



Vintage lounge chairs from City Issue by the fireplace and a pink sofa from Design Within Reach anchor the living room. A bold quilt from Aloka Home and West Elm pillows provide pattern. The antique coffee table is a family heirloom.

Good Vibrations

COLORFUL UPDATES
ENHANCE THIS SMART
AND STYLISH REMODEL

By LISA MOWRY
Photography by JEFF HERR

Interior designer Laura Jenkins researched kitchens from years past—including Atlanta’s Swan House kitchen, with its green color palette and built-in hutches—as inspiration for homeowners Laura and Sam Dengler’s project. Backsplash tiles from Fireclay Tile in a pinkish hue continue the nod to midcentury charm.



After presenting a mood board full of subdued greens, interior designer Laura Jenkins was delighted to hear her clients say: “We want more color.” From that point on, the renovation of this 1940s brick cottage in Decatur took a delightful turn. “I like midcentury style, but this is a brick cottage,” says homeowner Laura Dengler, who is also a graphic designer. “I knew the renovation needed to fit both things.” She kept going back to a kitchen inspiration photo with sage green cabinets and pinkish tiles, and liked the idea of cabinets with a nod to other eras. Laura and her husband Sam also wanted adjacent rooms—such as the living room and music area—to be informal and equally full of vivid colors. Jenkins prefers distinct rooms over an open floor plan, but she created a design that links spaces together visually. The kitchen had been chopped-up before, but it was completely remodeled and now spans one side of the house. “I

try to look to history for inspiration,” says the designer, who incorporated curves on the banquette table and a custom-colored pendant for a ’60s feel, and included vent holes in the cabinetry as a nod to sculleries of the past. Subtle details like the pinkish tones used on the backsplash, the breakfast room pendant, and the living room sofa bring a cohesiveness to the house.

Merry colors and an unassuming design continue in the living room and music area. Jenkins combined vintage pieces, midcentury-inspired seating, and the homeowners’ art for a collected look. A colorful quilt from Aloka Home above the sofa is a sort of a metaphor for the home’s vibrant combination of elements. Best of all, the remodeled areas bring family time to the forefront. “Before, if you were in the kitchen, you were all by yourself in this dark room,” says Jenkins. “The house is now a joyful place for the whole family.”



LEFT | The banquette area is full of personality, thanks to the custom pink pendant from Bruck Lighting over a custom table made by Atlanta artisan Skylar Morgan. A walnut-topped peninsula pairs well with the cabinetry painted Farrow & Ball's "Stone Blue." Vent holes and furniture-like legs on the cabinetry reference vintage kitchen cabinets.

ABOVE | To make the most of the square footage in this cottage kitchen, the designer commissioned custom cabinetry from Eiland Woodworks.



A paneled Fisher Paykel refrigerator and pantry storage are distinguished by the blue-green color scheme and brass hardware from Schoolhouse.



TOP AND BOTTOM LEFT | The Dengler family of four spends a lot of time in the music room, with its piano, television, and cozy furniture. A yellow ottoman chair from DWR pairs with a gray sofa from Article.

RIGHT | Schumacher's "Tumbling Blocks" wallpaper livens up this blue bathroom along with round sconces from Cedar & Moss.

RESOURCES | INTERIOR DESIGN Laura W. Jenkins Interiors, laurawjenkins.com
ARCHITECTURE Local Architects, localarchitects.co | **GENERAL CONTRACTOR** N.B. Savage, 404-557-2672 | **TO SHOP THIS STORY**, SEE PAGE 92