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DETAILS ON PAGE 16.

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Jet-Setting Style

These Bentonville homeowners take their favorite global living experiences and create a fresh, functional and stylish home perfect for entertaining and family time

When looking for design and decorating inspiration, homeowners today have a world of resources easily available – from Pinterest to Houzz, from a professional’s input to a walk through a friend’s home, there are myriad options to absorb. For Bentonville homeowners Zuzana Koharyova and her husband, Harsh Kalsi, however, it was family life combined with global experiences that primarily solidified their unique perspective for their home’s design, décor and furnishings, as well as its location.



Photo by Houston Evans



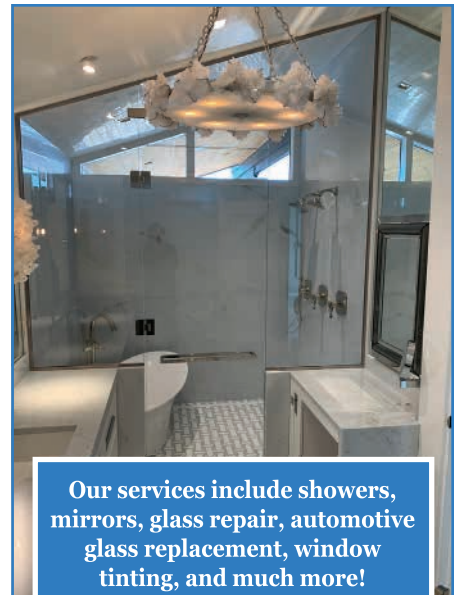


Dining Room

Zuzana and Harsh have lived in places across the globe. Zuzana is from Slovakia; Harsh was born in India but grew up primarily in Uganda, where his family moved when he was a young child. Zuzana and Harsh both attended college in the United States and later met while working at the same company in Houston. A little more than a year after meeting, the couple moved to Dubai and, three years later, they married in 2011. After a move back to Houston, another job relocation landed the couple right here in Northwest Arkansas. And, despite a lifetime of renting, the couple quickly decided that this was the perfect locale to raise their

daughter, Lara, now 6, and build their first home.

From the couple's first visit, Zuzana says, they were immediately drawn to the area's family-friendly vibe, easy commutes to and from work, and access to offerings such as Broadway shows, concerts, shopping and restaurants that are similar to that of larger cities where they had lived. "We knew this was a place we would want to call home for a long time, and thus decided to build," Zuzana says. "I'm sure another international adventure will eventually tempt us, but for now we are very happy with Northwest Arkansas as our home."



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Initially, Zuzana and Harsh had plans to buy an existing home, but after countless hours looking at neighborhoods, new construction and older homes, Zuzana says, "Everything began to look the same and we didn't want a cookie-cutter home with neighbors only a few feet away."

An open lot in Bentonville's Chattin Valley neighborhood, with easy access to their offices and the heart of the city, was just the find the well-traveled couple was looking for. "We still have neighbors, but they aren't on top of us," Zuzana says. "And, we really just like this neighborhood."



Influenced by their travel experiences and recognizing how different countries have different priorities in the way spaces are used and presented in layout, Zuzana says, "I think we had the opportunity to see a lot of things that we liked versus what we didn't, and what worked well for us and what didn't. That shaped what we wanted – something open and bright."

To get the style just right, shortly after Zuzana and Harsh signed the contract to build with Parsley Custom Homes, she contacted interior architect and designer Darlene Nicolau, owner of Nico Interior Design in Bentonville.

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Master Bedroom



Lara's Bedroom and Bathroom Vanity

“We knew we wanted our home to be unique and different, but it’s not like we had a bunch of ideas in our head, so we wanted her to help us through that process of creating something else, something different,” Zuzana says. “Darlene’s help was definitely instrumental in creating this home. I don’t think there’s a single spot she didn’t touch in some way. Maybe I could have done a small percentage of this, but there’s no way I could have done all of this.”

Zuzana and Harsh may not have had the full specifics of the design hashed out before the build, but Darlene says they did have a clear vision of their goals – a key element for helping her guide the couple in creating the home’s cohesive look. “Zuzana was clear that she wanted to have unique features in the house,” Darlene says. “They knew they wanted a feature wall and some interesting shelving. From the beginning I kept that in mind, and the other features just sort of evolved over time as Zuzana started to better understand how they were going to use each space.”

In the living room, sleek and sophisticated recessed shelving flanks the one-of-a-kind 3D feature wall that, uncommonly, yet intentionally, does not include a fireplace. “I feel strongly about separating the fireplace and TV – and so does Zuzana,” Darlene explains. “This decision then inspired Zuzana and Harsh to identify the unique idea of the see-through fireplace that is between the living and dining rooms, and I got to help them logistically plan that and put it into place.”

Wanting all rooms to reflect and support a clean, simple and understated lifestyle, Zuzana says that it was also important to include features that were practical, would work well for their daughter and appeal to Zuzana’s eye for style. In Lara’s room, Darlene took Zuzana’s request for a built-in platform bed and a “hang-out space” and created a beautiful custom design to carry Lara through her teenage years.

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Lara's Room

Even the upstairs game room is a combination of high style and supreme functionality – and includes an art and play space especially for Lara. “We spend a lot of time up in the art room,” Zuzana says. “From the start, we knew that we wanted a pingpong table, a TV and a couch upstairs. The art area wasn’t quite planned, but I knew that my daughter needed something upstairs to entertain her – otherwise, after two minutes she would want to leave. Darlene designed the art space and I think it’s one of the most awesome places in the house. It’s the perfect combination of a child’s space that really doesn’t look like a child’s space. It’s so nice and pleasing to the eye.”

Having lived in their 3,500-square-foot home for just less than a year, Zuzana says that while the building process was a bit stressful at times, she and Harsh enjoyed the opportunity to take their globally inspired ideas and see them go from paper to reality. “That process was kind of cool to me about building rather than buying,” she says. “I’ve asked Harsh multiple times, ‘Is there anything you would change if we could go back in time?’ And, neither of us can come up with an answer. Really, it turned out just the way we wanted it to.” ■

HOME PROS USED

Interior Architect + Designer:

Darlene Nicolau, Nico Interior Design

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