

PRIVATE QUARTERS

HOME SPOTLIGHT

Art, light fill midcentury home

Creative touches make this kid-friendly space feel a little magical.

By **Lori Keong**
for the AJC

When interior designer Jessica Davis first got the call from her husband Scott in late 2018, she was living in a big Victorian house in South Orange, N.J., with their two young kids. Scott had been commuting between New Jersey and Atlanta for work and had just stumbled upon a home in Buckhead that he wanted her to expedite a flight out to see.

Though Jessica says the couple was only casually researching neighborhoods in Atlanta at that point, the '60s-era post-and-beam house — one of Atlanta architect Jerry Cooper's first projects out of Georgia Tech — had exactly the kind of modern design she was looking for.

"The indoor/outdoor connection is amazing. It's on two acres of land in the middle of the woods, but in Buckhead close to tons of stuff. So we just felt that we had to jump on the opportunity," she said.

The couple quickly made a deal, closed on the home in November 2018 for \$950,000, and started renovations in January the following year. One of the biggest transformations in this 3,000-square-foot space involved knocking down some walls to open up the kitchen so there was ample light filtering through the house from the entry to the back. A hallway leading to the children's quarters, along with her daughter Lucy's bedroom, was created out of what was once a carport.

Embracing the core architectural elements of the home — from the magnolia wood paneling in the den to the tongue-and-groove ceilings — Jessica sought out fresh color treatments (like the black forest green color on the exterior walls and interior ceilings) that would enhance the mid-century bones of the house, while keeping everything fresh and modern. She also minimized costs by rounding out the rooms with thoughtful budget pieces from places like Ikea, Amazon, Etsy, Target and World Market.

Jessica's own personal touches include her original artwork and custom designs featured throughout the house, plus modern hardware on the cabinets through her company, Nest Studio. An impressive collection of her art amassed over the past decade from estate sales, local artists and online also pepper the walls.

Other creative surprises up her sleeve — to the delight of her two children Lucy, 7, and Bryan, 10 — include a secret passageway leading to Lucy's bedroom, plus some custom beds and forts that Jessica built for their bedrooms.

CONTACT US

If you have a beautifully designed home in the Atlanta area, we'd love to feature you! Email Lori Keong at lorikeongwrites@gmail.com for more info.



Above: The furnishings in the living room include a vintage coffee table, custom Nest Studio credenza and chaise from Innovation Living. The gallery wall comprises a decade's worth of art pieces collected over the years. TEXT BY LORI KEONG/PHOTOS BY EMILY FOLLOWILL



The kitchen was completely transformed by knocking down some walls to open up the space and adding some dark Dekton countertops, AJ Madison appliances and the cherry red Smeg range for a bright pop of color. "We installed skylights up above that make the room really bright, so I knew that I could ground the cabinets with a dark color," Jessica Davis said.



Jessica Davis turned to Ikea for midcentury modular shelving and desks on a budget in her home office, rounding out the space with some charming blue Eames-style chairs. The sustainable cork flooring, which carries on into the kids' bedrooms, adds some softness underfoot.

Below: The guest bathroom was once a bigger space that was split in two to create a laundry room and reconfigured to maximize space. Jessica Davis said she wanted it to feel "serene and spa-like" with the green Fireclay tiles. The lights and mirror are from Build.com, while the hardware on the cabinets is from Davis' own Nest Studio line.



Jessica Davis and husband Scott moved into this '60s-era home with their two kids, Lucy and Bryan, plus their poodle, Cheerio, in July 2019 after six months of renovations. She painted the exterior Benjamin Moore Black Forest Green (the same color used on the interior ceiling beams) and refreshed the doors in a vibrant coral color.

SNAPSHOT

Residents: Jessica and Scott Davis, kids Bryan and Lucy and poodle Cheerio
Resident occupations: Jessica Davis (interior designer, founder of design firm Atelier Davis and hardware company Nest Studio) and Scott Davis (management consultant at North Highland Group)
Location: Buckhead
Square feet: 3,000 square feet
Bedrooms/baths: 4 bedrooms, 3 baths
Year built: 1960
Year bought: 2018
Architectural style: midcentury modern
Favorite architectural elements: The ceilings, from the beams to the bleached tongue and groove panels
Type of renovations: Complete kitchen overhaul, addition of a hallway to the children's quarters plus a new kid's bedroom, guest bathroom remodeling, new floors, added windows
Cost of renovations: \$175,000

Builder: Jerry Cooper
Architect: David Obuchowski
Contractors: Randy Guyton of Guyton Design Homes
Favorite room: The kitchen
Favorite piece of furniture: The Nychair in the master bedroom
Favorite outdoor feature: Definitely the hardscaping
Decor tip: Don't be afraid to mix colors and styles, especially when it comes to artwork. Artwork can stand on its own apart from the style of the interior, so you can use modern art in a traditional space or vice versa.
Resources: Furniture and decor from Ikea, Chairish, Etsy, Target, Amazon, CB2, West Elm, Furbish Studio, Innovation Living, Hay; kitchen counters from Dekton; kitchen appliances from AJ Madison; kitchen skylight from Velux; lighting from Worley's Lighting and Konzept; wallpaper from Spoonflower; hardware from Nest Studio.