

# ARTFUL LIVING

A FAMILY'S LOVE OF CRISP LINES AND TIME SPENT OUTDOORS  
INSPIRES A DRAMATIC RENOVATION OF A TRADITIONAL ABODE.

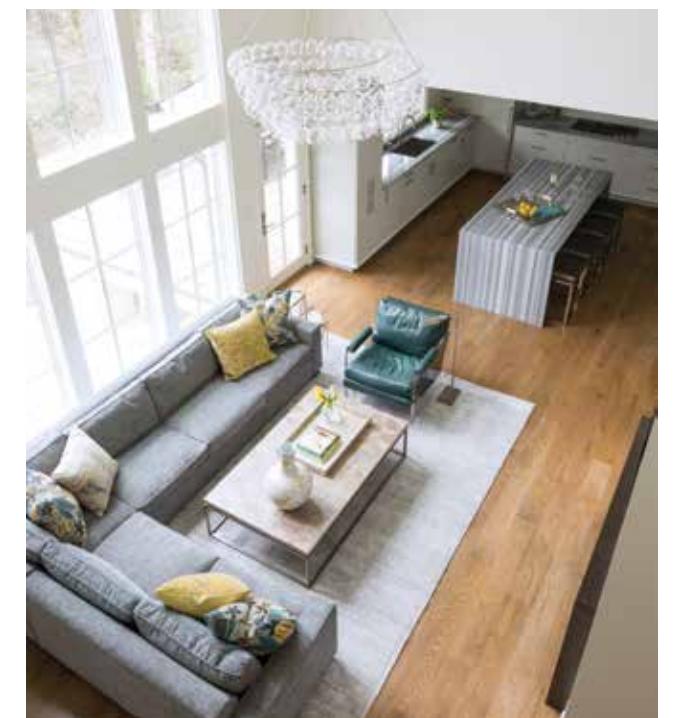




For Laura and Norm Winston, Mountain Brook, Alabama, offered a storybook setting for their family's forever home. With ample outdoor space for fresh-air activities—including a pool and tennis court in the extensive backyard—and plenty of room indoors for their four children, their suburban Birmingham abode was ideal for the Winstons' lifestyle and value of family. But after living in the 1960s ranch-style home for a year, they knew it was time to make some changes. "It was a great house, but it just didn't flow the way we wanted it to," Laura says. "We needed to recreate the space." Soon, the Winstons found Homewood, Alabama-based Twin Construction, architect Adam Gerndt, and interior designer Janet Clifton, to whom Laura enthusiastically refers as "the trifecta."

"When Laura came to me, she told me she didn't want her house to look like any other home in Birmingham," says Janet. And while the stately front façade maintains a traditional aesthetic to uphold the visual integrity of the neighborhood, the clean, contemporary style within is evident of the design team's success. With their children ranging in age from eight months to 18, the Winstons' modern yet comfortable style suits every stage of life, a key goal during the renovation process. The spacious backyard oasis—complete with a shaded cabana—provides plenty of room for entertaining friends or seeking quiet refuge in the afternoon sun.

From the remodeling to the décor, Laura praises Adam and Janet for their uncanny understanding of her vision. "Adam knew our taste very early on," says Laura. When the couple fell in love with a bathroom in a Miami hotel, Adam created a similar space based on a few pictures taken with Laura's phone. Likewise, nearly every piece of furniture and artwork in the minimalist scheme was hand-picked by Janet and Laura with a discerning eye, and the Winstons appreciate each piece in their home all the more because of its purposeful placement. "The beauty of recreating a space is that you get to do it exactly how you want it," Laura says. "To me, it's an art."





Laura's love of gray and clean lines led to the unique, striated marble used for the kitchen island. From shiny silver to rich charcoal, the entire spectrum of this neutral tone is woven together for a polished and serene effect. Traditional amber-hued hardwood floors bring inviting warmth to the cool space. In the formal dining room, a gilded quatrefoil pendant light above the expansive table adds interest to the pared-down surrounds, along with a vibrant, abstract diptych painting by Linda Donohue. Frequent visitors to New Orleans, Laura and Norm gravitated toward the California artist's work for its semblance to signature Crescent City flair. "It brought a little taste of that fun, funky color scheme found throughout the city into our home," says Laura.





Floor-to-ceiling windows in the master suite overlook both the resort-style pool and the beauty of nature, making it Laura's favorite space in the house. Pristine whites and grays with minimal décor create a peaceful place for the couple to unwind after a hectic day of balancing work and family.



A backyard pool and cabana evoke the feel of a relaxing resort with the added comforts of home. Lounge chairs and bar stools under a pavilion outfitted for summer gatherings welcome kids and adults alike. Maintaining the contemporary style of the abode's interior, a modular arrangement of travertine tile frames the outdoor oasis.

