

A BRIGHT IDEA

FOR HER OWN HOME, AMY MARGOLIN—THE THIRD-GENERATION OWNER OF A BELOVED TEXAS LIGHTING SHOWROOM—PARTNERS WITH A TOP HOUSTON DESIGNER.

INTERIOR DESIGN BY
KATIE DAVIS DESIGN

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
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If you're ever in Houston, there's only one place for all your lighting needs: M&M Lighting. "My grandfather opened the showroom in the 1960s, so I'm the third-generation owner," says Amy Margolin. "We work on commercial and multi-family projects, but my focus is on the showroom and residential side of the business. I also run our Instagram account, which has turned into a full-time job on its own, and that's how I met interior designer Katie Davis. It was at the start of our careers in the industry, and we bonded over a shared love of Visual Comfort's Morris lantern."

When Amy bought her first home, it was very French-provincial-by-way-of-Houston—including a massive French country chandelier in the dining room. "I've lived in New York and most recently in LA, where I worked in the fashion industry styling celebrities for red carpet events, so I'm used to a more eclectic, quirky approach to interiors," she explains. "I knew immediately when I bought the home that I wanted Katie to be involved. It was just a matter of convincing her to take on my project! She has such an amazing knack for reimagining a space and elevating it through her use of bespoke furniture and layered textiles."

Though some designers might fear "too many cooks in the kitchen," Katie and her team took

on the project with ease. "Amy was the most patient client! She has been exposed to a lot, so there was a good amount of editing ideas to find what worked best together," Katie recalls. "But she was very trusting and let us do our thing. We wanted to bring in fresh, contemporary lighting and stay traditional in style, but incorporate modern, clean lines." Amy adds: "It ended up being a collaborative process simply because I didn't even have the language to describe what I wanted for my home. I just knew I wanted it to feel fully thought-out and authentic to who I am as a person."

Room by room, the home was transformed. "Since this is my first home and I stare at interiors all day, I really wanted to go the extra mile and make it feel like mine," Amy says. "Luckily for me, I'm engaged to my contractor, Nolan of Riverwood Building Company, so I had a great team in place from day one."

And, though she's an expert herself, Amy admits the team brought a few fabulous lessons to the well-dressed table: "If I've learned anything from my time working with Katie and her team," she says, "it's that if the budget allows, just go for the custom drapes, special textiles, and designer lamps. Those details really make all the difference."

BELOW: The formal living room is also a pass-through space, so interior designer Katie Davis was mindful of scale and played up homeowner Amy Margolin's flair for modern accents. "We worked with her to select this perfect Urban Electric ceiling fixture," she says. "We continued the color schemes, but toned down the boldness, allowing it to meld the other spaces together." Sophisticated slipper chairs and blush ombre window treatments add a feminine touch. The art is by William McLure.

RIGHT: Amy admits that she broke the rules for her own home's design—specifically when it came to the standard seven-foot chandelier height. "You never know when a tall Texan might be walking through your doors," she laughs. Since the ceilings are only eight feet tall, exceptions were made.





"Our aim with the velvet upholstery was to establish this as a comfortable space," Katie says of the primary bedroom. "We brought in the pairing of soft green with the window treatments and art. The wood and texture of the nightstands and dresser bring in some warmth to the room. This space plays so well with the downstairs but is peaceful and calm."



"My grandfather was a big supporter of the founder of Visual Comfort at the beginning of his career in the lighting industry," Amy shares. "When I entered the lighting world, I saw the beautiful pieces he was creating for designers around the country, and I was like, why don't we have more of their lights on our showroom floor? I just knew I wanted my home to have their pieces in it because it's such a meaningful company to us, and they're the best at what they do."



Suspended from the living room ceiling is one of Amy's favorite fixtures. The Aerin for Visual Comfort's Charlton Grande Triple Arm chandelier is 96 inches wide in a space that's only 18x17 square feet, but its airy expansiveness was just what she wanted for the room. In the corner, a Pierre Frey-upholstered armchair adds a pop of fun. Also included is Aerin for Visual Comfort's Clemente floor lamp and a pair of J. Randall Powers for Visual Comfort's Hargett Buffet Lamps. "We brought in more warmth with the custom credenza, and to add some texture we layered in a plaster coffee table," Katie says.