

NASHVILLE LIFESTYLES

AT HOME

SPRING/SUMMER 2016

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not once but twice*

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BELMONT *Beauty*

Designer Jessica Davis of JL Design mixes styles and eras in her foursquare home.

BY SUZANNE COREY. PHOTOS BY LESLEE MITCHELL.



When Jessica Davis first saw the brown and purple, historic foursquare home on Belmont Boulevard that she would eventually make her own, she was a new mom to two young boys. And while most people would opt out of an inevitable fixer-upper, Davis *really* likes a challenge—so she bought the 4,000-square-foot, three-level property.

“It needed some love, but being a designer, I just said ‘yes,’” says Davis, who is the owner of JL Design, an interior design firm in Berry Hill.

Raised in a family of artists, Davis says she was always encouraged to be creative. She started her design career midway through college when she was first introduced to the field.

“It was a natural fit,” she says. “Because of my background in fine art, I feel like I bring something more out of the box to the table. I see a home as a canvas and I am able to incorporate line, texture, and balance into each project.”

In her own home she has created an artistic haven with bright colors, mix-and-match design elements, and a generally free-spirited attitude. (One day, she sat down and drew flowers on the wall with magic markers—with beautiful results.)

“I love whimsical. And I don’t really have rules. I want the kids to feel like this is creative and fun, not stifled,” she says.

Because she stays busy with her business and family, Davis has taken her time when it comes to projects inside her own home, which was built in 1908. Before moving in, she fixed the eyesores throughout the space, but the rest is coming along slowly.

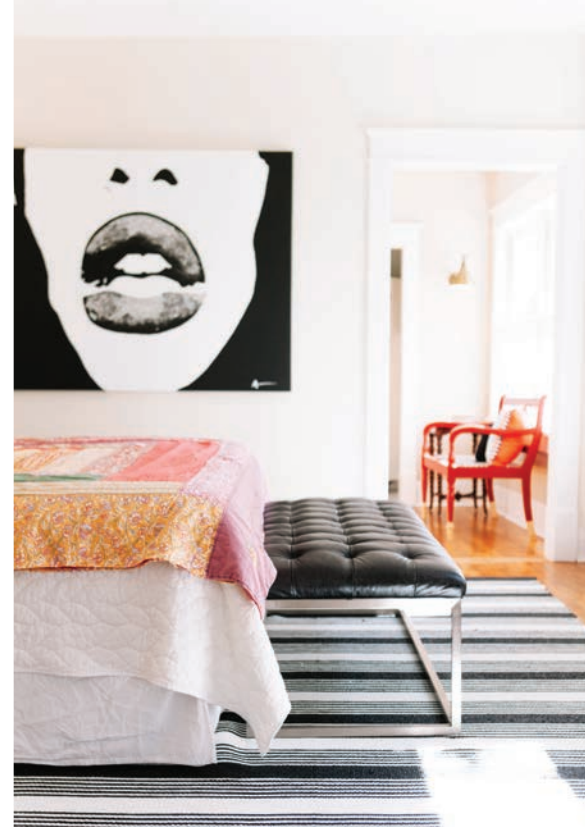
“I basically get to the point where I can’t stand it anymore and then I fix it. Or a pipe will have to burst,” she laughs. The house has plenty of potential—Davis is already dreaming of the basement she will finish when her boys are older or the small bedroom on the third floor that she’d like to transform. >>

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Thankfully, the previous owner didn't gut the house but instead left several original features throughout. The floors and windows are original, as are several cabinets, doors, and hardware, meaning Davis came in with the perfect canvas for mixing different styles and eras. In one room she's placed vintage toys from a trip to Denmark on a shelf that sits above a chair she refurbished from Goodwill. There's also a couch from Restoration Hardware and a midcentury Holstebro light fixture from Gilt.

One of Davis's favorite pieces is her 1910 piano from Nashville Piano

Rescue in East Nashville.

"Everyone should know about them," she says. "They travel all over the United States saving pianos and bringing them back to life. It's a Nashville gem."

She purchased the piano to go with the era of the house but finished the room in a vintage modern style with a rug from All Modern, a coat rack from West Elm, and her own art.

"All in all it is a great space and a space that can reflect who we are as a family," she says. "I really love the neighborhood and hope to be able to stay for years to come."

