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ACADIAN ABODE

A Baton Rouge designer
finds the sweet spot between
grown-up sophistication and
family-friendly style.



The brick and cypress combination in this new construction home—a classic South Louisiana design element—was a great canvas for the modern-meets-traditional style the owners requested, from the globe-style chandelier to the lacquered end tables.



On a small wall between the dining and living rooms (bottom left) sits a demilune that feels both airy and dynamic. The two neutral prints above juxtapose more vibrant art seen in the adjoining areas. A set of built-ins flanking the living room mantel display accessories with a subtle sheen and varied finishes—from books covered in parchment to hand-painted porcelain to gold leaf objets d'art.



Designer Rachel Cannon Lewis developed the kind

of relationship with these Louisiana homeowners that every designer dreams of having with their clients. Tasked with adding beauty and comfort to a new construction for the family of four, Rachel orchestrated an updated take on traditional style that's functional enough for active children, yet elegant and serene enough for two hardworking parents.

"They have two sons—one in middle school, one in elementary school—so we were thoughtful about how to furnish each space for functionality and livability," Rachel says. "They are focused on quality family time, so all of our choices were based around creating a true family home."

Rachel focused on providing a backdrop for that treasured togetherness, starting with colorful textiles that would stand up to wear and tear. "Originally, the homeowners thought it would be a blue-and-green scheme, but when I showed them the fabric for the sofa pillows in the living room—which had pink and orange—it completely redirected the project and energized them to take risks," Rachel says.

The vibrant colors of the accent pillows complement the warm tones in the room's wood floors, beams, and brick accents. Artwork above the mantel by local artist Emily Godfrey carries out the pinks and greens in the pillows and ties in the soft blues of the rug.





A thin glaze highlights the details of the painted kitchen cabinets; the backsplash was done in porcelain subway tiles for a light, open feel. Knowing the breakfast area would be the site for most meals, Rachel chose stain-resistant seating and a casual table with a zinc top that withstands heavy use and sticky fingers. The space overlooks the outdoor kitchen, a favorite spot for entertaining. With the help of fans and remote-controlled shades, the area stays cool throughout the day.

The 6-year-old's room has a mix of investment pieces and casual finds—from the West Elm striped bedding and headboard to the CR Laine swivel rocker. For the floor, Rachel chose an indoor/outdoor rug with a vibrant print and added accessories with a whimsical feel befitting her young client.

Rachel tailored the master bedroom design to suit the couple's craving for comfort, introducing soothing blues and soft creams that create a welcome respite. The deep blue-gray velvet-upholstered headboard and antique Oushak rug anchor the softness of the painted case goods. A sitting area at the foot of the bed provides a sense of coziness for the large space and offers a perfect spot for the couple to enjoy coffee before starting their day in the beloved surroundings of a well-appointed home.



The homeowners wanted a private, cozy haven to welcome guests. Rachel started with the celadon-hued bedding, building interest with purple pillows. "My favorite detail is the fan coral we placed behind the lamps on the nightstands. I love how it adds that unexpected texture and helps the lamps stand out," she says. In the 6-year-old's room, Rachel balanced sleek lacquered bedside chests with wood-block prints from Wendover Art to lend a handcrafted feel.



Silver finishes reinforce the tone-on-tone qualities of the custom bedding and antique rug in the master bedroom. A framed set of philodendron leaves by local artist Mike Klung fills the vast space above the tub, adding just enough drama to the tranquil room.

