



The formal living room boasts two walls of floor-to-ceiling windows that offer spectacular views of both the front and backyard garden and the pool. An oversized slipcovered sofa and curvaceous coffee table allow ample room to take in the views. Playing off the sofa color, Beth painted the interior of the antique cabinet lilac. OPPOSITE: Nature takes center stage in the family room as sweeping views seamlessly blend inside and outside spaces together. OPPOSITE BOTTOM: Landscape designer Rob Garrard shaped the shrubbery in the front yard into geometric forms to correspond with the architectural design of the home.

Text by PAIGE TOWNLEY Photography by JEAN ALLSOPP

# HOUSE & GARDEN

*A thoughtful renovation—both inside and out—turned a tired mid-century home into a modern masterpiece.*



When interior designer Beth Dillard first laid eyes on this mid-century modern home in Mountain Brook, it was quite evident that its original look was lost and the décor was anything but modern. It also lacked any continuity—the style, flooring, and fixtures changed from room to room. “I couldn’t get a feel for what the décor was supposed to be at all,” she explains. “The home had beautiful bones to work with. We just had to figure out how to make it flow.”

Beth’s mission was to update the late 1960s/early 1970s abode while staying true



“The family had some *great pieces* that just didn’t work in their current form. We *repurposed* many of them and incorporated them in other rooms. *The combination of the old and new* lets us create what a mid-century modern house should look like.”

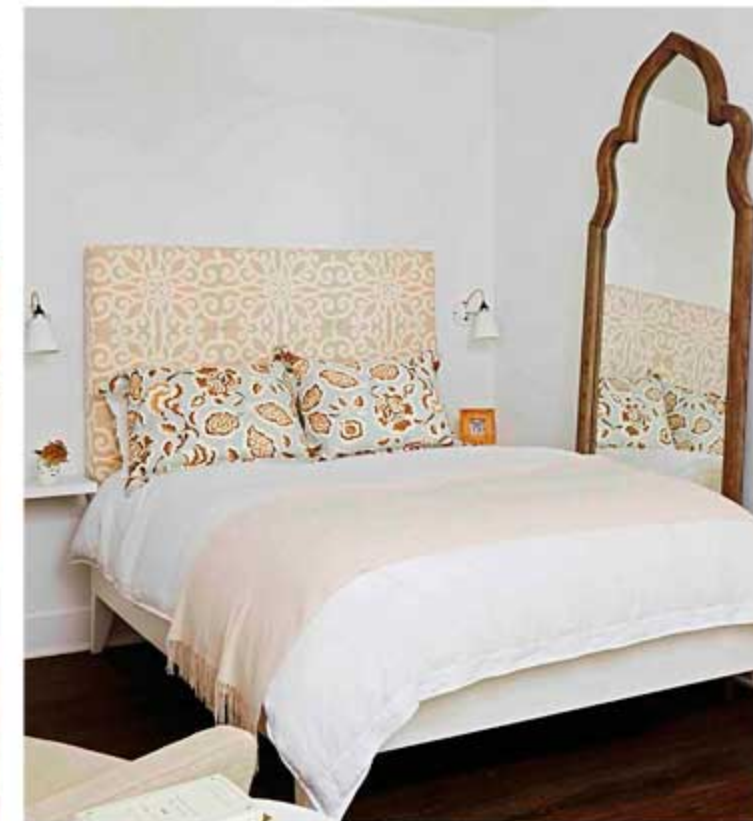
—Interior Designer Beth Dillard

Original paneled wood walls in the kitchen's dining area were painted white to refresh the space. A niche holds a built-in console—perfect for serving or display. Beth shopped her client's existing collection for the interior furnishings. The breakfast table originally sat in the living room. Two white leather office chairs, redressed with nailhead trim, became head chairs. A new industrial chandelier completes the modern look.

BELOW: The dining room furnishings are important family heirlooms, so Beth found a way to modernize the room while adding interest and contrast. Chairs, originally whitewashed, now sport a black finish with reupholstered white leather seats. Gray and cream floral-patterned wallpaper from Osborne & Little lends a softness to the room's hard edges.



BELOW: Texture comes into play in the family room with the natural abaca rug, driftwood lamp, limestone fireplace surround, and broad green leaves of the fiddleleaf fig, which references the backyard garden seen from the room's vast windows.



ABOVE: In a guest bedroom, a pop of pattern and color in the pillows and upholstered headboard creates just the right amount of contrast against the otherwise serene, all-white surroundings.



ABOVE: A modern fountain surrounded by lush greenery in the front of the home creates a peaceful simplicity that welcomes guests as they arrive at the front door.

“The best way to *update* a home without losing the *mid-century modern* feel is to *incorporate furnishings with clean lines*

that don't speak to a certain period.”

—Interior Designer Beth Dillard



LEFT: To create a dramatic mood, Beth painted the bedroom Sherwin Williams 6005 Folkstone and accented the dark hue with sunny yellow on the headboard, chair, and artwork. Organic textures such as the sheepskin rug and rattan basket add softness. BELOW: A custom steel bookshelf showcases clean lines and a variety of personal items including artwork, photos, books, and accessories. Beth continued the modern theme with the bubble chandelier.



to its roots. To start, she focused on the basics and brought consistency to the entire home with simple but strategic changes. Embracing the existing heavy wooden beams, Beth lightened up the walls of the lofty spaces with a fresh coat of Benjamin Moore's Chantilly Lace. (Trim is Benjamin Moore Super White.) She changed all of the hardware and updated bathrooms with new tile and fixtures.

In each room, the designer played to modernism with a singular thread of color that ranges in tones and shades from eggplant to merlot. In the formal living space, a bold purple sofa grounds the room while a touch of lilac fills the back wall of the bookcase. The purple hues spill over to the family room as accents in the patterned upholstery and velvet aubergine pillows. In both places, Beth leaned towards standout pieces with interesting lines such as the Verellen sectional sofa, oval coffee table, twiggy floor lamps, and linen club chairs. Here, and throughout the house, she contrasted white walls and upholstery with black finishes and pattern.

Bedrooms showcase custom upholstered headboards and purposeful furnishings. In these private spaces, Beth put the focus on contrast with strong punches of one color such as the mustard yellow against almost-black walls. “Black is always great to bring into a space because it gives a room depth,” she explains. “It can also span across any design.”

## GET TO KNOW BETH DILLARD

Beth Dillard focuses on creating ethic-chic interior environments, a design style she fell in love with through years of traveling to the south of France. “My inspiration also comes from the simplicity of nature,” says the Rosemary Beach, Florida-based designer. “Nature is the best example of great design. Its beauty is in its imperfections, scents, and texture.” In addition, Beth feels a home should be multi-sensual with visual refinement and texture in fabrics, rugs, and furniture. She works closely with clients to make sure this ambience fits perfectly into their specific house plan and lifestyle. “For me, it's essential that the finished design is a beautiful family home, but it really goes beyond just that,” she says. “The design should be the reflection of the personalities that inhabit the home.”

**Beth Dillard • [notremaisondesigngroup.com](http://notremaisondesigngroup.com) • [beth@notremaisondesigngroup.com](mailto:beth@notremaisondesigngroup.com)**

