



DAVID EASTON IN DALLAS
**GRACIOUS
CHARM**

INTERIOR DESIGN BY DAVID EASTON ARCHITECTURE BY ERIC J. SMITH
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE BY WARREN HILL JOHNSON PHOTOGRAPHY BY PETER VITALE
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FORTUNATELY, IT IS POSSIBLE TO BUILD AN ELEGANT HOME THAT STRIKES THAT ELUSIVE BALANCE BETWEEN SOPHISTICATION AND comfort while also meeting a family's needs and desires. A couple with four young children achieved precisely that by turning to architect Eric J. Smith and interior designer David Easton, both of Manhattan, who together transformed a two-acre creek lot in Dallas, Texas.

"My husband grew up in San Antonio, and we both love the wonderful old Spanish Colonial architecture there," says the wife. "And, we have always admired the Spanish-Mediterranean architectural styles of Addison Mizner and Maurice Fatio. The warmth of the materials and the emphasis on indoor-outdoor spaces really suit how we want to live." Travels to Italy and France refined their vision for a Mediterranean Revival-style home.

Enlisting talent from New York felt natural for the couple, who had previously lived there. They invited

OPENING PAGES: David Easton, designer of these gracious interiors, also styled the entry lanterns. In foyer, Italian table, French screen and jardinière, all 18th c. Christopher Hyland fabric on chairs. ABOVE: Lamps, Louis XVI console and Venetian chairs and sconces, all 18th c. COVER AND RIGHT: On table, Old World Weavers velour; Clarence House fringe. Chairs in Prella fabric. De Angelis sofas and tufted chairs in Claremont fabrics. Scalloped table and chandelier, both 18th-c. Italian. Brunswig & Fils velvet on benches. Louis XV mantel. Rug and Lee Jofa drapery fabric, both by Easton. All florals by Jamie Huizenga of Cebolla Fine Flowers.







PRECEDING PAGES: Gracie wallpaper designed by David Easton. French chandelier and Italian table, both 18th c. Chenille by Christopher Hyland on Italian chairs. Louis XVI mantel. Console after 18th-c. antique. ABOVE: Brunshwig & Fils fabric on chair seats. De Angelis sofa in Lee Jofa fabric. Custom bench and antique chair, both in leather. Louis XV mantel. French 19th-c. chandelier. Custom Aubusson carpet. RIGHT: De Angelis sofas, in Kravet fabric, lantern and rug, all custom. Ladder-back 19th-c. chairs; cushions in Nobilis cotton. Louis XVI mantel. Antique candlesticks as lamps on French table.





ABOVE: On porch, rattan sofas and chair, all designed by David Easton for Walters Wicker; cushions in Nina Campbell fabric. French chandelier, 19th c. Custom mantel with ceramic tiles painted by Anne Coke. RIGHT: Custom banquette in Moroccan-style bar. Syrian inlaid mirror and coffee table. Moorish ottomans, 1920s. Lamps, painted ceiling, tiles and 19th-c. lanterns, all from Morocco. French 19th-c. needlepoint chair. Paisley wall fabric by Easton for Lee Jofa.





Easton to Dallas, and he walked their lot. He returned to New York, and three days later, the couple received a FedEx package from his office. Inside were artful, hand-colored renderings of their future home.

"It was like receiving an exquisite gift," recalls the wife. "We were overwhelmed by David's responsiveness. His attention to detail, professionalism and charm made the project a pleasure from beginning to end."

Easton recommended architect Smith. They have been associates for twenty-five years, and although their businesses are run independently, they share office space at Union Square. Smith made a foam-core model of the house, accompanied by drawings of the interiors by artist James Steinmeyer. Says the husband, "They understood that this is, first and foremost, a family home. We could picture exactly what the spaces would look like."

Smith ensured that the residence would exude an aura of older construction and suit the warm climate: "Nestling the home between two hundred-year-old live oak trees created a sense of age—like putting an antique in a room. We used a palm-textured stucco exterior finish. Windows and doors are surrounded by Texas shell limestone. Fumed oak throughout imparts a worn, soft quality that complements the wooden floors, plaster walls and beamed ceilings." Entering the home, an enfilade of airy spaces leads to the living room's enormous, curved glass window, bringing indoors a wide sweep of lawn.

Inside and out, comfortable scale was a priority. "The owners wanted a home that was not noticeably grand from the street," says Easton. "So in many ways, this house is an artful disguise. It snakes around mysteriously and is full of the most delightful surprises." He adds, "There is no great house without great architecture, interior design and landscape. It is the totality that matters. This is not a stuffy, formal, boring house."

Entertaining elements range from a wine cellar—reached by a circular stone staircase—to a fire station pole from the third floor to the second that children grab and glide down. There's also a slide, hidden under a staircase, that leads from the second floor to the first, enjoyed by guests of all ages. A Moroccan-style bar, tucked away behind the library and aglow in a rich red, is, Easton quips, "the exclamation point of the house."

Clearly, children are not the only ones having fun. □

TOP LEFT: In guest room, Adele Kerr Collection benches in check by Brunswick & Fils. Headboards and bedskirts in Ralph Lauren Home stripe. LEFT: French 19th-c. table and sideboard in breakfast room. Swedish chairs with seats in Brunswick & Fils fabric. Antique French tole clock and faience figurines. Country Floors terra-cotta tiles. OPPOSITE: Pool house seating by David Easton for Walters Wicker. Bamboo chairs in Cowtan & Tout woven. Sofa, ottoman and Orkney chairs in Bernard Thorp fabrics. Bermuda pastels by Jennifer Bartlett. Antique fish weather vane. French shell table. Italian 19th-c. candlestick as lamp. Lantern by Easton.





ABOVE: View of back lawn. Landscaping by Warren Hill Johnson of Fallcreek Gardens with Eric J. Smith and David Easton. BELOW: Entry courtyard with mirrored niche and octagonal windows. Lanterns by Easton. French 18th-c. faience brazier under console. Ceramic balustrade lamps. RIGHT: In pool house loggia, custom banquettes in Giati fabric. Faux bois planters from Provence.



THIS FAMILY HOME, SAYS

EASTON, IS "FULL OF THE MOST DELIGHTFUL SURPRISES."