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SOUTHPARK

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[COVER FEATURE]

BLUE HEAVEN

A SOUTHPARK
FAMILY'S NEW HOME
OFFERS MORE SPACE—
AND A FRESH LOOK.

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The time had come for the McNeer family. Simply put: they needed more room. So Michele, Lee, and their four young children—triplet boys age 7 and a girl age 5—bid their SouthPark home adieu and moved into a larger home just down the road. But unlike many homeowners who want to start over with an updated aesthetic in their new home, the McNeers opted to not only keep their previous residence’s color scheme but to also incorporate some of the same design elements—including wallpaper and fabric choices—that they’d come to love for years before their move. “Our style tends to be transitional with fun touches,” says Michele. “We are casual people and wanted our home to look beautiful, but to also feel

comfortable to everyone.”

The classic look was courtesy of designer Traci Zeller, who worked with the McNeers on their first home. The family enlisted Zeller to create the same visually compelling but livable design in their new abode. “This home had more space, so it allowed us to be a bit more creative and allowed us to layer more pieces to the design,” explains Zeller. “They had so many fantastic pieces that they’d invested in that it didn’t make sense to start from scratch. We just updated some of the furniture to give it new life.”

Some updating took place on the home’s existing finishes, especially in the kitchen where the McNeers wanted a classic all-white kitchen with blue accents. “We wanted it to stay classic





because you're not going to update your kitchen all the time, but we really wanted it to be true to Michele's aesthetic, which is a bit more modern," says Zeller. After expanding the space, adding custom white cabinetry designed by Urban Building Group, and installing an oversize quartzite island counter and a white subway-tile backsplash, Zeller began incorporating more design elements. The navy island is "so Michele," says the designer. "Islands are an opportunity to add a little drama to the kitchen. If you have a teeny island, you can't really do anything with lighting. Having the bigger island added a lot more style and functional-


ity." Woven blue and white counter stools from Serena & Lily play off the consistent blue and white color scheme throughout the home, while oversize brass lanterns by Visual Comfort and polished nickel hardware feel at once modern yet traditional.

The kitchen opens into the living areas of the home where Zeller seamlessly continued the established color palette. White built-in bookshelves provide ample storage while two Restoration Hardware sectionals swathed in a durable indoor/outdoor fabric are flanked by a pair of chairs in a navy and white Greek key pattern. Schumacher Chiang Mai Dragon pillows provide modern



pop to the classic lines of the space.

The adjacent dining room boasts many of the same elements—the large, round dining table and chairs, the sisal rug, and the Meg Braff wallpaper—while the living room feels fresh and new with two chesterfield sofas and modern artwork by artists Kerry Steele and Julie Robinson. The long, narrow room could easily have been made to function like a hallway as it connects both the foyer and the family room, but Zeller ditched that idea in favor of a more conversational seating area made ultra-comfortable with the addition of two shaggy fur stools floating seamlessly by the sofas and a pair of navy and brass velvet chairs.

In the end, the home is exactly what the McNeers wanted and needed: extra space for their family of six that meshed with the family's transitional and livable style. "Everything that we did with Traci in our previous home carried over wonderfully to this house," says Michele. "The home looks beautiful, but also functions incredibly well, and you can't ask for more than that with four young kids!" 



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