

Artist's Haven

THIS EASTOVER HOME'S AESTHETIC IS INSPIRED BY A LOVE OF TRAVEL, FAMILY, AND A FINE ARTIST'S TOUCH.

BY BLAKE MILLER • PHOTOS BY METROPOLIS ICONIC SHOTS



Long before Allison Chambers and her husband, Jay, had ever broke ground on their forever home in Eastover, the artist knew exactly what she wanted her new house to look and feel like. Having worked closely with Kingswood Homes as a faux painter for several years, Chambers became so familiar with the custom builders' craftsmanship and impeccable interior design that the home she and Jay envisioned exemplified Kingswood's signature architectural look.

"I told Louise that if I were ever going to be able to build my perfect home, I would come to her first," says Chambers.

Which is exactly what the Chambers' did when they enlisted Louise Leeke, lead interior designer for Kingswood,

to head up the design of the home alongside Kingswood's architecture team. Wanting to be fully involved in the process, Chambers—founder of Allison Chambers Fine Art and a creator of color- and texture-driven paintings—worked intimately with Leeke to come up with a design plan. Chambers wanted to highlight her creative side as an artist and also make a home that would allow the couple's blended family of eight to come together seamlessly throughout the year and during the holidays.

"We really wanted a place to gather comfortably in a large group but that would also showcase our love for travel and my love for art," she says. "I knew what I wanted but couldn't quite



(Opposite) The home's *piece de resistance* is Chambers' private art studio. "Allison really wanted a place where she could create her artwork while also being inspired by the outdoors," says Louise Leeke, the lead interior designer for Kingswood. So she designed a room where three of the four walls are floor-to-ceiling windows,



A prime gathering space, the kitchen overflows into the living room and offers ample seating for large family gatherings.



pull it all together into one cohesive look.”

Enter Leeke, who, having known Allison and Jay for several years, was able to home in on an aesthetic that checked every box on the couple’s must-haves list.

“She and Jay had traveled through Europe quite a bit and they had a lot of photos of elements they liked,” says Leeke. “They liked Tuscan architecture but thought it might be too heavy and perhaps dated for their home. So I used on-trend colors and patterns and textures that updated and modernized the look of the house.”

Leeke also stuck with one wall color throughout the house to provide a backdrop for Allison’s artwork.

On the first floor, Leeke focused on the couple’s interests. An avid wine collector, Jay wanted a wine cellar prominently displayed so that he could easily share his collection with friends and family. She designed a wine cellar just off the foyer, which serves as a stunning focal point when entering the home. A floor-to-ceiling glass enclosure adds a modern edge while reclaimed wood provides an organic touch to create one unified aesthetic. Vintage French stone flooring by Walker Zanger runs from the front to the back of the house, while the walls of the hallway are a blended limestone with a white mortar—the ideal backdrop for Chambers’ artwork.

“Tuscan architecture and design can often look overwhelming and cluttered,” explains Leeke. “This was a way to make it less

continued on page 70







An avid wine collector, Jay Chambers wanted a wine cellar prominently displayed so that he could easily share his collection with friends and family. This stunning wine cellar is just off the foyer, which serves as a wow-worthy focal point when entering the home.



overdone and more modern.” Simple vaulted ceilings with iron detailing, an architectural detail Chambers fell in love with while traveling through Europe, breathe space and provide clean lines to the downstairs living areas.

To take advantage of the stunning outdoor views, which overlook Briar Creek, Kingswood installed floor-to-ceiling windows to provide natural light and a seamless indoor/outdoor feel, ideal for entertaining. A prime gathering space, the kitchen overflows into the living room and offers ample seating for large family gatherings. A classic white subway tile backsplash, which runs from the counter to the ceiling, is instantly given more interest with a darker grout, while an expansive steel-trim window above the farmhouse sink allows natural light to brighten the space.

To achieve a cohesive look throughout, Leeke along with

designer Leyton Campbell custom designed all of the furniture. Meanwhile, the light fixtures and a few other design elements were sourced locally and from across the world to add a collected, vintage feel.

The final *piece de resistance* of the home, though, is Chambers’ private art studio. “Allison really wanted a place where she could create her artwork while also being inspired by the outdoors,” says Leeke, who designed a room where three of the four walls are floor-to-ceiling windows, which allows the space to be flooded with natural light.

“I absolutely love my studio,” says Chambers. “For 10 years, I’ve painted outside the home, so to have a studio I can walk to and paint and not be disturbed but also be so inspired by is so amazing. ...This home truly is the best interpretation of everything we love.” 