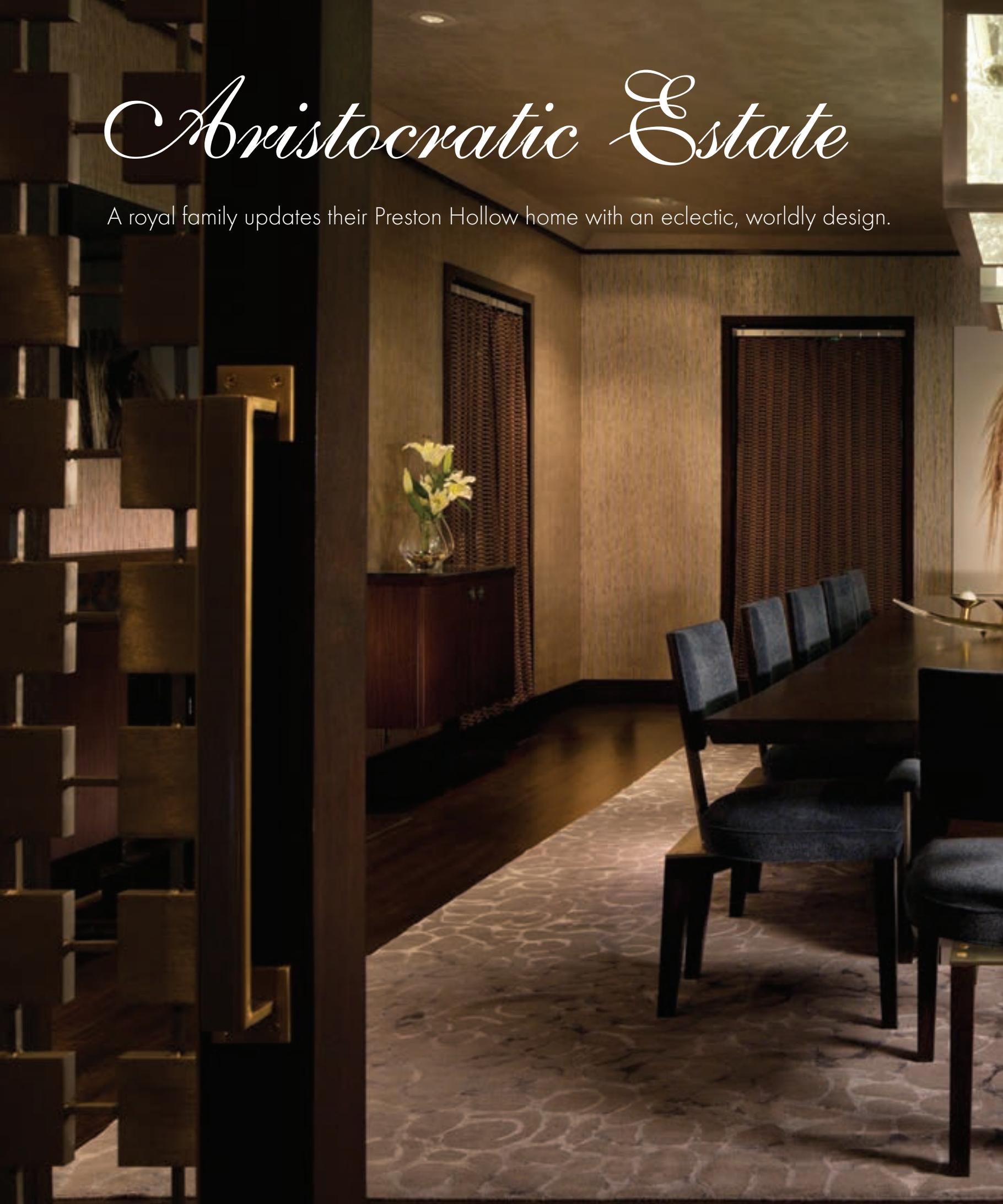


Aristocratic Estate

A royal family updates their Preston Hollow home with an eclectic, worldly design.





Text by Kylie Pool
Design by Kari Whitman, Kari Whitman Interiors
Photography by Stephen Karlisch





"My clients wanted a space that was comfortable and elegant with lots of areas for entertaining," Whitman says. Large, comfortable seating options dominate this sitting room, which is accented with glass and metal influences.

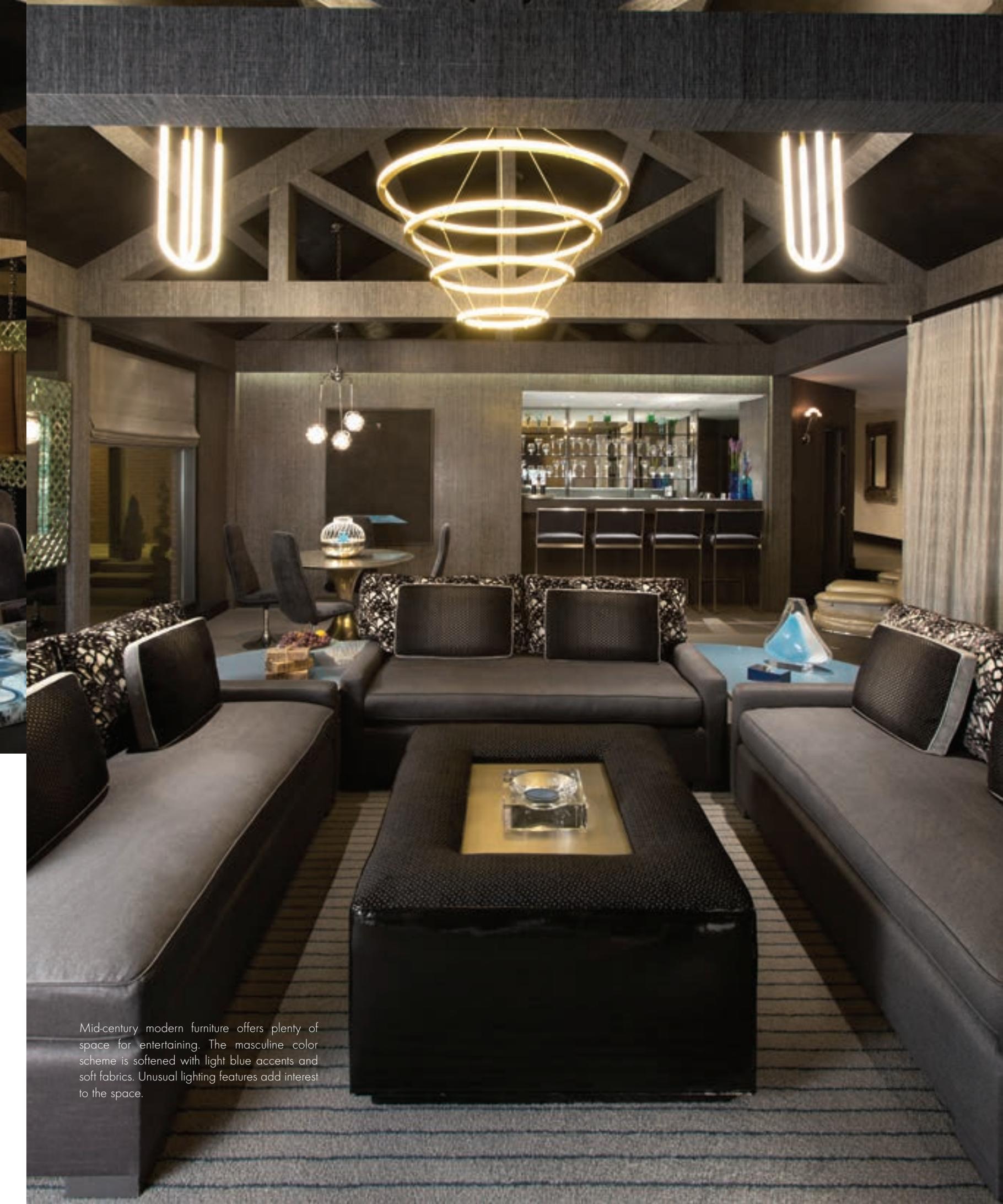


Exposed brick walls maintain the colonial-style of the exterior of the home. The bar countertop is made of recycled glass, reflecting Whitman's attempt to "go-green" with her design choices.

The 43-room, colonial Dallas estate hadn't been updated in more than 25 years. When the royal family decided it was time to give their 1950s home a face-lift, they selected California-based, designer-to-the-stars Kari Whitman, who was tasked with modernizing the property.

It sits in a quiet Preston Hollow neighborhood of grand homes on sprawling lots. Surrounded by flourishing greenery, the property boasts six separate structures including a guest cottage, theatre and cabana. "It's a huge home, but flows flawlessly," Whitman says. "The layout is fabulous, with views of the beautiful outdoors and 100-year-old trees from almost every room."

The project took about a year and two months to complete. "There was a lot of unforeseen construction, including the need to install a new roof," Whitman says. "We also discovered a great deal of water damage." As the remodel unfolded, she tried to be environmentally friendly by making choices such as using countertops made from recycled glass and repurposing many items found in vintage shops.



Mid-century modern furniture offers plenty of space for entertaining. The masculine color scheme is softened with light blue accents and soft fabrics. Unusual lighting features add interest to the space.



"The breakfast room is one of my absolute favorite spaces because I actually carpeted the ceiling," Whitman says. "It's such a bright, hip, and sexy little spot—I love it!" Oversized artwork continues to add drama to the space.

Whitman's design features artistic twists and elegant touches that come together to create a unique and eco-friendly residence. Mid-century modern furniture dominates, accented with metal influences, soft lighting and stunning fabrics. She designed about half of the furniture specifically for the project and reinvented the existing furniture to fit into the new eclectic and fun décor.

"(They) wanted a space that was comfortable and elegant with lots of areas for entertaining," Whitman says of the project. "They really wanted to make sure the vibe flowed from room to room."

To achieve continuity, Whitman mixed family heirlooms with new and vintage finds from around the globe. The resulting aesthetic is modern and chic with metallic accents at every turn. Venetian plasters from Meoded Paints & Decoration in Los Angeles are hung throughout the home. Whitman mixed dozens of shades to fit each room and capture the look of the inside of an oyster shell. "It shimmers and changes with every step," Whitman explains. "It's super subtle, the walls aren't overt or distracting, but they create a perfect backdrop to showcase all my clients' treasures."



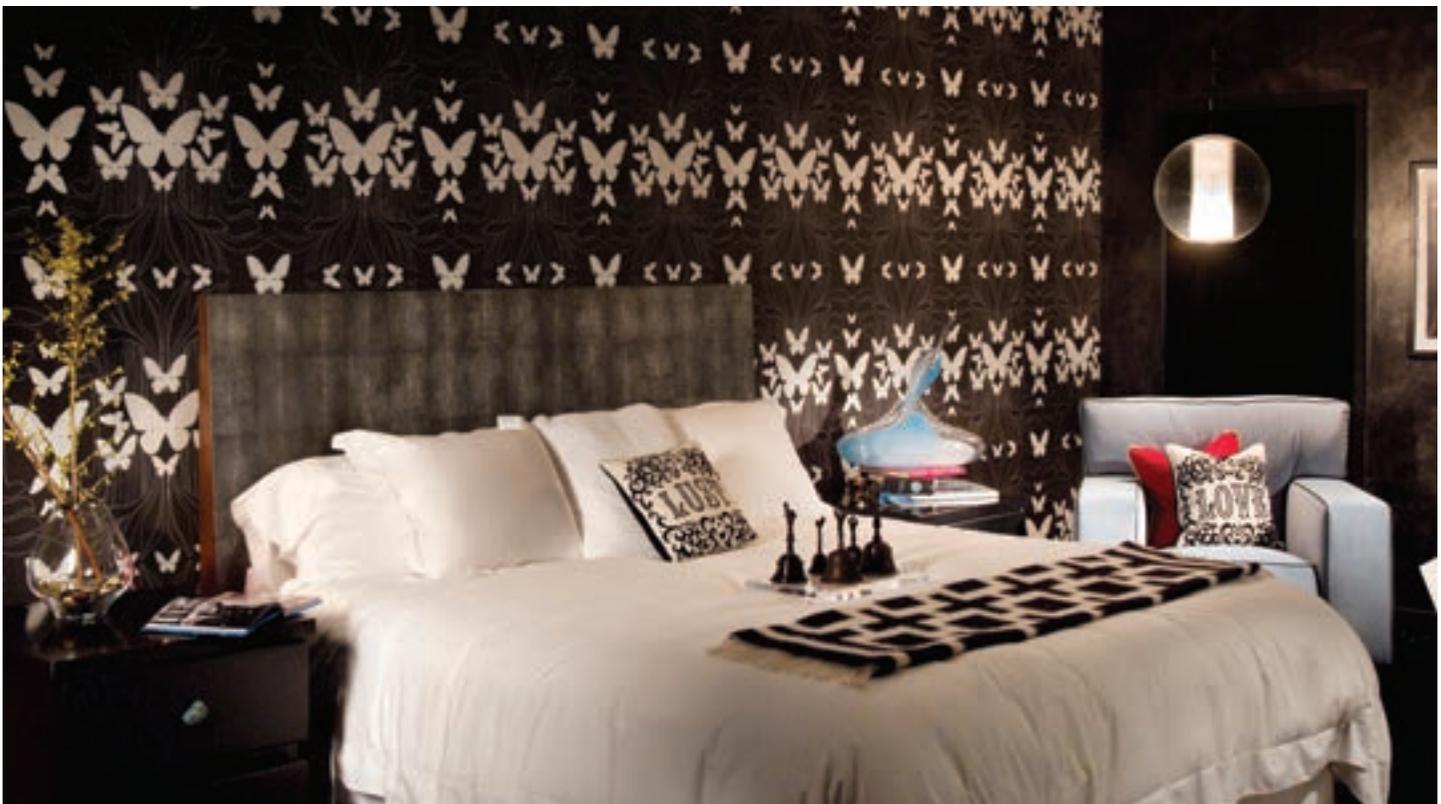
Whitman describes the home as having a great balance of masculine and feminine aspects, which is exemplified in this room. Dark wall coverings are brightened with a white, mid-century modern table set. Colorful vases keep the room from being too dark.



Metallic accents continue in the lady of the house's master bathroom, which Whitman describes as elegant and timeless. "I was really inspired to do something wonderful in (this) space," she explains.



The mid-century modern chairs came from Milo Baughman. Whitman combined them with one of her favorite art pieces from Deborah Richardson.



The black-and-white wallpaper is elegant and adds interest to this bedroom. The plush bedding softens the space, offering the perfect mix of masculine and feminine elements.



"One of my favorite pieces is the 'Ball Bearing Necklace Table' which I designed as a gift for the lady of the house," Whitman says. "I was inspired by this gold ball bearing necklace I wear and I turned it into an idea for a coffee table. It's unique, it's chic, and I just love the look."



Whitman designed the custom door for this elegant and interesting powder room. The vintage mirror was a fun find at an antique store in Paris.

Striking wallpapers for the home were found at Joseph Noble, Inc. and Elitis, which Whitman describes as both having incredibly elegant and interesting selections of textiles and wall coverings. The wallpapering adds texture and depth and complements the mostly gray and brown color scheme.

The family was intent on cultivating a distinguished art collection for the Dallas estate, which was perfect for Whitman because she loves art. It served as a primary source of inspiration for the project. “The clients have excellent taste, which makes it so great to work with them,” she explains. “The art I used throughout the home adds an eclectic and colorful flow.”

Nothing in the Preston Hollow residence is ordinary or traditional. For example, Whitman took a bold approach and carpeted the breakfast nook ceiling. “The breakfast room is one of my absolute favorite spaces,” Whitman says. The clients loved the carpet, but couldn’t find the proper space for it. So, Whitman made the innovative decision to cover the ceiling. “It’s such a bright, hip and sexy little spot—I love it!” The room is made complete with refurbished mid-century modern chairs.

Continuing the bold attitude, each of the pieces Whitman fashioned speaks to the home’s eclectic and metallic theme. A coffee table designed as a gift for the lady of the house makes ball bearings classy and elegant. “I was inspired by this gold ball bearing

necklace I wear and I turned it into an idea for a coffee table,” she says. “It’s unique, it’s chic and I just love the look.”

Whitman also designed the stainless steel and Macassar Ebony dining room door—then she had to have the floor reinforced to support the 1,000-pound weight. The steel is set off with brass accents. An elegant dining table and chair set that Whitman created complements the room’s timeless design.

One of Whitman’s favorite rooms in the house is the theatre. “I was never really into them until I got to design this one,” she says. “And now I can’t wait to do another! It was important for my clients that the space be state-of-the-art, but cozy and a true hang-out.” The result is a room that invites everyone to relax and enjoy a favorite film (or, two).

By diligently working with her clients, Whitman ensured that everything aligned with the clients’ tastes. “The home is very yin and yang, a great balance of masculine and feminine,” Whitman explains. “It’s grand but warm.” ^{TH&L}



Kari Whitman
Kari Whitman Interiors
kariwhitmaninteriors.com
(310) 652-8684