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THE BIG THINKERS ISSUE, STARRING: *BIG PLANS?*

CHANDRA NORTH + DALLAS + FORT WORTH + DESIGN + SKIP HOLLANDSWORTH  
+ STYLE + CHARLOTTE JONES ANDERSON + ART + ARCHITECTURE + FRISCO +  
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# AS TWISTERS

IT MAY SAY HILL COUNTRY ON THE OUTSIDE, BUT INSIDE, THIS PRESTON HOLLOW HOUSE — AND ITS PEOPLE — TELLS A DIFFERENT STORY ALTOGETHER

Eve Wiley was up against the impossible. She was living with her husband, Blake Wiley, in the place he had called home for 10 years. “I was a late addition to that house,” Eve says, of the New Orleans-style abode in Dallas’ gridded M Streets neighborhood. “I’ll just characterize it as amateur-art-collector-meets-eclectic-bachelor-pad.” The St. Patrick’s Day parties there drew almost 1,000 people. The Texas-OU parties? A 2,000-pound Texas Longhorn steer would be in the front yard. The writing was on the wall: They would eventually need a bigger place. (Hint, hint.) Besides, Eve says, “It’s hard to evolve a home from a pool-table house to a dining-table house.”

They found their ultimate upgrade in leafy Preston Hollow, in a clean-lined two-story with a Texas twist, all limestone and stucco and standing-seam roof. Dallas firm Bernbaum-Magadini Architects had designed the house with sliding window walls, large living spaces — indoors and out — even a modernist fireplace at one end of the capacious kitchen. It was perfect for the Wileys, who now number four instead of two. Son Hutton, almost 3, and daughter Scarlett, soon to be 6 months, have certainly upended things — so how to furnish such a place for

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BY ROB BRINKLEY PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEPHEN KARLISCH



a new brood? Their Realtor suggested Alice Cottrell, a Dallas designer known for her mastery of comfortable contemporary. Plywood-plank chairs? Steel settees? Cottrell has always gone for plush and plump, instead. For the young family's new digs, Cottrell, with collaborator Gary Hatch, had some big ideas. **THE PLAN** *Blake*: We had gathered a rather large file of magazine articles, Instagram posts and catalogs that conveyed the direction we wanted to go. From there, Alice did her magic. We never would have paired a 20-million-year-old, petrified-wood table with a Paul Smith striped bench — but Alice can do it and it looks incredible. **BIG CHANGES?** *Blake*: We were lucky and didn't need to do any major renovations. We added the frequency-pattern wallpaper to the dining room, changed out four chandeliers and two sconces, removed a cabinet in the kitchen, put a fence around the pool and added a special door for our Maltese, Honey. **FAVORITE THINGS** *Eve*: The live-edge wooden breakfast table in a crescent shape. It brings an earthy feel to the kitchen. This is where we gather as a family for meals, where some of our most intense game nights take place and where some of our best conversations happen. *Blake*: The Nazca tunic, which is the first piece you see when you enter the home. The idea that a Peruvian was wearing this robe around the Ica Valley coast a thousand years before Columbus set sail — and that it

has been passed down through so many generations — amazes me. I want to take it out of the frame and wear it, but Eve won't let me.

**FAVORITE SPACES** *Eve*: The kitchen. I love to cook, and our kitchen is set up so that I can cook while watching our children play outside. When the kids are older, they will be able to sit on the barstools and do their homework while we catch up on how their day went. There's also a sitting area by a fireplace that makes a great spot for reading a book — when we're able to find any free time. *Blake*: The great room. I love a good fireplace in the winter, and I love the way the sunlight plays through the room in the summer. There is also a Juliet balcony where Hutton likes to hide — or jump out and surprise us. **ART BY HEART** *Blake*: We both have to feel a connection to a piece, because it's a very intimate thing to have something in your home that you see daily and that is such a noticeable and constant visual. We never collect art to fill a blank wall. **GOOD MORNING** *Eve*: Our children tend to dictate when our days get started and end. If we're able to rise before they do, then a little morning meditation to clear the head always leads to a joyful and productive day. **HOME SWEET HOME** *Blake*: It's refined and sophisticated while also being livable and functional. For instance, Alice had the couches re-covered with outdoor fabric to be able to withstand Hutton's best efforts. We didn't want the house to be a museum.



PREVIOUS SPREAD Homeowners Blake and Eve Wiley. Behind them, an *Autobiography* triptych by Robert Rauschenberg, made in 1968. The imagery within traces the artist's life up to age 43, when the lithograph series was made. **THIS SPREAD**, opposite: Whitewashed pine ceilings, a stone fireplace and superior style: Designers Alice Cottrell and Gary Hatch devised a heady mix of contemporary art and furnishings, including reclining lounge chairs by de Sede, from Scott + Cooner, a Bright Group bench covered in Paul Smith's Big Stripe fabric and a vintage Fortuny tripod lamp, background, from Sputnik Modern. **LEFT** In the entry, a tunic from the Nazca culture, from Sputnik Modern, likely made between 500 and 800 A.D.

PLYWOOD-PLANK CHAIRS? STEEL SETTEES? NO WAY. DESIGNER ALICE COTTRELL HAS ALWAYS GONE FOR THE PLUSH AND THE PLUMP, INSTEAD.



“WE DIDN’T WANT THE HOUSE TO BE A MUSEUM.”

—HOMEOWNER BLAKE WILEY

**THIS PAGE, top:** In the combination kitchen-breakfast-sitting room, a roaring fire for crisp spring days and cold winter nights. The surround is steel. The lounge chairs and sofa are from Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams; the sofa is covered in outdoor fabric by Perennials so the family “can clean the SpaghettiOs off with Formula 409,” says interior designer Alice Cottrell. The coffee tables are by B&B Italia. In the foreground, left and right, a Bacco chair and barstools from Design Within Reach, all in kid-friendly Knoll vinyl. **LEFT High, meet**

**low:** On a sleek credenza from West Elm, made with reclaimed shipping pallets, two exceptional blown-glass lamps made in the 1960s by La Murrina in Murano, Italy. The pair was found at Brown & Co. in Dallas. **OPPOSITE PAGE** Fine dining, indeed. Kelly Wearstler’s Cubist chandeliers dangle over a massive wooden table from Mecox. Around it, Bright Group’s Eno chairs and a vintage Dunbar wing chair, re-covered in Knoll Luxe’s Arezzo velvet. On the wall, Frequency wallpaper by Innovations.

