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A photograph of a hallway with a dark blue door, a chandelier, a wooden console table with a lamp and flowers, and a staircase.

Formally Theirs

In the Heights,
Heather and Arnoud
Krijt design a new
construction home that
feels perfectly *them*

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nOT MANY COUPLES START PLANNING THEIR NEW BUILD SEVERAL MONTHS INTO DATING. But then, not much about Heather and Arnoud Krijt's story is typical.

She, an interior designer with a background in ballet and bio-chemistry, and he, a Dutch native who moved to the U.S. in college to play golf, met while Heather was living in Dallas. "He said, *I'm going to build a house and I think you should help.* I was like, *I just met you!*" Heather recalls, laughing.

Of course, Heather was more than happy to help design the perfect home with her now-husband. "I knew I wanted a house with a real entry, a formal living room, and a formal dining room. And I love old Paris apartments, so I also wanted this to feel like an old house architecturally," she says, pointing to herringbone hardwood floors, the arched front entry door, and an abundance of detailed millwork as examples. "Since Arnoud is from the Netherlands, he was on board with all of the European touches."

However, getting to this point was not easy. While looking for lots to build on, the Krijts put offers on three different houses in the neighborhood. After those all fell through, the couple got creative: "We handwrote 19 notes and dropped them off in people's mailboxes begging them to sell to us," Heather says. "We were driving around delivering all these notes and we saw a 'for sale by owner' sign in the yard of this house that had been put up the day before." A neighbor encouraged the couple to put an offer on the house, and by the end of the day, they had their lot. "We had been looking and putting offers out for about eight months at that point," she says. "You end up where you're supposed to be. It all worked out as it should."

A grouping of antique sunburst mirrors and framed drawings makes for a meaningful accent wall in the living room.



PARISIAN INFLUENCE

Just off the entry, the living room's 11-foot ceilings and show-stopping molding—all painted the same pinkish gray as the walls—lend an air of drama upon first stepping into the home. The room also showcases Heather's love for mixing classic and contemporary styles. Case in point: The sputnik-style light fixture and acrylic and glass coffee table are perfectly at home alongside a tufted sofa and tailored drapes and valances.





Since the Krijts are both tall, all of the cabinetry and doorways were built slightly higher than standard to account for their height.



KITCHEN CLASSICS

Heather approached the design of the kitchen with the future in mind. “We want to have kids, so I imagine this as the place where we can spread out homework on the island, and I can still cook on one side. There’s room for everybody,” she says. Neutral shades and brass finishes keep the room clean and polished and allow the breakfast nook, a built-in banquette enveloped in navy, to shine. “It feels like its own little secluded area, and because there are really no walls in the kitchen, just windows, it’s kind of this bright happy corner,” Heather says. “We use it every day.”



Sherwin-Williams
"Indigo Batik"

A walk-in pantry provides out-of-sight storage for food, serving dishes, and appliances. Cabinetry paneling on saloon-style doors blends with the rest of the butler's pantry, making it a seamless pass-through from the kitchen to dining room when entertaining.



DINING FINE

The navy hue from the kitchen's breakfast nook appears again in the butler's pantry, as does the herringbone-laid flooring from the entry. Heather designed the dining room in a monochromatic palette broken up by texture. "There's grasscloth on the wall that gives it some nice warmth, then the lacquered ceiling, and finally these chairs," she says. "These are antique, and I spent so long trying to find a fabric that would match the color!" A Murano chandelier and green lamp speak to Heather's love of Venetian glass while adding a hint of glamour to the room.



SOPHISTICATED SUITE

After choosing a dark taupe grasscloth for the master bedroom, shades of blue found in a framed Gracie wallpaper panel were the jumping off point for the rest of the design. "Because this is such a big room with a vaulted ceiling, I wanted to bring it down a bit with carpet and a darker grasscloth to make it feel a little warmer and more intimate," Heather says. Light blue carries into the master bath where a freestanding clawfoot tub makes a statement.



A pretty-in-pink room off the master bath serves as Heather's vanity, complete with plenty of natural light and a small Murano glass "Palmette" chandelier.



WORK HARD, PLAY HARD

"Arnoud had a little more input on the design in his office," Heather says of the masculine retreat (below). "He helped with the paint color, and we picked out the desk together—he's so tall, so he wanted to sit in it and approve everything." The décor, including framed golf club drawings over the blue armchair and Dutch figurines dotting the shelves of the built-ins, are nods to his hobbies and heritage. In Heather's office (right), a cheery blue hue appears on the built-in desk and trim as well as the wallcovering, a pattern called "Daydreams" by Dallas artist Ann Jackson. "It's a smaller space, so you can get away with doing something a little more fun," Heather says.



Most rooms, including both offices, feature custom paint colors.



Design Resources

ARCHITECT Tom Fennell, Fennel Purifoy Architects
CONTRACTOR Richard Harp, Richard Harp Homes
INTERIOR DESIGN Heather Krijit, HK Designs
ACCESSORIES, ART, BEDDING, FABRICS, FURNITURE, LIGHTING, AND WALLPAPER HK Designs
APPLIANCES Metro Appliances & More
CABINETRY Capitol Custom Cabinets
CARPET AND TILE (KITCHEN, BATHROOM, AND BACKSPLASH) ProSource of Little Rock
COUNTERTOPS Pacific Shores Stones
COUNTERTOPS (FABRICATION) Stone World
FIREPLACE Custom Precast Stone
FIXTURES Westlake Plumbing
FLOORING Arkansas Wood Floor
FRAMING Louie's Unique Framing & Gallery
HARDWARE HK Designs and PC Hardware
LIGHTING (SHADES) The Shade Above
PAINT Sherwin-Williams
TILE (FLOOR) HK Designs and ProSource of Little Rock
UPHOLSTERY Brockington Upholstery
WALLPAPER Installation Mike Mace
WINDOWS Windows, Doors & More
WINDOW COVERINGS Interior Creations