

VILLA

106
RUEMAG.COM



APRIL TOMLIN BUILT HER DREAM HOME...
AND THEN LET IT GO TO HER DREAM CLIENTS.

INTERIOR DESIGN
BY APRIL TOMLIN
INTERIORS

PHOTOGRAPHY
BY JOSEPH
BRADSHAW

ARCHITECT:
PFEFFER TORODE

LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECT:
DAIGH RICK

CONSTRUCTION:
COOK BUILDERS



1



2

When

construction began on this Nashville, Tennessee home, interior designer April Tomlin had every intention of living there herself. "Interestingly enough, this home was originally meant for my own family and me, so the creative process was very personal," she admits. "I brought on Pfeffer Torode as the architect and Cook Builders for the construction. Both firms did beautiful jobs but, because this was a personal project, I had a heavy hand in all decisions. I made many of the exterior material selections, and half of the interior architecture was completed by my April Tomlin Interiors team."

With progress well underway, April decided to sell what would have become her family's home. "I knew just who to call," she says. "My friends, and former clients, were looking for something in the area, and I had a feeling this was the spot for them. Handing it over to them made saying goodbye to it a whole lot easier."

The new owners kept April's firm on for the remainder of the project and because they'd already developed a comfortable cadence, they wholeheartedly entrusted her team with the space.

"I had to change the direction of the interiors because

1. "We had a custom table made and paired it with some amazing black leather antique chairs," April says. Because the two spaces open into each other, they'd made the decision to avoid drop lighting in the living room and instead went big above the dining room with an enormous custom rope light that's centered over the table.

2. "We wanted whoever entered the kitchen to feel immersed by it. To do this, the architects lowered the ceiling so that it draws you in from the living room," April explains. They designed the space with two islands. "The one closest to the living room, that we deemed the table island, is made of Taj Mahal [quartzite]. My favorite feature is that we took that all the way down to its legs. We chose simple lighting throughout, and we tried to keep everything equal in the space so that one specific feature wouldn't steal the show."



no two couples or families are alike," April says. "What started as a design with a playroom and little girls' rooms turned into one with a music studio and 'findings room.' We geared the design and selections toward their casual, eclectic lifestyle and their love of music and travel."

April admits the transition from designing her own home to reimagining the space for a past client was a challenge. "I had to separate from my own dreams for the space and dive into theirs," she says. "It took time and energy to shift my perspective to design the best house I could for them, despite what my original plans had been. After our install, though, I was sitting outside staring at the amazing backyard and

listening to the water features, and thinking how happy I was for them, at peace that my turn is coming and it will be just as sweet."

The clients love for the home certainly helped. "When they first walked in, one of them said something to the effect of, 'April, I want to encourage you to keep going in your career because you can make it to the very top. I can't believe you designed a home, without much direction, that is exactly us.' My eyes welled with tears, because no matter how the world views your craft, if your client believes they can be themselves in their home and experience in it all the joys and trials that life brings, you have done your job."

1.

The primary bedroom has a peaceful, artistic feel. "My favorite part about the room is the light fixture that spans the length of the bed," April shares. "When I drew this light, which drops in front of a headboard with custom shades that would fall over each side table, I was told it couldn't be done. Lucky for me, my design team saw it through and helped to make it happen. The striking light with the custom headboard and antique pink leather chairs that sit in front create what I think is a real artistic haven."

2.

The main living space is two stories, with one side consisting of floor-to-ceiling windows. "The focal point is an antique leather sofa that we felt was durable and architectural, which came in handy for the clients and their four dogs," April says. The sofa is accented with movable fabric ottomans.





1



2



4

1. "This room is just plain cool. We were after a space for people to hang out, play games, write music, and simply enjoy the house," April says.

2. The "findings room" separates the rest of the house from the office and guest rooms. "Since we knew our clients did a lot of collecting on their travels, we decided to make it a museum of sorts with mustard-colored built-in shelving to display their findings," April explains. The custom swing in the center of the room brings the look together.

3. The primary bath features a dark green plaster, which will hold up to moisture with ease. Interesting details include rock tile that inches up the baseboards, a vanity made of stone that looks like wood, and patinaed green plumbing fixtures.



3



5

4. One of the guest bedrooms is painted a soft salmon hue and features a whimsical, wavy bed.

5. In the lounge, the design team used hand-selected reclaimed wood on the walls. "Usually, when using this type of material," April explains, "you might choose furnishings that are more masculine. But we did the opposite—we went with soft, textured furnishings to create a dynamic juxtaposition from the heaviness of the walls. We really ended up liking the balance."