



# FRESH TAKES ON TRADITIONAL

Living in historic East Nashville, urban infill charms and inspires

BY LAURA S. HOLDER • PHOTOS BY RON MANVILLE



In the heart of East Nashville's historic Lockeland Springs, the fabulous home at 1701 Russell Street compels you to stop and take a closer look (if you think you've seen the house in national print ads for the Chevy Volt, you're probably right). Surrounded by historic bungalows of all shapes and styles, this house reflects the best of urban infill new construction. Distinctive and chic, it blends in effortlessly with its neighbors while leaving no doubt that it's one of a kind.

Imagine tradition with an *au courant* minimalist vibe, custom-designed for clients Brandon Miller and Jenn Yadon by architect David Baird and interior designer Marcelle Guilbeau. An East Nashville native, David worked on both coasts before returning to his roots during Nashville's own renaissance in the 1990s. Add his vision to Marcelle's instinctive eye for maximizing color and style and you have the perfect team, committed to creativity and East Nashville's ongoing revitalization.

Their firm, Building Ideas, creates custom architectural and interior designs. Using the innovative Building Information Modeling (a three-dimensional virtual system) "helps set us apart by allowing clients to get a realistic picture of what their projects will really look like," says David. And the good work doesn't stop there—the LEED-AP accredited pair emphasizes renewable and energy-efficient materials to create truly sustainable ventures.

When I first saw this house, I was instantly captivated. Resembling a traditional gable and wing style, historic touches include a marvelous wrap-around porch, rough-hewn wooden pillars, richly textured board-and-batten wood siding, and a soaring two-story trellis.

"Our goal was to create both natural solar shading and a feeling of stateliness," David says. With gorgeous slate blue siding highlighted by deep gray trim and wainscoting, classic elements are used in a refreshingly contemporary way.

Inside, the home's open floor plan reflects the homeowners' desire to keep the feel of their previous downtown loft within an historic urban neighborhood. Unlike many couples that simply turn the reins over to their architects and designers, Brandon and Jenn were involved in every detail. While Jenn was drawn to vintage and traditional pieces, Brandon leaned toward a minimalist look. Jenn laughs, "Brandon and I couldn't agree on anything! Marcelle was part designer and part counselor—she listened to us both and somehow got us to agree on things." And the fusion of both styles is fantastic.

at home



The front door opens directly into the living room. Combining both Jenn and Brandon's individual tastes, Marcelle crafted a great space that blends mid-century hipness with a contemporary sculptured feel. Classic neutral shades provide the backdrop for whimsical splashes of color from custom accent pillows in peacock blue and orange-red. A herringbone chaise reclines gracefully alongside a gorgeous yet comfortable sofa and chairs. The antique Persian rug, with subtle blends of color, pulls the whole room together perfectly.

The living room flows directly into the dining area. "We used color and texture to break up the spaces, and make each distinctive within the open floor plan," says Marcelle. A single blue wall sets this area apart, with its three-dimensional Picasso-inspired pattern, highlighted by an antique Indonesian Colonial-style wood table below a stunning Mayan-accented mirror.

Rounding out the first floor, the gorgeous kitchen's panels of windows along two walls seem to bring the outdoors right inside. A massive island offers extensive work and storage options. Carrera marble countertops and state-of-the-art stainless steel appliances make the kitchen a marvel of modern amenities and family comfort, while also providing a stylish place to entertain and host friends. And I loved the spacious walk-in laundry room and pantry tucked discreetly off the kitchen.

Upstairs, David's second story floor-plan is a masterful use of space. Three soaring towers of books and a wealth of family photos make the landing both inviting and personal, while panels of windows let in warm natural light.

The master bedroom's windows offer a glorious view of the historic neighborhood. Jenn's personal stamp is most evident here, where black and white patterns come alive with red accents. Mirrored nightstands offer a tasteful shimmer that perfectly complements the dove-gray headboard's hardware. And the master bath is a special delight, continuing the color scheme with a massive black tile shower highlighted by soft white walls and floors.



Next door is the room of every little girl's dreams, designed for the young couple's daughter. It appears custom-designed for a ballerina princess, complete with tutu bedskirt, pink striped curtains and enormous flowers accenting the window and walls. The accompanying bathroom's soft pinks and gentle greens make it an adorable yet comfortable place (and I absolutely coveted the pink and black toile towels). Just beyond is the play/television room, another space where clever use of windows brings in soft sunlight and a friendly glimpse of the neighborhood beyond.

With a prized Energy Star rating, each detail of this home supports sustainability. I especially appreciated the shed roof awnings over the windows, a vernacular historic touch that serves a dual purpose to accent the home while keeping out heat and letting in light. In this house, everything old has become new again, utilizing the best of both historic and modern building practices.

Working as a team, Marcelle and David along with Jenn and Brandon have created a wonderful house of incredible charm. Making the most of its location, historic influences and a wealth of individual tastes, this place is an enchanting, inviting home. With a historic feel yet definitely of the 21st century, it's sure to stand the test of time.

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