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PASSPORT TO STYLE

Designer Cathy Kincaid translates a family's passion for travel and collecting into a glamorous Dallas penthouse that exudes a bighearted Texas sensibility.



INTERIOR DESIGN BY CATHY KINCAID | ARCHITECTURE BY WILSON FUQUA | PHOTOGRAPHY BY BJÖRN WALLANDER
PRODUCED BY ROBERT RUFINO | WRITTEN BY CONNIE DUFNER



Antique chinoiserie panels and tole light fixtures are a whimsical counterpoint to the entry's formal French limestone floors. Lanterns, John Rosselli & Associates. OPPOSITE: Armchairs and antique sofa in a vintage fabric.

Vintage black leather chairs add high contrast and a modern twist to the dining room. Antique French table; 18th-century Swedish chandelier; antique Chinese porcelain. **OPPOSITE:** Wallpaper, Cowtan & Tout.





ENGLISH HIGH STYLE MEETS DALLAS EASY LIVING in this light-filled penthouse on the prairie. When her clients moved from a traditional Tudor house to a two-floor apartment in one of the city's most desirable high-rise addresses, interior designer Cathy Kincaid sought to harmonize their furnishings into an elegant homage to a pre-World War II New York apartment. "When our last of five children went off to college, we wanted to downsize," explains the wife, whose passion for collecting antiques, especially porcelain and lighting, is evident throughout. "We wanted to use things from our previous home but somehow give them a different twist." Why prewar New York in bigger-is-better Dallas? "I've always liked the warmth of that era," she explains. "The rooms aren't huge, and lower ceiling heights create intimacy."

The residence has the ingredients of a successful marriage: It's confident, comfortable, and all the more charming because of its capacity for surprises. Kincaid embraced boldness, particularly in the living areas, with fearless combinations of fabrics, art, wallpaper, and furnishings. "The couple love an eclectic mix of patterns and prints," says Kincaid, who also decorated their homes in Scottsdale, Arizona, and Pebble Beach, California.

Walls paneled in antique pine bring understated warmth to the living room. Sofa and armchair in a Jasper fabric with George Spencer Designs trim; pillows in a Claremont fabric; seagrass carpet, Stark.







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Panels of patterned fabric give the music room an exotic atmosphere. Louis XVI fauteuils in a Jasper fabric with Claremont trim; walls in a Jasper fabric with Samuel & Sons trim; sisal rug, Stark. OPPOSITE: Stools, Janus et Cie; cabinet fabric, Lisa Fine Textiles.



A combination of small-scale prints lends charm to the master bedroom. Canopy in Chelsea Textiles fabrics; bedding, Leontine Linens; throw, Les Indiennes; lamps and sconces, John Boone; wallpaper, Sanderson; carpet, Stark. OPPOSITE: Custom armchair in a Robert Kime fabric; tub fittings, Waterworks; carpet, Stark. For more details, see Sourcebook.





The visual fireworks start in the foyer, where Kincaid hung vivid 19th-century chinoiserie panels, which had been in the family for decades, against green lacquered walls, then added lighthearted faux-bamboo lanterns that play off the grandeur of polished limestone floors. In the living room, meanwhile, antique pine walls and built-in bookcases give the space the clubby air of an old-world study. “Cathy’s decorating makes me feel like I can sit in this chair with a glass of red wine and put my feet up if I want to,” the wife says. “Everything she does is so friendly.”

In contrast to the unabashedly embellished formal rooms, the kitchen has a streamlined, modern aesthetic. Wicker stools by Janus et Cie add a casual, outdoor note to the island, and antique oak floors and a butcher-block counter soften the utilitarian space.

The master bedroom also features repurposed furnishings that manage to have a fresh new look here. Kincaid restyled the couple’s canopy bed, leaving the Chelsea Textiles floral fabric on the exterior and refitting the interior with a check in the wife’s favorite shade of red. In the master bath, soft carpeting and comfortable chairs bring a parlor sensibility to a thoroughly private space. For a whimsical touch, Kincaid lined the walls with antique china. “My client has a very extensive porcelain collection, so why not get to enjoy it every day in a room that is constantly used?” Kincaid says.

Though the couple’s new setting may be smaller, the designer succeeded in creating warm, lively, and functional interiors without sacrificing personality. “It’s the transition from a late-20th-century Tudor into a 21st-century high-rise without losing the charm and intimacy,” Kincaid says, “but gaining the ease of apartment living where you can lock up and leave.” □