



# A REFLECTION OF HOME

THOUGHTFUL DESIGN AND A CHEERFUL  
PALETTE TURN A DRAB GEORGIA HOUSE INTO  
A WELCOMING FAMILY ABODE.

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When designers Joann Kandrac and Kelly Kole first visited the Smyrna, Georgia, home of Karee Lang and Page Porter, they saw no discernible signs of the couple's effervescent personalities.

Despite large windows and open spaces, the rooms felt dim and generic. Intense color schemes and heavy furnishings seemed as anonymous as a furniture store showroom. "The house was so impersonal," Kelly says. "They didn't have family pictures up, didn't have art that meant something to them, and there was no reflection of their lives together."

She and Joann set out to make the homestead as vibrant as its occupants, adding meaningful pieces and an array of global influences. The personal touches start in the foyer with a hand-carved Thai lotus art piece, which reminds the owners of past overseas excursions and serves as a focal point against pebble-gray walls. A durable rug balances the artwork in scale and design, and its colors repeat in the adjacent dining room's ceiling.

Kelly and Joann paid special attention to the ceilings throughout the home. "We repainted all of the ceilings because Page did not like plain ones," Kelly says. Because the pair have a pool and a dog, the designers chose durable hand-scraped, wide-plank flooring in gray tones that complement the new wall color. All of the upholstered pieces sport pet-friendly fabrics that are easy to clean.

To achieve the urban farmhouse look that Karee wanted, the design team surrounded a rustic table with comfortable upholstered chairs perfect for lingering after-dinner conversations. Above the sideboard, seaweed makes a strong

impact in its crisp white frame and serves as a nod to the family's love for scuba diving.

The seaside motif continues in the adjoining family room with whitewashed furnishings and blue accents. To accommodate the owners' frequent pool parties and game-day gatherings, a plush sofa and matching swivel chairs were added to provide ample seating and clear lines of vision to televised games. Pia, the family dog, has even claimed a sunny spot in the new space—she can often be found atop the blue leather ottomans under the room's wall of windows. The most personal addition hangs above the fireplace: Kelly and Joann commissioned artist Kay Flierl to paint a beachside nipa hut as a reminder of a vacation Page and Karee took to the Philippines.

The kitchen's appliances and footprint did not change, but painted cabinetry, new lighting, and white marble countertops and backsplashes brightened the space. Rather than a polished shine, the marble has a weathered finish that adds texture and interest. The designers introduced a Southwestern motif with artwork and a colorful rug. "I chose the pair of horses in the kitchen because Karee grew up with horses and she just loves them," Kelly says. She continued the urban rustic theme with a farmhouse table and wooden chairs with metal backs.

The blue-and-cream color scheme continues in the first-floor master bedroom. Seafoam-blue walls set a serene tone and neutral linen bedding keeps the focus on the beautifully manicured backyard. An abstract piece by artist Kristin Blakeney of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, hangs above a corner chair, adding color and interest in the same tone. "It's so ethereal and it represents the calmness and stillness of the room," she says. "The whole house is about comfort."



The chandelier's whitewashed finish blends softly with the sideboard, Parsons chairs, and linen curtains. Because the dining room flows into the foyer, a neutral color scheme of cream and black was used in both spaces, allowing the textures and patterns of the fabric and furnishings to take center stage.



The kitchen update included new lighting and hardware with an open and airy feel that instantly modernized the space. Designers Kelly Kole and Joann Kandrac balanced elegant marble countertops and backsplashes with the warmth and casual appeal of a farmhouse table and western touches in the adjoining dining area.





The bedroom continues the soft mien of the adjacent family and dining rooms, as a cream linen headboard blends with the gray tones of the walls and flooring. Contemporary artwork unifies the neutral tones. At the end of the bed, a bench was added so Pia could climb onto the high bed.