



Star Wars Memorabilia Reigns Supreme In This Chic Texas Home

It boasts modern design softened with playful elements.

When [Maestri Studio](#) interior designer Janelle Burns began a recent project on a 7,000-square-foot home in Heath, Texas, she had to find ways to temper the clients' request for modern interiors. To keep the space from verging into the territory of stark and sterile, she invoked elements, like color and texture, to lighten it up. The result is a playful mix of mediums from sleek black-and-white marble to plush magenta velvet.

The lakefront home itself, once owned by a former Miss Texas in the '80s, sat on the market for 10 years—needless to say, the interiors were a bit outdated. The Maestri Studio team gutted the space and practically started over, implementing Japanese design elements and opening up the floor plan to make it more livable. The clients are into fitness, martial arts, and *Star Wars*—all of which are evident in the space—and have young children to think about. Below, Burns breaks down the creative process for us to better understand their modern-yet-playful approach.

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"Our clients called us out to the site to see the property and the three structures—it needed a major renovation and a design team that was up for the challenge! The property is lakefront and that was the main draw for the clients. It sat on the market for close to a decade. (Fun fact: It was owned by a past Miss Texas.)"

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"In its heyday, this house saw some serious parties and swanky entertaining, but when we got called onto the project, it was nearly overwhelming how outdated it was. Feasibility was discussed first and foremost due to the extensive work required to bring this house into the 2020s. Think glass block, mauve and polished brass, and a racetrack-shaped island with shiny grey flat front cabinets—peak '80s style!"

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"Almost everything went, but we did work with the general footprint of the house and rearranged some floor plan elements. We squared off an octagonal breakfast room and blew all the windows out of the back and the entire window and door set in the front entry foyer. All cabinetry, bathroom finishes, and flooring came out. We reworked the kitchen and mud/laundry area, the master bathroom, as well as the location of the stairs (bonus: we achieved an amazing walk-in wine refrigerator under the new stairs!). We did keep two of the vintage smoke glass chandeliers and the rolling ladder in the library/office. We also kept the location of the fireplace between the dining and living room. In the pool house, we worked with the cabinets and changed out the other finishes—new flooring and bathroom tile."



"Eddie (Maestri Studios' principal architect) saw potential to draw from Japanese design with the architecture, which is very clear to see from the back of the house. Our interiors always follow the architecture and the clients' personal style—we are really good at peeling back their layers to figure out what they want, even when they aren't sure themselves. The neighborhood is mature with various architectural styles, so we were really free to follow a true north with our clients as the inspiration, rather than an HOA or other parameters that could otherwise force your hand, stylistically."

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"The clients knew they wanted modern yet livable and suitable for a young family—not cold or sterile. And they wanted it to be different from most houses in the area."

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"Starting with architecture, Eddie looked to Japanese architecture and his travels in that region of the world and drew from that first. From there, we kept the finishes clean and then added color with furnishings and art. Maximizing the view of the lake was a goal in tandem to modernizing. Those two goals married really well in this project!"

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"We have a lot of abstract art throughout the house—lots of colorful, happy, and bright artwork. They also have an epic *Star Wars* art and memorabilia collection in the library and game room upstairs. It's full of art and pieces they love as a family."

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How did you keep the modern elements from feeling too stark?

"By using color and interesting detailing. We also mixed materials a lot to keep things interesting. Modern design can fall flat (like, really, really flat) and seem tired or just plain boring. But if you detail it and mix materials, modern really shines."

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"The cabinetry around the fireplace in the living room conceals a hidden coat closet and a hidden bar!"

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"The custom bed in the primary bedroom is 16 inches long! And, as mentioned, the house was owned by a past Miss Texas—she left her tiara! (She really did!)"

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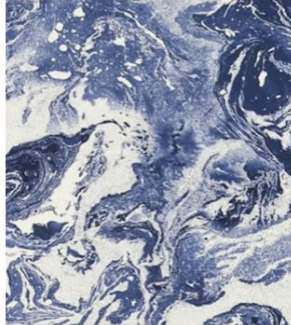


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