

AT HOME

IN ARKANSAS

FAMILY LIVING

THE NEW HOME

FIND THE SPACE TO
SUIT YOUR LIFESTYLE

PLUS **14** PAGES
OF CREATIVE IDEAS
FOR KIDS' ROOMS

AUGUST 2004

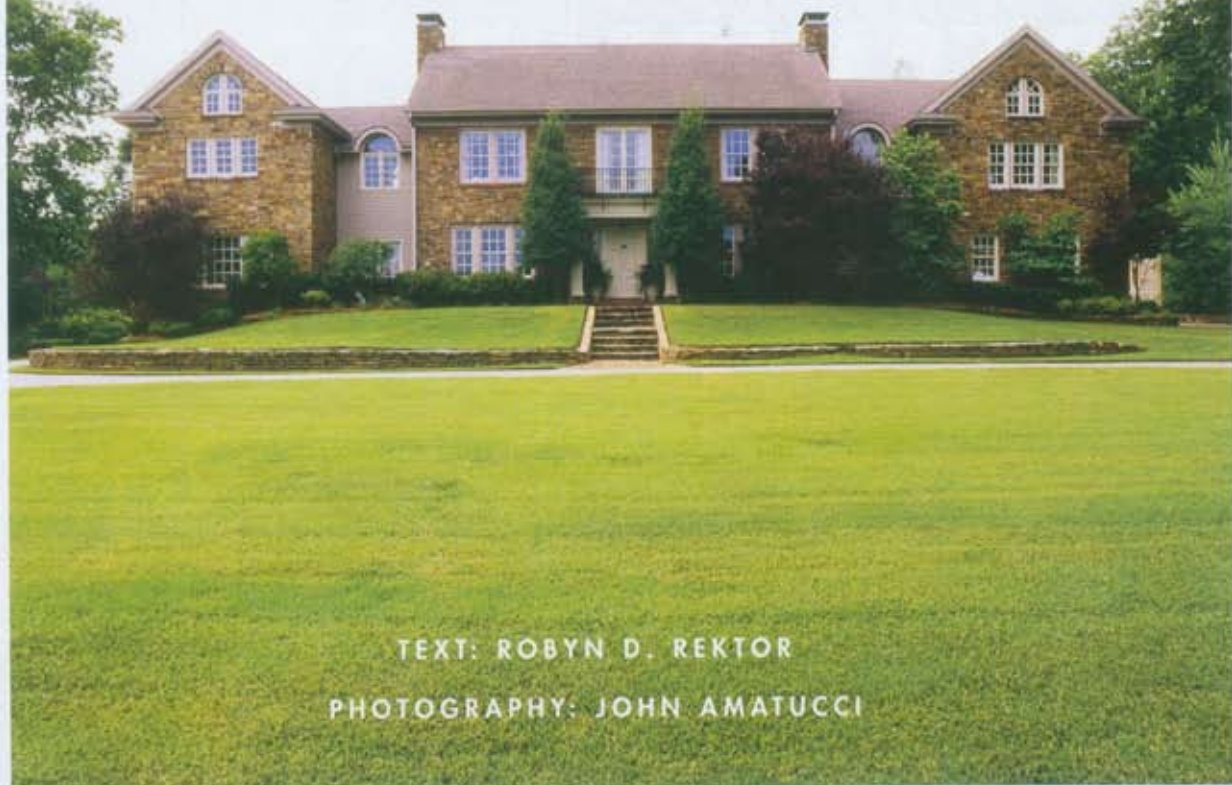


\$3.50

AS SEEN IN
AT HOME
IN ARKANSAS

THREE TEEN DAUGHTERS' ROOMS
GET A MIRACULOUS MAKEOVER WITH
THEIR PERSONALITIES IN MIND

three of a. kind



TEXT: ROBYN D. REKTOR
PHOTOGRAPHY: JOHN AMATUCCI

The formal spaces downstairs are warmed by rich wall colors and portraits of the girls. (facing page)
The Colonial-style home engulfed by lavish trees and an enormous yard allows the Murphys to feel completely comfortable.



The shag rug and far-out accessories add an edgy twist to the den's brick-red walls and hardwood floors. (facing page) Bright hues of yellow and magenta mixed with florals and plaids make a fun meal for all in this breakfast area.





Home sweet home got just a little bit sweeter for the Murphy family with the completed redecoration of their palatial 1920s-era Colonial-style home in Fort Smith. What began five years ago with a first-floor remodel by Tom Chandler of Chandler & Associates in Little Rock ended this summer with a redesign of four upstairs bedrooms by Tobi Wells Fairley of T. Lamarr Interiors in Little Rock.

After Chandler succeeded in transforming the downstairs entryway, den, kitchen and dining room into comfortably livable spaces for the active family to share, Fairley's mission was to redecorate the three Murphy daughters' rooms. Lauren, 20; Leslie, 17; and Jordan, 14 were ecstatic when mom Martha and dad Vent gave them the go-ahead to help choose colors and accents. All the Murphys wanted bright, fun spaces that could easily accommodate their on-the-go lifestyles, while also adding modern touches to their traditional home. To create rooms that would grow with the girls and represent their personalities, Fairley started with a blank canvas, choosing dramatic, bright colors and whimsical accents, and avoiding themed, easily dated styles.

College student Lauren asked for contemporary, but Fairley and Martha were somewhat cautious, since the room will become a guest room after Lauren leaves the nest. "We didn't want to divert too much from the original style of the home, so we created traditional with a twist," the designer explains, "and included simple pieces that were edgier." Modern black furniture is set against bright, rich red walls, and a daring easy chair of electric polka dots on a black background is topped with a large lip-shaped pillow to match Lauren's vivacious spirit while still maintaining the home's easy sophistication.

Hip polka dots and blood-red curtains all add drama to this quaint corner in Lauren's fabulous room. (facing page, top left) Summertime never seemed so sweet with this cheery, fruit-print bedding in the red room. (top right) The turquoise bathroom is all about comfortable glamour. (bottom left) Beautiful red tulips are a fresh contrast in Leslie's room. (bottom right) Turquoise walls and tropical-inspired bedding transform Leslie's room into an island-style retreat.

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In both Lauren's red room and Jordan's green room next door, Fairley employed traditional long draperies in the same colors as the walls, but chose working drapes that could easily be opened for sunlight and spectacular views of the home's lush green grounds, or closed for more privacy. The green room's evolution began when Jordan picked a coverlet by Pinecone Hill. Fairley then chose a soft shade of green for the walls to bring the outside in and added intimate touches such as an antique desk that belonged to Martha and was gently repainted a matching shade of green.

For the last of the girls' rooms, the Murphys wanted the bedroom and its adjoining bathroom to double as a guest suite for friends or family staying for extended visits, but still work well for 17-year-old Leslie. Leslie's only request was to eliminate the inky, purple-blue walls she had been looking at for years, so the designer chose a wonderful turquoise hue for

the walls to give the room a cool, yet inviting aura, and added a king-sized bed, two lounge chairs, a sofa, and a large TV to the room, which has quickly become a favorite hangout spot for Leslie and her friends. Bold accents like the funky red couch, modern flower prints, a bold vase and a turquoise cheval mirror were chosen to complement the wall color.

The adjoining bathroom underwent a complete makeover as well. Happily mixing cool with warm, and traditional with contemporary, it features light oak cabinets accented with silver knobs, a thick throw rug and a shaggy ottoman for the vanity. For teenagers on the go or overnight guests, it's hard to imagine a more relaxing and fun bathroom space. Fairley calls it "one of my favorite rooms we have ever done."

For Fairley and the Murphy clan, the girls' rooms are a big hit. "While it's not necessarily a kid's space," Fairley says, "you can definitely feel a sense of each girl in each room." >

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YOU CAN DEFINITELY FEEL A SENSE OF EACH
GIRL IN EACH ROOM." —TOBI FAIRLEY



A cool carrot pillow and felt Hable Construction pillow are fun and funky accents to Jordan's green room.