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# Take A Tour Of A Laid-back Luxe Forever Home

Madison Miller, founder of Madison Avenue Design, has fashioned a luxurious yet livable home for a young family

by Saiga Ajmal, photography Gisèle Parra



“It’s a total family retreat with a sense of laid-back luxe,” says Madison Miller, founder of [Madison Avenue Design](#), of this ground-up new build in [Houston, Texas](#). The clients, a ‘really sweet’ couple with two young children, wanted a stylish but comfortable home, entrusting Miller with the design and interiors.



“It was very important for this home to feel luxurious, yet livable,” explains the designer. “They wanted a crisp and clean palette so we layered shades of white, off-white and light greys for a serene vibe. We also added small touches of stained wood elements to help bring warmth to the home.”



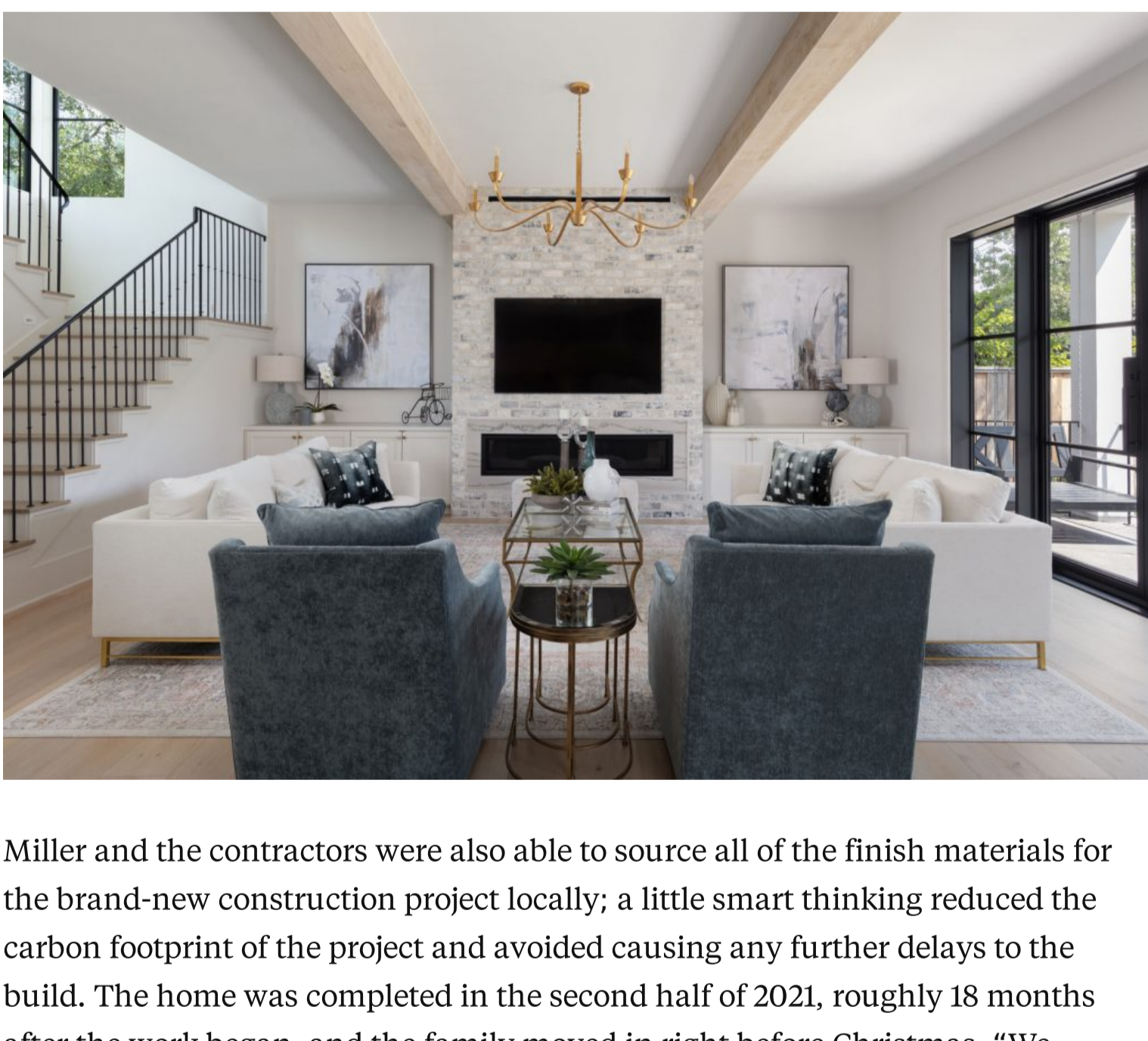
The clients’ previous home was built in the early noughties, and full of dark woods, moody paint colours and heavy countertops so they craved something fresh, light and bright. The couple also wanted a home that was “functional and durable, as well as being beautiful, so we used countertop surfaces like Calacatta Quartzite in their main traffic areas including the kid’s bathrooms and kitchen,” adds Miller. In the latter, she took a full slab right up to the ceiling to act as an extended backsplash, providing a natural stone look. The adjacent dining room sits at the heart of the home and has a striking groyned vaulted ceiling.



The primary bathroom, meanwhile, is a decadent sanctuary and anchored by a freestanding tub, wrapped entirely in Manhattan Marble and complemented by a marble mosaic floor. “I truly love so many spaces in this home but I think this bathroom may be my favourite,” says Miller. “It’s just absolutely stunning. It has a ridiculously large shower with multiple shower heads, handheld shower heads and body sprays. A car could probably fit through there and come out squeaky clean.”



There were several challenges along the way, particularly as this was the very first project that Madison Avenue Design officially signed on, right at the beginning of the COVID 19 outbreak. “I had finally decided I was going to leave the company I was senior designer at for 5 years and open up my own firm,” recalls Miller. “It was just so crazy and a very unpredictable time. The pandemic caused major hurdles and delays in terms of the physical build and availability of the materials but it actually turned out to be a blessing for us because we were able to hunker down and really focus on executing the design details.”



Miller and the contractors were also able to source all of the finish materials for the brand-new construction project locally; a little smart thinking reduced the carbon footprint of the project and avoided causing any further delays to the build. The home was completed in the second half of 2021, roughly 18 months after the work began, and the family moved in right before Christmas. “We worked with them from the start of the architectural drawings, selected every finish from the exterior roofing shingle down, and completely furnished and styled the house,” says Miller. “We guided them on every single surface finish you see in the home.”



She describes the final result as ‘clean with a crisp twist’ thanks to the combination of a soothing colour palette and timeless finishes with some unexpected details. The homeowners were, naturally, thrilled with the result. “They felt refreshed and renewed,” says Miller, “and excited to get into a new safe and soothing environment. It was a very exciting time of year in general and it just felt like the best holiday gift.” [madisonavedesign.com](#)



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