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Houzz Tour: Contemporary, Eclectic and Family-Friendly

A couple look to a favorite funky hotel for design inspiration to make every day a staycation in their new home



Becky Harris February 24, 2018

Houzz Contributor. Hi there! I live in a 1920s cottage in Atlanta that I'll describe... [More >](#)

"We had been living in a beige box," says Michelle Berkey, homeowner and mother of three. And she and her family wanted the opposite of that for their new home. She and her husband, Grant, wanted their Austin, Texas, house to feel more like their favorite local staycation spot, Hotel Saint Cecilia. The well-known Austin boutique hotel is alive with an eclectic mix of vibrant colors, bold furniture and lively patterns, and the Berkeys make it a point to stay in different rooms every time they visit so they can check out how they're decorated. With interior designers Stephanie Lindsey and Jessica Nelson on board, they set about creating a home that reflected their family's adventurous personalities.



Photos by Mia Baxter Smail

House at a Glance

Who lives here: Michelle and Grant Berkey and their sons, Brenden, 13, Noah, 11, and Beau, 4

Location: Austin, Texas

Size: Four bedrooms, 4½ bathrooms

Designers: Stephanie Lindsey and Jessica Nelson, Etch Design Group (interior design); Cornerstone Architects (architecture)

The style. Michelle's background is in fashion so she loves texture and color. "We wanted a design with depth and textures that would feel three-dimensional, not

flat,” she says. And neither she nor Grant was interested in trends — they wanted to pick furniture, accessories, fixtures and finishes they would love for at least the next 20 years. Oh, and with three young boys, everything needed to be easy to clean off, clear off and wipe off.

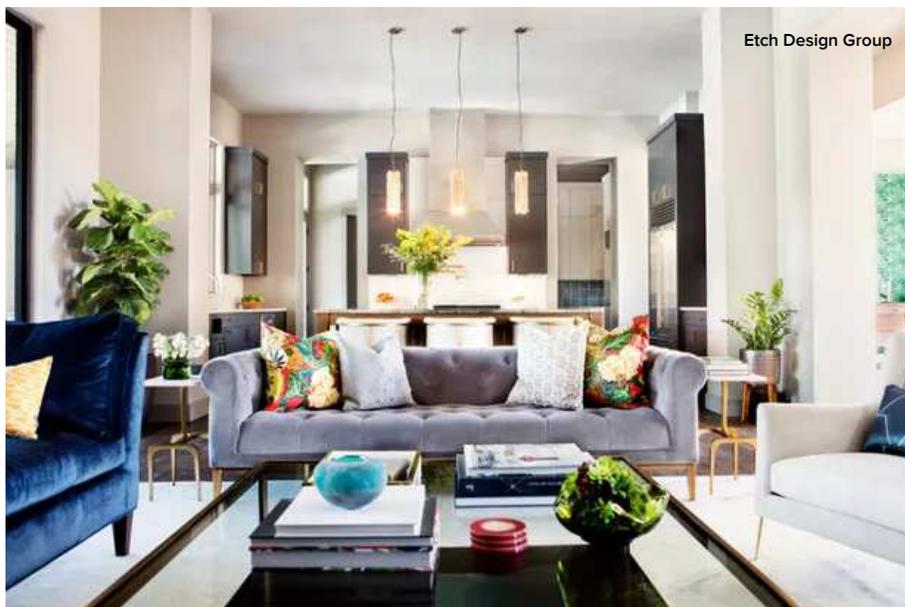
Michelle initially wavered just a bit on going bold. “I asked my husband, ‘What will people think when they come over?’ But he said, ‘We’re not building for other people.’ ” Words to live by. And by the way, everyone who comes over flips out over how cool their house is.

Coffee table: Vanguard; velvet settee: Century Furniture; rug: Black Sheep Unique; flooring: white oak in Sierra, Shaw



Great room. The designers used the same paint color, Sherwin-Williams’ Dorian Gray, on the walls throughout the house. But the color looks different in each room. “It’s incredible,” Michelle says. “It morphs. In the dining room it reads green off the wallpaper, in the game room it reads gray, and in the study it reads more blue. It’s the perfect color in every room.” In other words, the house is anything but a gray box.

Fireplace tile: Porcelanosa; cabinet paint: Iron Ore SW 7069, Sherwin-Williams



“We wanted to create lots of memorable moments throughout the house,” interior designer Lindsey says. The combination of the leggy Thayer Coggin Twiggy chairs, the saturated blue-velvet-covered settee and the punch of pattern from Schumacher’s Chiang Mai Dragon pattern on key throw pillows make an impression and show off the family’s personality.

Paint colors (throughout): Dorian Gray SW 7017 (walls), Dovetail SW 7018 (trim), Dorian Gray SW 7017 at 50 percent saturation (ceilings), all Sherwin-Williams; pendant lights: Brubeck, Delightfull; sofa: Restoration Hardware



Kitchen. Because there’s a wide-open view of the kitchen from the great room, its design needed to flow with the rest of the space. It’s sleek yet brings in the unique textures seen throughout the house, in the three-dimensional tile of the backsplash, the golden tones of lacquered brass accents and the dark gray cabinet paint.

I asked Michelle to pick a few of her favorite things about the design but she loves it all so much that she struggled to narrow it down. But the way the design team picked up on her love of texture and pattern via the tile

selections throughout the house was a big hit. “I love all the tiles,” she says. “I’m crazy for the tile.”

Countertops: Bianco Cascade in a polished finish, Metro Quartz; backsplash: Ann Sacks; cabinet paint: Iron Ore SW 7069, Sherwin-Williams; hardware: Top Knobs

Etch Design Group

“Dirty” kitchen. One way to keep a kitchen looking spiffy and uncluttered is to have a secret “dirty” kitchen, or scullery, behind it. It’s a space that takes the idea of a butler’s pantry to the next level. “This is where they can take all of their dirty dishes and catering platters and put them out of sight when they are entertaining,” interior designer Nelson



says. The dishwasher is back here, as is a large sink.

Backsplash tile: Pratt & Larson; counters: Bianco Cascade with polished finish, Metro Quartz; cabinet paint: Amazing Gray SW 7044, Sherwin-Williams; hardware: Top Knobs



Dining room. Michelle calls the dining room table “magnificent.” It’s custom and extendable and has a live-edge walnut slab top, and it was definitely a splurge. The expanse of drapes brings in rich, dark color and depth, while the embroidered leading-edge trim adds a little pattern. Glass and brass dangle overhead in the form of the large chandelier. The chairs are upholstered in a Sunbrella indoor-outdoor fabric so they can coexist with three boys.

Etch Design Group

A malachite-patterned wallpaper in emerald is a playful surprise in the buffet alcove. The designers picked up on the colors by adding two shades of green to the



custom geometric hair-on-hide rug.

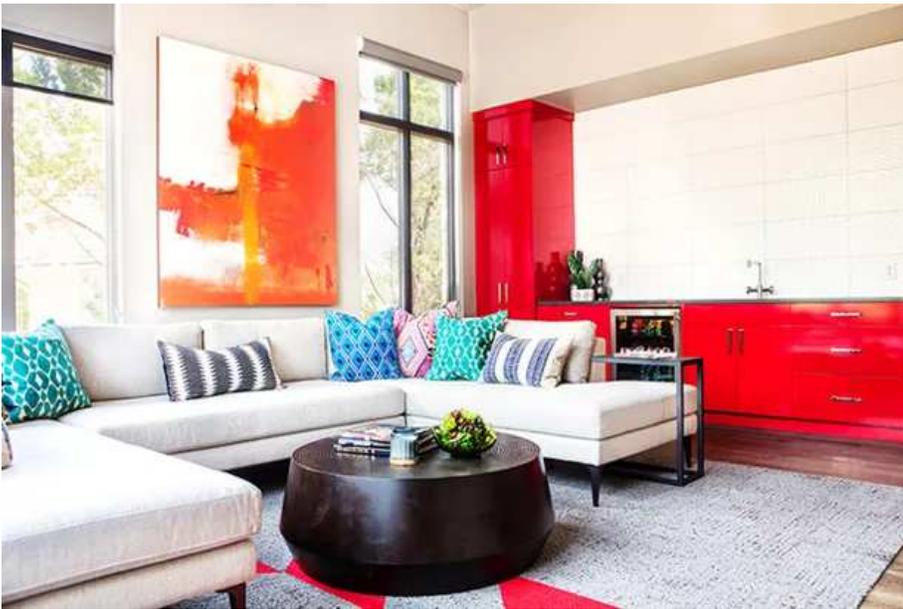
Adeline rectangular chandelier: Four Hands; rug: Kyle Bunting; table: custom, Altura; drapery trim: Travers; malachite wallpaper: York; sconces: Urban Electric Co.



Powder room. The faucets are the exact model the Berkeys fell in love with at Hotel Saint Cecilia. The antiqued brass against the bold-patterned tile backsplash is a stunner. The glass on the pendants, which were inspired by Colonial tavern lighting, bring in more texture.

Backsplash: Hayden, Artisan Stone Tile; Muirhouse pendants: Currey & Co.; [see more glass and brass pendant lights](#)

Etch Design Group



Etch Design Group

Game room. At opposite ends of the first floor are a kids' lounge and an adult lounge. This one with the bright red lacquer cabinets is the kid zone. It includes a comfy sectional, a TV, storage for games and toys, a sink and a beverage refrigerator. In other words, there are very few reasons a kid would ever want to leave it.

"We used FLOR carpet tiles in here," Lindsey says. "We were able to customize them into a design, and they are durable and it's easy to pull up one and replace it if they need to down the road." They also used a lively mix of

patterns, colors and styles on the throw pillows.

"The boys would definitely say this is their favorite room in the house," Michelle says.

Cabinet color: Show Stopper SW 7588, Sherwin-Williams

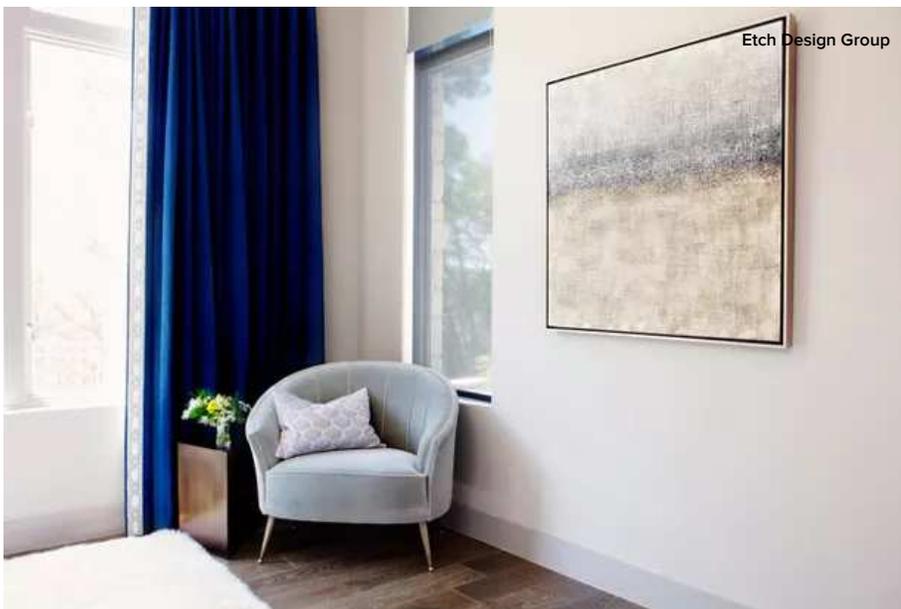
Etch Design Group



Master bedroom. The color palette in the master bedroom is soothing and the textures are plush. The alpaca rug came up high on Michelle's favorite-things list. "It feels like heaven. It's the most luxurious thing ever," she says.

Along with the rug, the glam gold-and-cream four-poster bed, the deep cobalt silk drapes and the dark wood curved bench give the room that boutique staycation feel the couple longed for.

Alpaca rug: Black Sheep Unique; bed: Modern History Home; bench: Bernhardt; side chair: Brabbu; drapery trim: Travers



Etch Design Group

Master bathroom. These faucets also made Michelle's favorites list. "They remind me of those little button clasps you find on vintage purses," she says. The countertop is quartzite, a natural stone.



The patterned backsplash, which resembles tiny beads, is one of Grant's favorite features.

Backsplash: Florida Tile;
faucets: Dornbracht



Etch Design Group

While she loves the faucets, Michelle's favorite thing in the house is this bathtub. "It's a deep soaking tub, and it feels like a natural stone that's been honed by water," she says. "And it fits each one of us perfectly." Behind the tub is an accent wall in a hexagon tile with a metallic leafed finish.

Stone resin bathtub SW-165 in Matte White: ADM;
Odyssey 15¾-inch smoked-glass sconces in Carbide Black: Troy Lighting;
hardware: Emtek; faucets: Dornbracht

Etch Design Group

The used the same metallic tile as an accent wall in the shower stall. The master bathroom is a great example of how the designers worked with the couple's individual tastes.



“He’s more contemporary and modern and I’m really eclectic,” Michelle says. “Stephanie and Jessica found these compromises where neither one of us ever felt like we were ever giving anything up.”

Accent tile: Elecdrix, Alyse Edwards; field tile: Porcelanosa; floor tile: Calacatta Gold mini chevron, New Ravenna



Study. The kids have their festive lounge, and on the opposite side of the house is this adult lounge, a quiet zone. “We wanted the study to be an homage to the Saint Cecilia. They have a bar area that is just gorgeous,” Michelle says. “We did not think we’d use it very much, but it turns out my husband and I hang out here almost every night after our kids go to bed.”

Chairs: Brabbu; hide ottomans: Gabby Home; loveseat and side table: Arteriors

Etch Design Group

The decor includes more deep blue on the cabinets, a hide rug, pillows in funky patterns and bright colors, and an eye-catching patterned wallpaper.



*Wallpaper: Cole & Sons;
chandelier: Noir; cabinet
paint: Anchors Aweigh SW
9179, Sherwin-Williams;
hardware: Schoolhouse
Electric*



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Just off the study is this wine room. It's conveniently close to the adults' evening lounge area.

Etch Design Group

Reading nook. "We decided a special reading spot right outside of the boys' bedrooms was a great spot to keep all of their books," Nelson says of this space at the top of the



stairs. A reading bench is flanked by built-in bookshelves.



Etch Design Group

Laundry room. Brightly colored cabinets and a mosaic tile with sparkle and movement perk up the task of doing laundry.

Backsplash: Midpark Mosaic, Marazzi; floor tile: Skybridge, Daltile; cabinet paint: Festoon Aqua SW 0019, Sherwin-Williams; hardware: Top Knobs

Etch Design Group

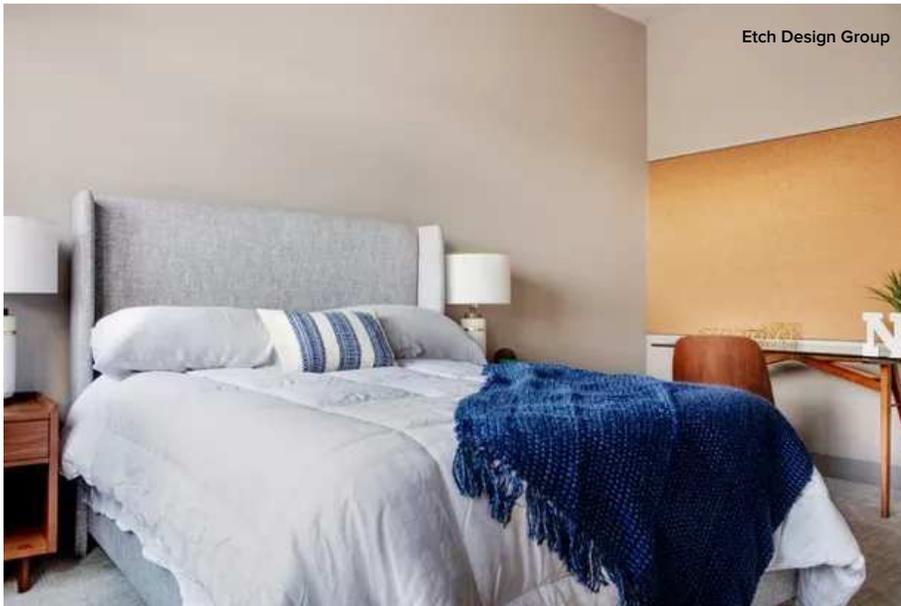
Brenden's bathroom. Each of the boys has his own bathroom, where the contemporary-eclectic style continues.

They opted for large



shower stalls over the tub-shower option. Wood with a prominent grain on the vanity and the geometric floor bring the eclectic, while the neutral field tile, clear glass and the black fixtures and hardware are sleek and contemporary. White tile in the shower reflects the natural light and keeps everything bright.

Floor tile: Twenties Diamond, Somer Tile; shower field tile: Grace collection in Blanco, Bedrosians; countertop: Cemento Spa, Silestone; shower floor tile: Adex; hardware: Top Knobs; [browse black faucets](#)



Etch Design Group

Noah's room. The team designed the boys' bedrooms so they could grow into them. Eleven-year-old Noah loves to pin things, so the designers gave him a large cork wall.

Etch Design Group

Off the great room and kitchen there's a long covered patio that includes this lounge area, a bar, an outdoor kitchen with a sink and grill and a dining area. The bold rocking chairs were another funky choice



that Michelle and Grant fell in love with.



"We had never used a designer before so we were really reticent at first," Michelle says. "But they were just amazing. Our house feels like a home where we can just be us."

Ursa small LED outdoor sconces: Hubbardton Forge; ceiling fans: Minka

Builder: Keith Husbands, Metropolitan Custom Homes

Landscape architect: Structure Landscapes

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