



# CUSTOM BLEND

CURATED WITH ART, A CENTENNIAL RESIDENCE  
SUPPORTS FAMILY LIFE THROUGH A MIX OF STYLES.

WRITTEN BY LINDA HAYES / PHOTOGRAPHY BY EMILY MINTON REDFIELD



INTERIOR DESIGN / NADIA WATTS, NADIA WATTS INTERIOR DESIGN  
ARCHITECTURE / STEVEN COLE, PHOENIX DESIGN GROUP  
HOME BUILDER / WINSTON WALL, WALL CUSTOM HOMES





Designer Nadia Watts created a mix of seating options in the double-height great room of a Centennial home by architect Steven Cole. Lee Jofa sofas and Brunswick & Fils Oxford chairs pair with a custom coffee table and skirted ottomans, all by Kravet, near a cast-stone mantel by Distinctive Mantel Designs. Over the fireplace, *Fruit of the Vine* by Dennis Wright hangs opposite *Hallett Peak Creek* by Jan Bushart.

When it came to knowing her client's style, designer Nadia Watts had an advantage with an art enthusiast who asked the designer to help create a home for herself and her husband, their two daughters and their trio of German shorthaired pointers. "We met while I was working on a project for her parents in 2007," Watts explains. "I already had a feel for what she liked and wanted, and I knew art was very important." Indeed, the wife has worked extensively in the industry, so naturally art would play a significant role in the interiors. But just as important was mixing a variety of aesthetics for the new residence the couple was building in Centennial. "The exterior is Old World in style, with a turret and real stone," the wife says. "But I never could go Old World inside, so the interiors are a blend of traditional and contemporary."

Architect Steven Cole laid the groundwork for that mix. With construction executed by builder Winston Wall, Cole devised classic bones for the structure, which is set on a parcel of land with expansive views of the Front Range and downtown Denver. "It has a real European influence with its steeply pitched roofs and indigenous stone and stucco walls," he says. Thanks to the home's tall windows, the architect adds, "its expression is more vertical than horizontal." Inside,





a spiral stairway marks the entry foyer, which leads into an imposing double-height great room designed to take advantage of the property's sweeping views and to create an easy flow with the adjacent kitchen. The master suite is upstairs, while a recreation room is on the lower level.

Within that layout, Watts aimed to create "livable, timeless spaces that are functional, practical and comfortable," she says. The designer worked closely with the wife to develop a refined material palette that complements both the architecture and the family's lifestyle. "We'd meet for hours going over things," Watts recalls. "We started with hard surfaces—like travertine for the floors, which works well with the dogs." They plotted a mix of marble and Caesarstone for

the kitchen counters and chose a cast-stone mantel for the great room's fireplace, which features a surround of the same stone used on the stairwell for continuity. Once the materials were in place, the direction turned to the furnishings, with the great room being a natural focus. "We wanted plenty of seating in that space," Watts says. "We anchored the room using a large custom round side table by Kravet and flanked it with two Lee Jofa sofas." Two skirted chairs keep a circulation path open into the room, and a custom coffee table and twin ottomans finish the grouping. To create an inviting feel in the soaring 26-foot-high space, Watts hung the draperies just below the arched upper windows, covering the two bottom sections.

**Opposite:** An upper-level walkway with railings by McSwain Metal Fabrication overlooks the great room, where a custom hand-forged iron chandelier by Paul Ferrante from John Brooks Incorporated suspends from the tall ceiling. Watts tempered the room's scale using draperies made with a wool-linen Rose Tarlow Melrose House fabric.

**Below:** An Arhaus Athens writing desk, paired with a chair upholstered with a Lee Jofa fabric, anchors the study, which Watts grounded with Kravet's Virsa rug in Latte. The subdued palette creates a fitting backdrop for *Empire Falling #21*, a photograph by Elena Dorfman from Robischon Gallery.







Sky pendants by Room & Board hover above a kitchen island crowned with a marble countertop and lined with bar chairs reupholstered with a Brunswick & Fils fabric. Tharp Cabinet Company crafted the cabinetry. Kravet's round Grand Pedestal table and Baylor side chairs anchor the adjacent breakfast area, where *Illuminations* by Dennis Wright is displayed.

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Offering wide vistas, the upper-level terrace features a railing by McSwain Metal Fabrication. A stone fireplace anchors a grouping of furnishings by RH, including a Coronado sofa and lounge chairs and a concrete-and-teak coffee table.



An artwork by Anthony Grant hangs in the master bedroom, which boasts a bed and twin stools by Kravet. Lee Jofa's Walton print in chartreuse upholsters the bed, while its Parnham fabric was used for the draperies.



“If the draperies had stopped at the lower openings, they would have been too short,” she explains. “But going all the way up would have been too much with all of the open space.”

Hanging above the fireplace in the great room is a striking painting by Denver artist Dennis Wright, one of many works the wife curated or commissioned for the home. A Sam Francis print appears in the dining room, while a photograph by Elena Dorfman is displayed in the study. “It’s a highly detailed photographic image of a rock quarry,” the wife says. “You can look at it for hours and still find new things.” Another piece she commissioned from Wright adorns the kitchen’s breakfast area, which Watts appointed with a round table and side chairs wearing a patterned Lee Jofa fabric. A large marble-topped island anchors the open space, while cabinets frame a subway-tile backsplash.

Downstairs, the recreation room offers a casual spot for the family to gather or entertain. “The room was an

opportunity to try something a little bit different,” Watts says, pointing to elements like the fireplace surround’s striking porcelain tile and animal photographs by Nine Francois. “We were more playful with the art as well as a little edgy with the materials.” Perfectly suited for large parties, the room spills onto a spacious terrace through sliding doors. Anchored by a stone fireplace, the upper level of this two-story alfresco space features a comfortable sitting area, a dining space, a barbecue grill and seemingly endless views.

“The whole project was done very tastefully,” Cole says. “The views, the artwork and all the detailed surfaces contribute to a mosaic of comfort.” And the owners agree. “The kids do homework at the kitchen island, we’ll have dinners at the table, and we watch television in the great room,” the wife says. “This house was specifically designed with our family in mind, and we use every space in it.”

The focal point of the spacious master bathroom is a freestanding Ravello tub by Victoria + Albert with a Brizo tub filler. A Hartmann & Forbes grass-weave window shade and a Loloi rug lend texture to the space. Kravet’s Curry chair is covered with a Manuel Canovas fabric.