

# custom-built by us!



[house tours]

Ashley and  
Adam with Gia  
George, 4, and  
Mario Mae, 1



These Austin, TX, home builders are known for their clever design ideas. Take a look inside their own colorful charmer.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID TSAY STYLED BY HEATHER BULLARD

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Cool wallpaper (by Cavern) and black paint (Tricorn Black by Sherwin-Williams) add even more personality to this adorable archway.

**L**ipping down walls, installing sinks, getting burgers at 11 p.m.: That was Ashley Menger and Adam Talianchich's idea of a great date back in 2005. The Austin, TX, pair had been together not quite a year when Adam bought a fixer-upper, putting the house-building skills he'd learned from his dad to good use. Ashley had grown up with handy parents too, and she enjoyed the work. Besides, she saw a whole other kind of potential in the home: "I had a feeling it might be *our* house one day." She was right—they married in 2008. Soon after, they founded their custom home company, Hatch Works. Three years later they bought a plot of land nearby and started building this house—a 1,600-square-foot "post-Victorian, pre-Craftsman," as Adam calls it. Eager to experiment with a long list of design moves, they gave ebony-stained oak floors a go; had numbers painted on the stairs (to help their someday kids learn to count); and installed a wild backsplash in the kitchen. "After two kids, building homes may not feel like a date anymore, but we're still having fun," says Adam. Adds Ashley, "With our chatty daughters, we can barely get in a word about work—we have to text each other!"



**living room**  
 The layout and color scheme are practical, with pizzazz. "I wanted a white sofa but got gray to hide kid grime," says Ashley. The sizable tufted sectional, from buildasofa.com, has accommodated as many as 15 kids at once. Even the patchwork cowhide rug, from Lifestyle by Cara on Etsy, stands up to cranberry juice when wiped up right away: "It's a secret inherent quality of cowhide," she says. For down-home charm, Ashley hung a print of Texas's Senate legislature—a digital file that she bought from the state preservation board and got printed. They had the black Roman shades made by Martha and Ash on Etsy to fit the tall, narrow windows.

**wall color**  
 Silver Marlin by Behr





There's a Murphy bed behind here!

**playroom**

"This room is our lifesaver," says Ashley. "By day it's a toypalooza; when Grandma visits, it's a bedroom at night thanks to the Murphy bed." There's a lot of white space when the bed is tucked away, so they hung an industrial-size paper roll for coloring (Ashley's handiwork is on display). The ceiling, painted a mix of two colors (try Spring Grass by Behr), matches the rug from Colonial Mills and the curtains. Ashley got the parts for the light from Snake Head Vintage on Etsy and built it with a friend. They found the table on Craigslist and the chairs at Pottery Barn Kids.



**office**  
 Custom cubby-style shelves hung from the ceiling hold books and storage boxes full of fabric swatches. Ashley and Adam built a desk with plywood, white paint, and a glass top—supported by a piece of steel beneath—then added filing cabinets from CB2 that echo the ceiling color (Lemongrass by Behr). A wall-mount light instead of a desk lamp frees up work space; this one's from Photonic Studio on Etsy. The blue rolling chair is from CB2.



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## dining room

It's adjacent to the kitchen, and the couple wanted it to stand out on its own. They put up personality-packed teal drapes with a diamond pattern, from Anthropologie, and a light by Jonathan Adler that Ashley likes because it looks "fancier than normal." The family uses the round white table and black chairs (all from LexMod) for nightly dinners. Art hung below the windows adds interest at kid height—and at eye level for adults who are seated at the table.



“We worried the tile would be too much, but as soon as it went up, it defined the room.”

—Ashley

wall color  
Tidewater  
by Behr



## kitchen

“Since you see the kitchen when you walk in the front door, it had to be a showpiece,” says Ashley. They created a super-bold backsplash with 10-inch-by-10-inch cement tiles by Granada Tile in a graphic pattern. The peninsula, covered in shiplap for texture, offers extra storage space. All the cabinets are from IKEA, and the gray quartz counters are by Silstone.



## master bedroom

"Before I was married, my bedrooms were soft and feminine, but I couldn't do that to Adam," says Ashley. Here she went for a cozy cabin vibe with plaid, fur, and wood. She and Adam chose a Schumacher fabric with dogs on it for the shams (a nod to their pooch, Birdie); they found the bench on the side of the road, fixed it up, and added hairpin legs. Both the nightstands (vintage) and pendants (vintage Herman Miller) were bought on eBay. Ashley painted the horse art herself—turquoise is her favorite color.

“It's great to have a surprise element in a room. The pendants hung above our nightstands look like floating clouds.”

—Ashley



## girls' bedroom

The couple gave their daughters' room a fun dipped look by painting half the wall pink (Sweet Tart by Behr), then kept the look going with two-color drapes that line up just so. Ashley matched the pink to the 40-inch-by-60-inch vintage bunny poster she'd found on the Etsy shop Top Notch Curator. Its giant size was more of a busy-parent tactic than a design one: "It's easier to hang one big impressive poster than to deal with lots of little art," says Ashley. The light fixture is from IKEA, and the ottoman is from West Elm.