

BACHELOR PARTY

A young exec falls hard for a tri-level glass contemporary, and in the process, learns to make peace with pink

| By Carla Jordan | Photography by Julie Soefer |





Most men would flee at the sight of a house painted pink and peach. So what prompted the client of interior designer Chandos Dodson to not only dare step inside, but make an immediate offer on the three-story house that appears to have been dipped in Pepto-Bismol? "That," says the homeowner, a young oil and gas executive from a prominent Dallas family, as he points to one of the living room's glass walls. "Look at all those trees and the creek below. When I saw that, I knew I was home." The view in the Devonshire neighborhood is stunning and, to the homeowner's delight, it's nearly impossible to miss wherever you look in this 4,000-square-foot home that was designed with more glass walls than solid. But what about all those pastels? "No big deal," he adds. "I just asked Chandos to make the house look good, and we put 'paint' at the top of the checklist."

Although admittedly pink around the edges, the house, which was built in the 1980s by longtime A-list Dallas firm Oglesby Greene, was quite a find. "The first time I saw it, I was in awe," admits Dodson, of Houston. "It's such a unique property. There aren't a lot of contemporary homes in this neighborhood, not to mention one surrounded by so many mature trees and a peaceful, serene backyard creek. Because the house itself is secluded, you really don't know what to expect when walking up to the front door. This element of surprise continues inside with a tri-level floor plan that rises higher than the foliage that surrounds it."

The bones of the house were good, so no extensive remodel was required. However, the clock was still ticking because move-in was set for just 90 days after closing, so work began right away. Surfaces were tackled first. Existing sun shades, which covered most of the windows, were removed to capitalize on

GROWN-UP TREEHOUSE *Above:* In the spacious living room, horn accent tables add a touch of Texas and look right at home next to chic button-tufted banquettes that provide additional seating while decoratively hiding the stairs to the ground floor. *Right:* Above the dining room buffet is an acrylic on panel, *Untitled 6238*, by Matt Clark, from CEC Art Advisory Services. It infuses a modernist touch into a room that, otherwise, has a men's club feel. *Opposite page:* Flanked by towering glass walls, the fireplace seemingly floats amid trees. Above the mantel are a pair of sinuous African horns framing an oil on canvas by William Spriggett. Their neutral color palette and textural contrast set the tone for the organic feel of the house.





The living room is a sophisticated mix of texture and style. The marquetry cabinet, circa 1700, was a gift to the homeowner from his father. It blends effortlessly with modernist nesting tables artfully placed next to the plush Joseph Company sofa with fabric by Clarence House. Club chairs, also Joseph Company, sport nailhead trim and are covered in supple Edelman leather. An Area mirrored coffee table adds sparkle atop a seagrass rug from Stark. *Opposite page:* Custom-made chairs by Joseph Company are sheathed in a Brunswick & Fils fabric. Above the dining table from Brian Stringer Antiques is an intricately formed horn and metal chandelier. On the adjacent wall is *Rolling City*, a collage on masonite by Lance Letscher and from CEC Advisory Services.

the view. Old carpet was pulled up—revealing beautiful wide-plank pine flooring that just needed to be refinished. Paint worked magic inside and out. Interior walls went from peach to cream; the home's exterior from pink to gray. Dodson expanded on the neutral palette to include soft taupe, sand and chocolate brown hues that play off the scale of the house, infuse warmth and form a calming backdrop against which sky and tree-filled windows set the tone for the house's unifying design element—bringing the outdoors in. A seagrass area rug, coconut tray and a driftwood floor lamp are among the accents that provide textural contrast placed alongside soft velvets, supple leathers and cool metal furnishings.

The homeowner also wanted the house to have clean classic lines with a modern touch, so Dodson went with a mix of antiques and contemporary pieces. "I don't think bachelors should have overly layered rooms with tons of accessories, so the house does have a certain sparseness to it. However, every piece is special and brings a certain warmth, such as the silk

velvet pillows and the dining room's horn chandelier." The approach was ideal for her client who needed his home to be both a place to chill with friends and entertain clients.

The hunt for new furnishings was simplified, because Dodson didn't have to merge her finds with existing furnishings. The 30-something homeowner had only a few items he wanted to move (a painting acquired through Sotheby's, an upholstered headboard, some pro player autographed sports jerseys, an antique marquetry cabinet given to him by his father). His wish list for new items was also brief (some classic pieces, a bit of Texas and something orange—his favorite color).

So Dodson focused on finding well-crafted items that bridge multiple design points-of-view. "I believe that furniture is an investment and try to pass that sensibility on to clients. Think about it—rarely do people get rid of furniture or give it away. Once they own it, it usually sticks around for 20 years, perhaps longer." So they filled rooms with a balance of new and antique furniture designed to stand the test of time—among them a game

*"I don't think bachelors
should have overly
layered rooms with tons
of accessories..."*







Top: At night, the view shifts from outside to in when the house lights up and sparkles like a finely cut gem. *Left:* Designer Chandos Dodson of Houston. *Opposite page:* The foyer is urban organic at its best. Next to the wing chair is an Area floor lamp with a driftwood base. A Joseph Company custom leather and metal bench perches beneath a skyline of Dallas by Thomas Struth—artwork the owner snapped up at a Sotheby's auction. The Stark zebra rug adds a touch of Tarzan whimsy to this house that sits among the trees.

table from Baker, sofa and leather chairs by the Joseph Company and a round dining table from Brian Stringer Antiques. The home is also punctuated with well-scaled original contemporary artwork that adds texture and color, while creating an interesting juxtaposition to the more traditional furnishings around them.

"The homeowner was born and reared in Dallas. He's a successful businessman who's lived in New York and traveled extensively, so he's seen it all," adds Dodson. "However, he's very proud to be a Texan and cherishes his time here with family and friends. I wanted to give him rooms he felt he could really live in but that would also be easy on the eyes." Done. This is the most sophisticated—and coolest—grown-up treehouse in Dallas. ■