

Authentic architecture and honest materials set the framework for a Texas farmhouse where an active young family enjoys life's simple pleasures.

Sophisticated SIMPLICITY

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A wall of French doors brightens Natalie and Matt Mabry's dining room by day, while romantic candlelight illuminates the space by night thanks to candle alcoves set into a stone wall.





Rustic farmhouse meets vineyard estate meets 21st century—that's how interior designer Kathy Anderson describes the



OPPOSITE: Despite ceilings that soar to 22 feet, the great-room evokes a welcoming aura with its layers of natural materials on the walls and floors and plush upholstery that invites kicking back. **ABOVE:** Limestone and stucco topped with overglazed terra-cotta roof tiles lends the home's exterior an authentic Italian look.

Magnolia, Texas, home of clients Natalie and Matt Mabry. "During our first meeting, the Mabrys told me they wanted their home to capture the essence of a Tuscan farmhouse," Anderson says. "Having traveled extensively throughout Italy, I knew there were two kinds of farmhouses—those of the modest rural farmers and those of the more worldly vintners. When I asked which was more their style, they said both. So we blended the simplicity of one with the grandeur of the other to create a comfortable home for their modern family of four."

Although the 7,000-square-foot home was completed in 2010, the project was 10 years in the making. During that time, Anderson and her clients researched Italian design and developed a wish list of authentic architectural elements they wanted to employ, such as barrel- and groin-vaulted ceilings, wrought-iron railings, plastered walls, and

dramatic archways. Notably absent from the list were baseboards, crown molding, and decorative window and door millwork—which were deemed too formal for the relaxed atmosphere the Mabrys desired. Instead, the team painstakingly handpicked materials and finishes that would give the new home a gently aged aesthetic. Reclaimed Chicago brick, centuries-old beams recovered from churches and warehouses, rough quarried limestone, and industrial concrete deliver rustic charm in a way that's capable of standing up to the young family's active lifestyle. "My clients wanted their home to feel lived in from Day One," Anderson says. "We accomplished that by using materials that were flat, worn, and tumbled, and that would get better with age, love, and use. We went to great lengths to make things imperfect—anything shiny was off-limits."

Anderson employed a similar strategy when selecting furnishings. Antiques imported from Italy, Germany, France, and Sweden stand alongside contemporary pieces upholstered in aged leather, washed linen, burlap, and grain sacks. Beyond their organic appeal, these materials are forgiving for a family that enjoys entertaining.

The color palette throughout the home is derived from the earth and dominated by a single hue Anderson ironically calls "clean dirt." This soothing shade of gray is infused with a smidgen of light brown and a stroke of off-white for dimension. Thoughtful collections of accents including antique rakes, shovels, scoops, and unframed artwork complement the neutral palette. "There is an innate purity that exists in an old Tuscan farmhouse," Anderson says. "It feels as if it's been lived in for generations, yet it's not cluttered with 'stuff' or overdone. A farmer wouldn't collect all the things that we do, so if it's in his home, it's either useful or very special. We kept that in mind when it came to accessories. Some rooms still need a couple of things, but that's OK. We aren't in a hurry. It's more important that every piece has meaning."





Twelve-foot-tall reclaimed wood beams support a grand arch that highlights the kitchen's Chicago brick groin-vaulted ceiling. The stone-and-concrete bar, which is used for serving and casual dining, visually divides the kitchen from the great-room while offering high drama in low maintenance fashion.



"In Italy, it is common for a family farmhouse to be passed down from one generation to the next. That concept really spoke to the homeowners."

— INTERIOR DESIGNER KATHY ANDERSON



OPPOSITE: Interior designer Kathy Anderson had storage in the wine cellar made from hand-carved reclaimed wood; a repurposed wooden spool stands in as a cocktail table. **TOP LEFT:** In the powder room, Anderson had leftover beams and stone from the home's construction crafted into a cabinet base for a 200-year-old concrete basin sourced from a village in France. The mirror that reigns above was made from an antique Portuguese window frame. "We used reclaimed and antique materials for their unrivaled beauty, but also in an effort to be as green as possible," Anderson says. "We went to great lengths to leave very little waste and to repurpose remnants into creative, bespoke designs." **TOP RIGHT:** The stone outcropping of the vanishing-edge pool falls into a large heated spa. A lazy river feature offers hours of fun for the Mabrys and their friends. **ABOVE LEFT:** The loggia is a favorite spot for alfresco entertaining. The wine barrel-stave chandelier is a nod to the Mabrys' affection for fine wines, and the old-wagon-wheel barstools bring a little piece of Texas to the scene. **ABOVE RIGHT:** The foyer's custom iron handrail spindles are thin at the front and thick at the sides to add dimension and a sense of movement.

THIS PHOTO: Ledges built into a central stone wall in the master bath support pillar candles, creating a dramatic backdrop for a copper slipper tub. **OPPOSITE:** An oversize blackout shade ensures privacy for the master bedroom. Anderson concealed the shade with a wooden cornice handmade from the final wood remnants from the home's construction.





"Despite its size, this home is intimate and inviting. The minute you walk inside, you get a familiar feeling as if you have been there before."

—KATHY ANDERSON