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# CS

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DOOR GOES FOR IT ALL

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# PERFECT MATCH

Lewis Giannoulas Interiors personalizes a home for a family of five where comfort and function are on par with style.

By Zlata Kozul Naumovski  
Photography by Eric Hausman

When thoughtfully contemplating interior design styles, Bobbi Anderson did what any self-respecting design neophyte would do—she asked the internet. And Google led her to the portfolio of Cari Giannoulas, one half of the dynamic duo that is Lewis Giannoulas Interiors (lg-interiors.com).

Anderson, general counsel at an investment management firm, and her husband, James Anderson, an insurance executive, bought a 6,500-square-foot new-construction home in Roscoe Village that they wanted to personalize for their family, which includes three young children and a rescue dog. "We looked to

the internet for information about different styles, and came across Cari's portfolio and thought what she had done for other clients was really personalized and beautiful," Bobbi says. "The entire end result is largely due to her attention to detail, and her ability to listen to us and incorporate our ideas to make them better, more stylish and more livable."

"The overarching idea was to create a casual environment—inviting to family, guests and pets alike without sacrificing style," Giannoulas explains. She adds, "They were a little nervous about getting into the interior design world and didn't want the house



to feel overdone or pretentious." To that end, Giannoulas and her business partner, Melissa Lewis—who pride themselves on spaces that are luxurious but livable—deferred to durable fabrics, natural materials and comfortable furnishings strewn with blankets. These elements are nestled among an interior of gray and white with some punches of color, including purple, navy and pink.

In the family room, Giannoulas conjured happy memories by recreating a brick fireplace reminiscent of the one Bobbi had in her childhood home in Indiana. Custom-designed plum sofas, covered in a forgiving outdoor fabric, flank either side of the brick hearth, while a woven rattan coffee table by Palecek and two small children's chairs round out the mix of kid-friendly furniture.

Smart built-in storage holds children's toys and books—this mom wasn't going to banish her kids to the basement because of clutter-creating playtime accessories. "Open shelving is beautiful," Bobbi concedes, "but we wanted someplace where toys and books could be put away and we wouldn't have to look at the stuff." One cabinet also houses a television, which the mother of two boys and one girl prefers to be out of sight. "It encourages kids to do things other than watch TV," she says.

The sitting room, commonly a formal room, features four chairs equally accommodating to adults enjoying cocktails or children reading. "It's a dual-purpose room," says Giannoulas. "Most sitting rooms are pretty formal, but they didn't want the home to feel too proper, so we talked about making it double as a reading room." A fireplace there provides some classic architecture, while a wool wallpaper envelops the room. "It's very cozy and textural and feels like you're surrounded by a soft blanket," the designer adds. A suzani tapestry from Jayson Home hangs as art, covering a large wall that demanded something visually interesting. A chandelier from Currey & Co. gently alights from the ceiling and offers a dose of sophistication.

The kitchen was designed not only to be CONTINUED...

**FAMILY STYLE** From above: Custom kitchen cabinetry by Jean Scoffer Design provides ample storage, while pendant lights from Schoolhouse Electric and French bistro stools add a more casual vibe; the dining room table (customized with metal banding by Iron & Wire) and chairs are from Restoration Hardware, while "The Farm" is by local artist Annaleah DeMasi.







PLUM AERIE Deep wine walls add drama to the master bedroom, while a bed and nightstands from Bernhardt, topped with vintage table lamps, add balance through their symmetry. The white Tibetan fur bench is from Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams.

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—CARI GIANNOULIAS, DESIGNER >>

...CONTINUED functional but to accommodate as many people as possible for all those birthday parties. Custom-made benches in an outdoor Perennials fabric and a built-in banquette in wipeable vinyl surround a zinc-top table on all sides. “The kitchen table is enormous,” Bobbi says, “and with banquette seating, it’s easy to pile a large number of family and friends around it. It’s amazing.”

The back wall tile by Porcelanosa matches the color of the cabinets perfectly. The parents prepare family dinners with appliances by Sub-Zero and Wolf while the kids help themselves to beverages from convenient fridge drawers. “Bobbi is very thoughtful in her approach to being functional,” explains Giannoulis. “She considers things like, how are the kids going to get drinks?”

The interior designer put as much thought into the bedrooms as the main rooms. A nautical-themed room painted in navy appealed to one son, while another room sheathed in pink and furnished with vintage nightstands and marble tops of the same hue charmed the daughter. Tucked underneath each child’s bed is a trundle for all those sleepovers. The master bedroom, however, skews a little dramatic and glamorous with dark wine walls and a Tibetan fur-covered bench perched on Lucite legs.

Bobbi is certain the internet led her in the right direction. “We wanted our home to be inviting to guests and a family of five and a dog,” she says. “We have a beautiful, cohesive space that doesn’t compromise comfort or function.” ■



VANITY FAIR The white-and-gray veining of the Carrara Blanco Brillo tiles from Porcelanosa is picked up in the color palette of the calming master bedroom.