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NOV/DEC 2015 | DISPLAY UNTIL 01/11/16



A marble backsplash and countertops lend elegance to the light-filled kitchen, while traditional-style white cabinetry wearing knobs and pulls from Restoration Hardware maintains a sense of airiness in the space. The window shade textile by Galbraith & Paul for Perennials was purchased through David Sutherland.

the sofa and chair upholstery in the family room is made of a Sunbrella outdoor fabric. "The mohair on the ottoman is also treated," says the wife. "You can spill and wipe it right off; it's indestructible."

In Goforth's opinion, the artwork that hangs on the walls is a crucial component of a house's overall presentation. "Houston has a great art scene with respected museums," she says. "Art really gives an interior individuality." Therefore, an oil on canvas by Hunt Slonem gives the living room a lyrical quality, while a textured abstract painting by Sandi Seltzer Bryant grounds the dining room. A more personal artwork by Charles Schorre—another gift from the wife's parents—draws attention in the casual

dining area. "It was theirs, and I'd always loved it," says the wife. "Schorre had Parkinson's disease, and the piece is a bold expression of life. It's a reminder to relish my own life as well as the blessing of our health."

Integral to the design was keeping a sense of balance: a quality that resulted in a lively mix of beautiful spaces. "These rooms are versatile and dynamic," Goforth says. And her client couldn't agree more. "This house is comfortable, yet there are pieces that have stories and there are pieces that are elegant," the wife says. "It truly turned into what I wanted—feminine and classical, but with an edge. Ashley brings all of that to a home very easily." ■