

A

RUE
SPRING 2024
P.98

B

T

H

O

T

S

E

B

THE INTERIOR
RENOVATION OF
A TUDOR-STYLE
COTTAGE WAS A
FULL-FLEDGED
FAMILY AFFAIR.

O



W

hen Decker and Nina Sachse first stepped inside this historic Dallas home, dubbed “The Abbott House,” it was love at first sight. That was back in 2011, and the 1920s Tudor-style home was overflowing with charm: The steep pitched roof had overlapping, front-facing gables over a brick facade, and arched doors and windows. It also had only three bedrooms and two bathrooms—perfect for newlyweds, but less than ideal for a growing family, which

would soon include daughter Rose and son Sam. “We knew that we did not want to move, or tear down a 100-year-old house, but the question was how to expand our home while preserving the place we knew and loved, or at least as much of it as we could,” Nina says. “We turned to Cameron Smith of San Antonio-based Smithdish Architecture to answer that question.”

Cameron proposed adding a second story to accommodate three bedrooms and three baths, which then offered ample space for two large living areas and a guest room on the ground level. The original 2,450 square-foot cottage was eloquently transformed into 4,250 square-feet of well-

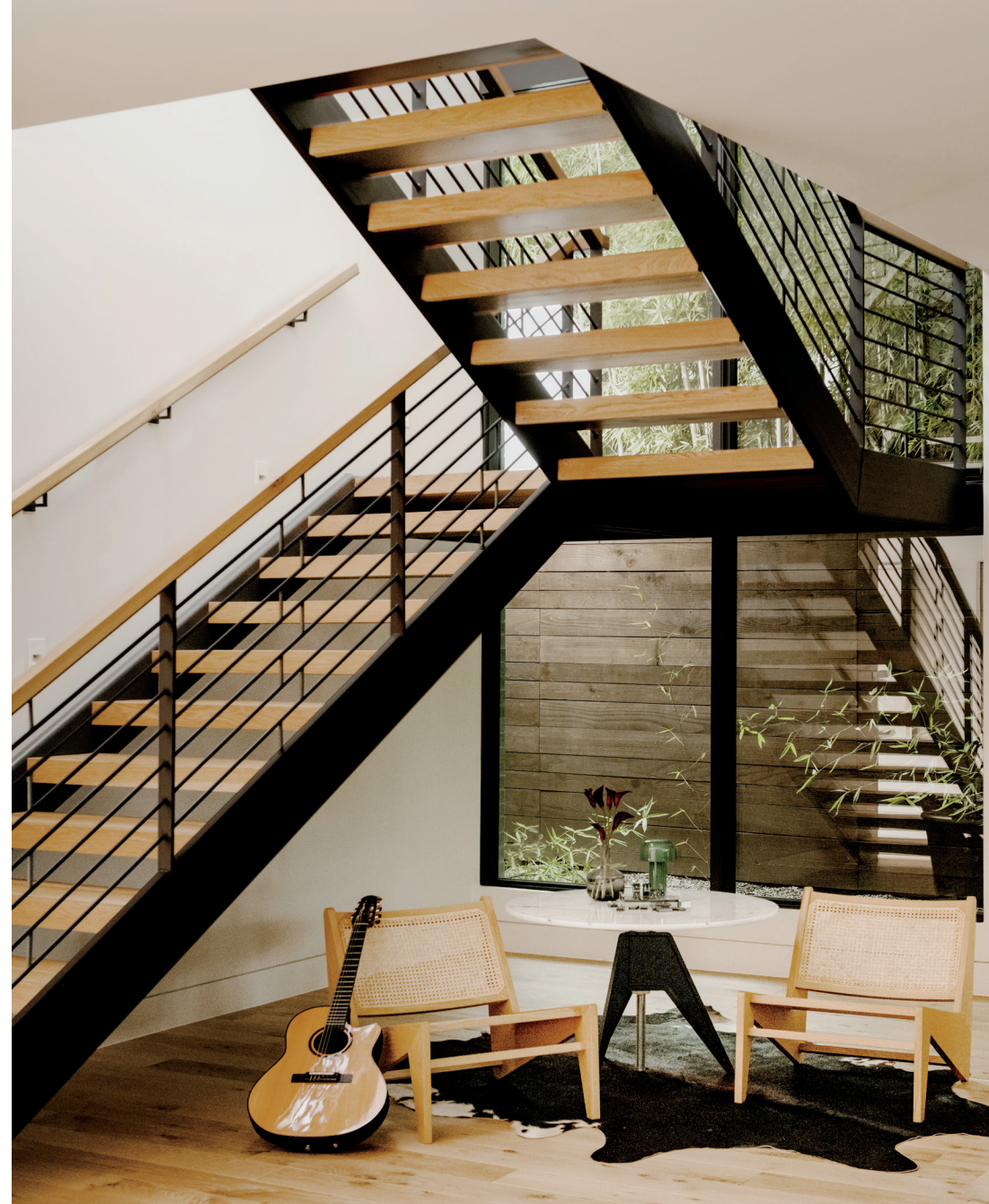
planned living space, while preserving the front facade.

For the interiors, it was a no-brainer whom Nina would call: Decker’s mom, and her mother-in-law, Beth Hughes Sachse of Tulsa-based design studio and showroom, SR Hughes (SRH). “Design is in their blood,” Beth says of the young family, “as SR Hughes was founded by my mother and has been in our family for over 40 years, while Nina and her mother both started careers as fashion buyers in women’s apparel. The shared and deep appreciation for design and exquisite style was a constant source of symbiotic inspiration.”

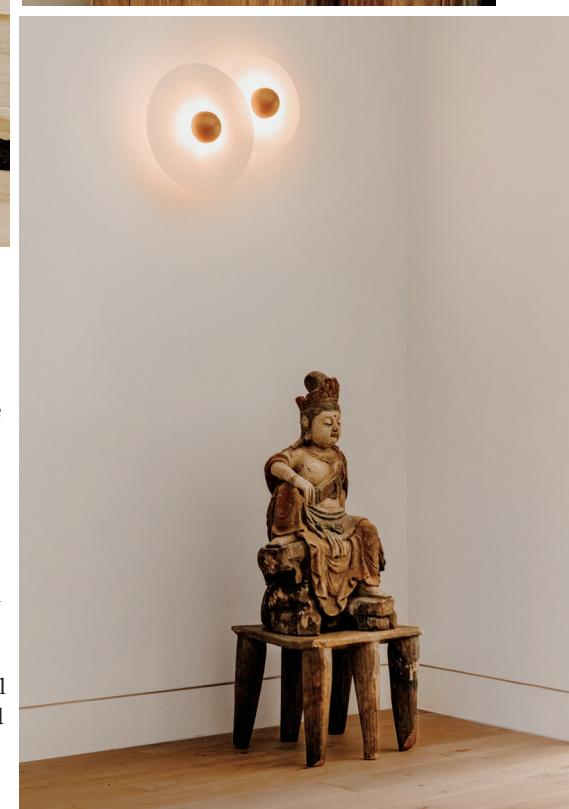
The scope of SRH’s work entailed a whole-house interior design from conception through completion—which included every surface, fixture, finish, and piece of furniture. Beth worked alongside SRH designer Cassie Johnson. “With Beth and Nina being family, they spent a large chunk of time outside of



The stone is the star in the kitchen and dining area. “It took the whole team to find the right marble for this kitchen,” interior designer Cassie Johnson says. “We knew we wanted a statement, but not something overpowering. We ended up finding the perfect Arabescato Corchia slab from Pacific Shore Stones in San Antonio after many, many trips to the stone yard. It’s perfect.” The island pendants are by Apparatus and the stools are by Poltrona Frau. The dining room also features lighting from Apparatus, with a B&B Italia table and chairs by Cassina.



“We love a curved detail,” Cassie says. “You will find this element throughout the home, but the guest bath vanity displays it well, giving the room an inviting touch.” Homeowner Nina Sachse says the staircase is a functional piece of art. “It’s made of handcrafted steel and wood, backed by floor-to-ceiling windows that showcase a relaxing green wall of bamboo, marrying the outside to the inside.”



office hours working through every detail of this home. I came in for the technicality: tile layouts, vanity elevations, furniture floor plans. For this project, they were the beauty, I was the brain,” Cassie says.

Though Decker, a lawyer and musician, is well represented in the home with a gorgeous music room that prominently features his guitars and antique baby grand piano, the house is fashion-forward—no doubt a nod to Nina. “The feeling of the house is like a well-appointed outfit. It is thoughtful, creative, curated, and comfortable—very reflective of the family who lives there,” says Beth. Cassie adds, “Here’s the thing about Deck and Nina—their

wardrobes are impeccable and well put together. Their home is no different. It’s chic, sophisticated, and centered around family and everyday function.”

Today, The Abbott House is a unique example of beauty, history, and family working together. “It’s such a great place to come home to,” Nina emphasizes. “When you walk in the door, it invites you to take a breath and take refuge in any of the cozy spaces that SR Hughes and our entire design and construction team took so much time and put so much energy into creating. Crawl into the Saarinen Womb Chair and read a book or hide out under the stairs next to a wall of bamboo. There are so many good spots to just be.”

SR Hughes co-founder and interior designer Beth Hughes Sachse has been at it for 40-plus years, and she's especially proud of where the business has gone. "What I love most about the SRH of today is collaborating with our talented SR Hughes design team to make spaces comfortable, artful, and uniquely personal for each client," she explains. A perfect example of this personalization is the music room. "It's a space for the family to showcase their talent and love for music, while comfortably entertaining guests," Cassie adds. The floor lamp is by Moooi and the rug is cc-tapis. The Womb Chair is Knoll.





"The floor-to-ceiling windows in the primary suite look out into the canopy of an ancient pecan tree shading the entire backyard; it's a very peaceful setting," Nina says. "For this space, SR Hughes selected one of our favorite chandeliers in the house, Meshmatics by Moooi, which puts out the most magical light on the ceiling at night."

"Designing for family was such a fun and easy experience," Beth says. "We talked and met often throughout the project, and, in fact, we still do! We all differ slightly in our taste and style, but there is total respect and trust all around, so decisions always felt easy. Nina and Decker are both very decisive and intentional, which helped keep things moving along. We spent many memorable hours discussing the design of this home over the course of two-plus years, and we feel very fortunate that we got to share in the dream every step of the way."

