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NICE NEST

DESIGNER JESSICA DAVIS CREATES A SOPHISTICATED BUT PLAYFUL HOME FOR HER FAMILY IN A BUCKHEAD MIDCENTURY-MODERN By MARY LOGAN BIKOFF
Photography by EMILY FOLLOWILL

Jessica Davis is the founder of design studio Atelier Davis and hardware company Nest Studio. She shares a midcentury-modern home in Buckhead with her husband, Scott, their two children (Lucy, six, and Bryan, nine), and their poodle, Cheerio. The exterior is painted Benjamin Moore "Black Forest Green," and the front doors bear a cheery peach and their original oversize round brass knobs—something the hardware enthusiast appreciated.

When interior designer Jessica Davis, founder of the groovy hardware line Nest Studio, was house-hunting in Atlanta in 2018, she knew she wanted a change from the grand, turreted Victorian where she and her family had been living in the New York City area.

“We had never lived in a midcentury-modern,” says Jessica, who grew up in Hong Kong and has lived all over the world. “And I’d always wanted to.”

Her husband, Scott, who works in management consulting, had landed a job in Atlanta, and it was he who found the circa-1960 L-shaped post-and-beam home online and took the first tour. The couple and their two children packed their bags sooner than expected and headed south.

The house, on a leafy two-acre hill in Buckhead, was an early project by architect Jerry Cooper, cofounder of the noted Atlanta firm Cooper Carry. But it was due for some updates, which the Davises embarked on thoughtfully, keeping the original footprint and repurposing materials. The former kitchen, which Jess describes as “very high-end for the ’80s,” got a full makeover with integrated appliances, Fireclay tile, Dekton countertops, and a pop of color in the cherry-red Smeg range.

The floors in the foyer and halls got an upgrade to swanky terrazzo, which Jessica describes as appropriate for the house’s era. It was a splurge compensated for by painting the subfloor in the master bedroom rather than topping it with another material.

The project is a study in sophisticated DIY: The crafty designer loves refreshing old or found pieces with paint and custom upgrades, like her stylish hardware (available at Matthew Quinn Collection), which stars throughout the house. Playful touches abound, like wallpaper fit for crayons, homemade bed forts for the kids, and even a secret passageway through false cabinetry.



OPPOSITE | The red chairs from West Elm pick up red pops in the adjoining kitchen, and the light fixture was an Etsy find. The table, which Jessica originally got for free and recently repainted a pale green, is on its third house with the family. The colorful nude painting is by Jessica, who is also an artist.

LEFT | The lush backyard, which includes original stonework and a revamped pool, is an oasis for the family, with two acres for the children to roam.

BELOW | The central wood-burning fireplace is topped with smooth, knot-like sculptures by San Francisco woodworker Katie Gong.





OPPOSITE | The cozy corner, with vintage Milo Baughman chairs from Chairish, features a large-scale painting that Jessica started and her children finished with oil pastels.

ABOVE | Atelier Davis and Nest Studios, with offices in New York and Atlanta, are based out of Jessica's home, with shelving and desks from Ikea.

TOPRIGHT | The kitchen was completely reconfigured, but the unusual, original, marbled magnolia wall paneling was salvaged and re-

purposed on a pantry of built-ins that feels at once vintage and modern. Pale green Fireclay tile adds subtle color while a cherry-red Smeg range brings a big pop.

RIGHT | Jessica chose Dekton from Cosentino for the countertops. "I love the Dekton," says Jessica. "It looks like soapstone, but it's super-heat resistant. You can just put a pot down on it." The hardware is the star, with knobs and pulls from Nest Studio's Deco collection and custom-made knurled brass legs on the kitchen island.





OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT | Lucy's room features color-on wallpaper from custom digital printing company Spoonflower. "I love using Spoonflower," says Jessica. "It's a total rabbit hole." Mother and daughter painted the DIY bed frame together.

Jessica lofted the kids' beds to create "forts" underneath. Bryan's room also features wallpaper from Spoonflower. In lieu of a closet, he has bright blue lockers and a midcentury dresser.

A vintage hanging chair and dresser fit the midcentury vibe. Cork flooring in the kids' rooms, Jessica says, is soft underfoot, period appropriate, and sustainable.

LEFT | Along the hall of the "kids wing," where the two children's rooms are, Jessica hangs Lucy's and Bryan's artwork.

BELOW | One extra fanciful detail? A secret passageway through the false cabinetry between the sitting room and the children's rooms.



FOR FLOORING, JESSICA CHOSE CORK FOR THE CHILDREN'S ROOMS AND A SWANKY, PERIOD-APPROPRIATE TERRAZZO FOR THE ENTRY, KITCHEN, AND HALLS.



ABOVE | For a chic and easy budget makeover, Jessica pulled up the old carpet and painted the subfloor in charcoal Annie Sloan Chalk Paint. A vintage Moroccan rug “headboard” hangs on a CB2 drapery rod, while the blue table lamps are Koncept. The nightstands are a prototype from the furniture line she’s developing with powder-coated tubular metal hardware. These were made by Atlanta woodworker Kendrick Anderson.

CENTER | Jessica’s parents had the same iconic NY rocking chair by Japanese designer Takeshi Nii when she was a child.

RIGHT | The bathroom off the office shines with Fireclay tile and Nest Studio’s “Geo” pulls.

RESOURCES | **INTERIOR DESIGN:** Jessica Davis, Atelier Davis, atelierdavis.com | **BUILDER:** Randy Guyton, Guyton Design Homes, 678-350-6097 TO SHOP THIS STORY, SEE PAGE 56.



MANY PIECES—THE NY CHAIR, THE MOROCCAN RUGS—COME FROM JESSICA'S FAMILY, WHO HAS LIVED ALL OVER THE WORLD.

HAUTE HARDWARE

For her hardware line, Nest Studio, designer Jessica Davis collaborates with sculptors and artists around the world—many of whom she finds on Instagram.



1



2



3



4

1 Pulls from the Geo collection (from \$40), available in several finishes, including powder-coated bright colors.

2 Pulls from the curvy Deco collection (from \$50).

3 The Glaze collection (from \$150) was created with New York ceramicist Jonathan Castro and comes in soft white, charcoal brown, and matte teal (shown here).

4 The Organic collection (from \$80), in blackened and polished brass. neststudiocollection.com