

ALL IN THE FAMILY

ALONG WITH ARCHITECT MARC APPLETON, DESIGNER EMILY SUMMERS CREATES A DREAM HOME IN DALLAS FOR HER SON AND HIS WIFE.



INTERIOR DESIGN BY EMILY SUMMERS | ARCHITECTURE BY MARC APPLETON
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The dining room is filled with hand-crafted details inspired by Morocco. Chairs, Nancy Corzine; custom chandelier, Seguso; walls in Benjamin Moore's Vanilla Milkshake. OPPOSITE: The entry courtyard's tiles are by Exquisite Surfaces.



WHEN IT COMES TO MOTHERS-IN-LAW, there are pop songs, T-shirts, and endless jokes attesting to the pitfalls of one of life's most precarious relationships. But Elisa Summers would beg to differ.

At the time she married her husband, Stephen, 17 years ago, she acquired not only a genial spouse but also a charming mother-in-law, Emily Summers, who happens to be a world-class interior designer with a blue-chip clientele and offices in Dallas and Manhattan. "She's just so talented, and she has incredible vision for her projects," Elisa says. "Plus, if his mom says it's good, my husband knows it really is!"

Elisa and Stephen are style arbiters in their own right. They are co-owners of Highland Park Village, the 1930s Mediterranean-style shopping center (said to be the nation's oldest) that is a crown jewel of Highland Park, the tony Dallas enclave where they both grew up. Since purchasing the complex in 2009 with Elisa's sister and brother-in-law, they have turned it into a chic shopping destination, with such luxury boutiques as Tom Ford, Céline, Dior, and Fendi.

Several years ago, the couple embarked on building their forever house in the neighborhood—a place to enjoy family life with their three young children. Hoping to conjure the beauty and ease of a vacation home—and inspired by the Spanish- and Mexican-influenced vintage architecture of Highland Park Village—they gravitated toward an architectural style more often seen in Florida and California than in Texas: Spanish Colonial Revival.

Emily introduced her son and daughter-in-law to the California-based architect Marc Appleton, who has designed and restored a



In delicate pink hues, the tiled sitting room is a dreamy retreat. The bench cushion is in a Perennials fabric with leather trim; chandelier, O'Hare & D'Jafer; custom tiles, Mosaic House. OPPOSITE, FROM TOP: In the living room, the sofa is by Saladino Furniture; chairs opposite the sofa, Roman Thomas; cocktail table, Karl Springer; rug, Beauvais; artwork, Nancy Lorenz. A still life of olives and peonies.





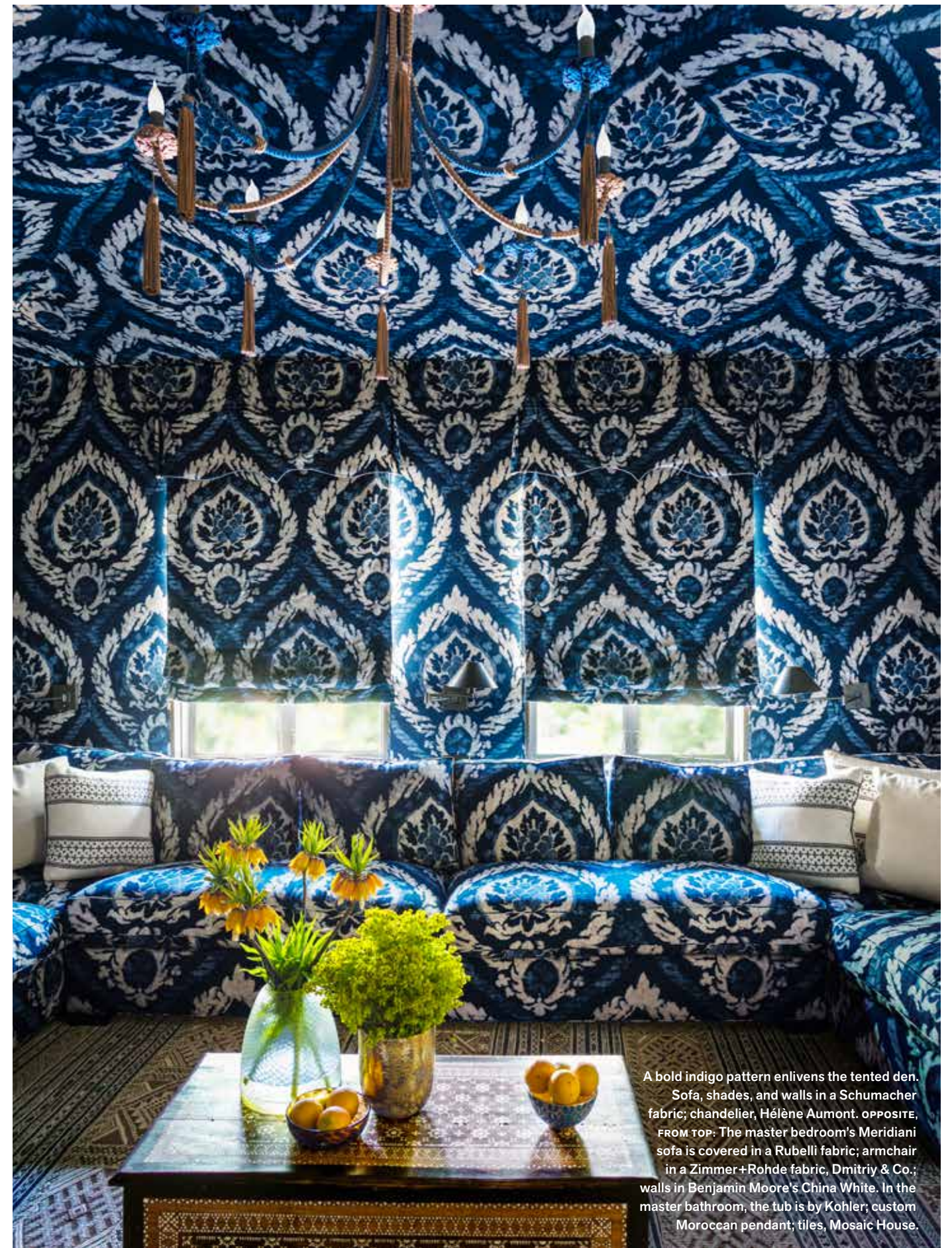
EXOTIC MOROCCAN DETAILS, MODERN FURNITURE, AND CLASSIC SPANISH COLONIAL ARCHITECTURE ARE BLENDED TO CREATE A HOME THAT IS UNDENIABLY ORIGINAL AND ONE OF A KIND.

large cache of Spanish Colonial Revival houses on the West Coast but had never before worked in Dallas. “They wanted something unique and special,” Appleton says. The challenge, he notes, was how to make a fairly extensive home “feel smaller in scale so that it fit into a neighborhood of two-story houses.” His clever solution was to put the gym, spa, bar, and indoor golf range underground.

Early in the process, Elisa became entranced with a book depicting La Mamounia, the fabled Marrakech palace hotel. The images were an important reference in the design of the house. Then a year before its completion, Emily traveled with the couple to Morocco and Spain to shop for tiles, doors, rugs, pierced-metal lanterns, plaster sconces, and antiques. “We had so much fun exploring the bazaars and the underground rug shops, with cats absolutely everywhere,” Emily says. These handcrafted pieces were mixed with such modern furnishings as the living room’s coffee table, its clean metal base topped with glass made from ground 1940s telescope lenses.

From the dining room’s intricate wainscoting to the printed linen blend that tents the walls of the den, textures and patterns abound. Still, hand-troweled white plaster walls and spare furnishings keep things sumptuously airy.

Knowing Elisa’s fondness for blush pink, the decorator gave her an ethereal sitting room bathed in that pale, calming hue. The tile wainscoting is in soft pink and buff, the pillows and rugs are in subtle pinks and corals, and the accent tables have rose-marble tops. “It’s my favorite room in the house,” Elisa says. Clearly, there are benefits to having a mother-in-law who is squarely in your corner. □



A bold indigo pattern enlivens the tented den. Sofa, shades, and walls in a Schumacher fabric; chandelier, H el ene Aumont. OPPOSITE, FROM TOP: The master bedroom’s Meridiani sofa is covered in a Rubelli fabric; armchair in a Zimmer+Rohde fabric, Dmitriy & Co.; walls in Benjamin Moore’s China White. In the master bathroom, the tub is by Kohler; custom Moroccan pendant; tiles, Mosaic House.



Rattan furniture and tole palm trees add tropical allure to a loggia. Lounge chairs and ottomans with cushions in a Perennials fabric, Bielecky Brothers; dining table and chairs, McKinnon and Harris. OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Custom plasterwork in the dining room. The front gate has a Moroccan motif. In the gallery, the wall art is by Leonardo Drew; ceramics, Giselle Hicks. Handmade tiles from Seville, Spain, on a back staircase. For more details, see Sourcebook.