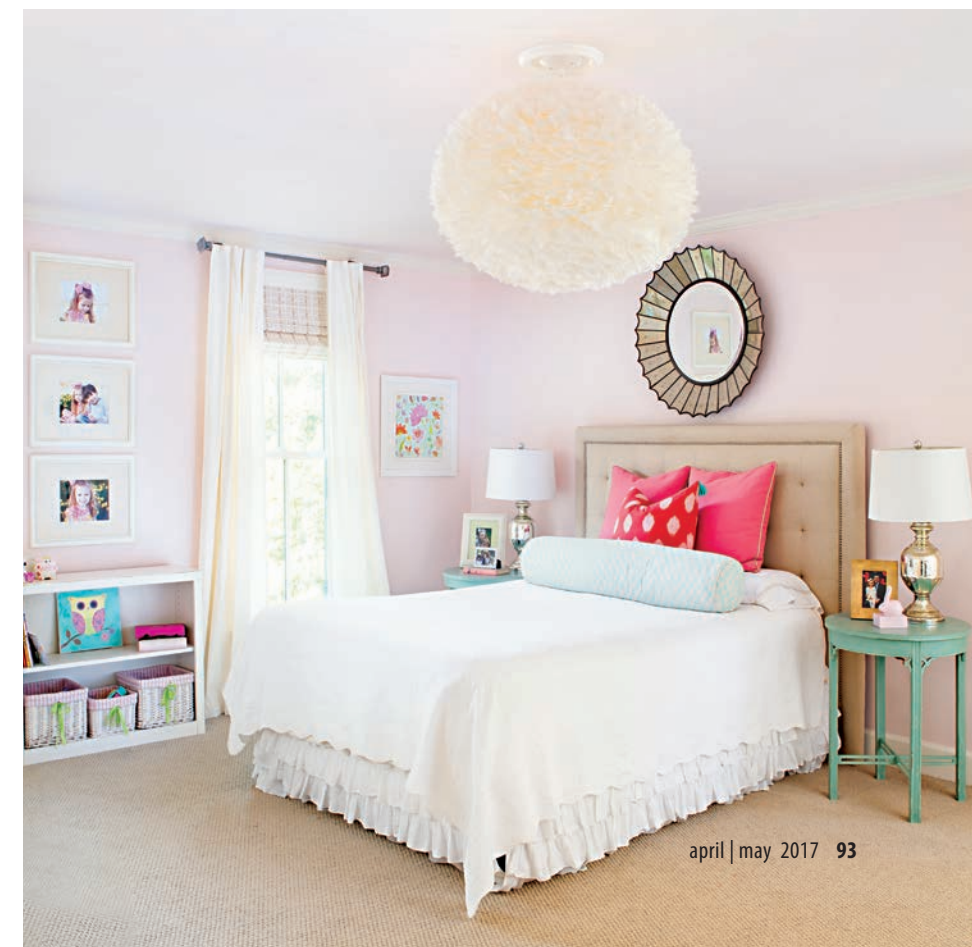
[ABOVE LEFT] CLASSIC GOOD LOOKS. When it came to designing a room for one the Patnaiks' sons, Scarlett created a "space that would work for years. To do this, we used timeless colors and a very classic iron bed."

[BELOW] ROOM FOR DREAMING. For the Patnaiks' daughter, it was essential to have a room that both reflected her spunky personality and was easy to maintain. The Tufftex carpet was selected for its durability; stains can be quickly scrubbed out.

turned out to be a happy accident," Scarlett says. With a little ingenuity, she came up with the idea for a plaster range hood that could be molded around the beam while adding depth to the kitchen. The finishing details were Blue Rejuvenation pendant lights that give the kitchen a pop of youthful color and white counter stools that are both fashionable and practical. "They are totally wipeable, which is key for three children eating most of their meals at the counter," Scarlett says.

With these changes, the Patnaik residence is beautifully balanced, styled for hosting without sacrificing any of the amenities for family life. As Scarlett says, "With the teamwork of the homeowners, architect and builder, we created a home perfectly tailored to the Patnaik family." It's now a reflection of the Patnaiks' vision for their lives: a place where friends are welcomed and family is cherished, always and forever. **CB**

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[ABOVE LEFT] PRETTY POWDER ROOM. Scarlett describes this bathroom as “the happiest powder room on the block.” She left the original vanity and marble and added in drama with the Romo Xanthia Kew wallpaper, Visual Comfort sconces and a custom mirror.

[ABOVE RIGHT] WELCOME SUNSHINE. The breakfast area was bumped out to create an appealing little nook. “All of the neighborhood kids can pile in around the rustic table,” Scarlett says. “We used ottomans instead of chairs to maximize the walkway between the table and the island.” Slipcovers were custom made from an African mudcloth found at an antiques market in Atlanta and give the space fashion-forward appeal.

[LEFT] FASHIONABLY FUNCTIONAL. The laundry room sits off the kitchen. Since it also acts as a hallway, it needed to be functional yet stylish. Scarlett used shiplap detailing, artwork from a local artist, lighting fixtures and a vintage rug to give the area personality.

[OPPOSITE] OUTDOOR LIFE. The outdoor living layout is a highlight of the home. Scarlett strove to make it accessible to the family year round with extra ceiling heaters so everyone can be outside even if the temperatures are cool. As for the décor, Scarlett says, “We wanted it to be an extension of their interiors, so we chose furniture and fabrics in a similar palette to the family room.”