

Dallas child

THE MAGAZINE PARENTS LIVE BY IN DALLAS AND
COLLIN COUNTIES

June 2010

meet mom
next door
melanie auld

**plastic and
fantastic?**
the effect your
surgery has
on your kids



81 COOL THINGS TO DO
this summer



serenity now

wendy konradi

WORDS LAUREN NIEBES
PHOTOGRAPHY KEVIN DOTOLO

Most people long for a sense of calm in their lives—at least most folks with children. While controlling the calm-factor at work usually resides in the “out of my hands” list, a little zen in the living space is a different story. But upon entering Wendy and Michael Konradi’s University Park home, an embracing sense of serenity sets in—a coup d’état for a couple with two little ones (Camden, 5, and Carrigan, 2). How did they manage to create such zen after just one year in their chic abode?

Wendy, a senior designer at Emily Summers Design Associates, doesn’t interpret tranquility as floor-to-ceiling boring beige. Instead, the intrepid design artist mixes and matches neutrals, playing with dark and light to create “a fresh, crisp contrast” throughout the home, almost a chiaroscuro effect, all the while keeping the sense of calm intact. Clean white and putty (accented by blues and greens, strategically placed on everything from pillows, to lamps and chair seats), earthy wooden accents, such as her ebony-stained hardwood floors, tables and accessories, adorn rooms throughout the home.

WENDY, CAMDEN AND CARRIGAN (with one of her favorite toys) sitting on the bricklayer’s door-turned-coffee-table in the family room.

nesting.





If that picture seems too perfect to be true, we assure you it's not. The clean, crisp white walls and white furniture (the couch included—although we'll call it an off white) seem a feat of accomplishments with two "very active and very friendly" kiddos running about the house waving fistfuls of juice. About that couch—we looked closely—it's in good condition and still stain-free. But how? The designing mom shares her secret with a knowing grin—FiberCare Inc., a seal that resists staining, allows juice to roll right off fabric.

Interestingly, even with the latest and greatest designs at her fingertips, Wendy is drawn to "stuff with age and character." And looking about the home, her admission is validated: A passed-down Wurlitzer piano from Wendy's grandmother sits near the family room; an old wooden bricklayer's table is employed as a coffee table in the family room (with bumpers on all edges to safeguard kids from jagged edges); and a mid-century modern dining room set enhances the mood of the room with its polished warmth. The 1940s home itself also adds to "that character thing," the native Texan explains. It, too, has a modern edge to it.

It's not only character-filled objects that give the home the Konradi touch; Wendy also provided the home with her own brand of mod-ish flair with Vitra Algae (think sleek, plastic algae) hanging

on her dining room wall, a chalkboard wall in their laundry room hallway (think scheduling zen,) and a black and white photograph by Allison V. Smith (a personal friend of the Konradis) of a simple school room that hangs on the living room wall (above the infamous much-too-clean off-white couch).

Step into the family room and the darks and lights that define the rest of the home are reversed. Here we find earth tones, with a deep chocolate brown couch and a speckled light khaki colored carpet. Looking around, the toys are sparse until Carrigan opens a door to their built-in cabinet and reveals a stash of toys ... from which she plucks out a pint-sized toy cell phone and purse. The accessories remain with her the rest of the afternoon. The rest of the room is a tribute to the places and faces that have influenced the Konradis' lives. The photos adorning the walls are from various trips they have taken over the years, and on the table sits Michael's first-anniversary gift to Wendy—a Tomari Akio design book, a personal favorite that aptly fits the requisite first-anniversary "paper gift."

The family's home is a place of comfort and style. Wendy's way of mixing old with new, and light with dark, creates an overall warmth to the home this family of four shares. It's a style that matches the family's inviting and genuine personality to a tee. ☺

ABOVE / CAMDEN FLIES THROUGH THE AIR as his sister peeks out from behind a chair in the family's living room.

BELOW / CARRIGAN'S SOFT PINK room, featuring a laser-cut vintage fabric tree from the Netherlands.
OPPOSITE / THE CHALKBOARD WALL in the hallway leading to the laundry room displays a cheery message.





WENDY'S FAVORITE ...

COLOR TO DESIGN

WITH At the moment, grey with pops of chartreuse or lac

FLOWERS TO DISPLAY AROUND THE HOUSE

Dogwood branches, maiden-hair fern

ACCENT PIECES TO USE IN DESIGN

Ceramics. In a very sleek, modern space, they can add texture and provide contrast.



PLACE TO SHOP FOR HOME FURNISHINGS

Vinya, Again Studio, Moderne Antiques

GO-TO DESIGN BOOK

Jean Michel Frank. His details are immaculate.

HOUSE-WARMING GIFT TO GIVE

You can only do this in the spring, but Avant Garden has **monarch butterfly cocoons** suspended from a branch in a stunning arrangement. It looks like a piece of jade with dots of gold and in a few days a monarch butterfly emerges and can be set free. A particularly great gift for a family with small children—kids love it! And it's a great symbol for new beginnings!

ERA OF DESIGN

The French 1930s and 40s

