



# Home+ away

Oct  
+Nov  
2024

## 30 home

AN EARLY 20TH CENTURY HOME IS MODESTLY UPDATED TO MODERN SENSIBILITIES, WHILE RETAINING HISTORIC CHARM.

## 40 away

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# Whimsical Bones

Modern Touches to Timeless Architecture

WORDS CODI CHEN | PHOTOS MOLLY CULVER



Burrowed inside the historic district of the East Cesar Chavez neighborhood, Jessica Love, principal designer and creator of Urbane Design, has masterfully remodeled a 1910 home, transforming it into a whimsical haven that not only honors its storied past but also embraces a modern elegance.

**S**tepping into this century-old house, the words playful, bright, and chic automatically come to mind, certainly not the language typically used when discussing historic spaces. The young homeowners were drawn to this neighborhood and wanted to keep the home's original charm, but it was in dire need of major updates. Jessica was hired to ensure the home's rich history remained intact, which included restoring the original longleaf pine floors, clawfoot tub, doors,

trim, hardware, and beadboard ceiling. "We used gorgeous stone and other natural materials to ensure that the new elements harmonized with the home's century-old bones," Jessica adds.

By the end of the remodel process, the homeowners were stunned by the transformation. It was the home they originally fell in love with but now completely personalized to them. "They love the chinoiserie style and playful colors. We wanted to bridge the gap between historical value, modern touches, and femininity," explains Jessica.

When walking into the kitchen, the original high ceilings provided a beautiful canvas for Jessica's vision. The French Blue cabinets, reminiscent of a soft periwinkle, add a pop of playful elegance, perfectly complementing the home's historical essence. "We incorporated a specialty wine cabinet, built-in spice racks, and an under-mount sink to maximize space and reduce clutter. We also added

a custom roll-out island cart to replace a traditional fixed island for convenience," Jessica says. This stylish space has garnered acclaim, notably winning the 2024 NARI CotY kitchen design award on a regional and national level.

While the entire home was remodeled from the inside out, the primary bathroom stands out as favorite. Originally cramped and outdated, it was transformed into a functional and luxurious retreat, featuring a full shower and bathtub enclosure, while increasing storage options. Modern elements like a bidet were added, and the original laundry chute was cleverly retained, blending practicality with preservation.

Despite the many challenges, including navigating supply chains during the pandemic and working with Austin's Historic Committee, Jessica successfully maneuvered through the complex remodel process. The result is a home that not only respects its 1912 origins





**RESTORING WITH A CONSCIENCE:** Urbane Design placed sustainability at the forefront during this remodel, making thoughtful choices that honored the environment and the home's historical integrity. Rather than opting for new materials, they repaired the longleaf pine flooring and sourced reusable materials, such as reclaimed wood for the primary bedroom, demonstrating that sustainability and style coexist beautifully.

but also offers a vibrant and contemporary living space for the new homeowners.

This stunning remodel in one of East Austin's historic districts not only perfectly encapsulates the homeowners' style but also stands as a model of sustainable, thoughtful design. Jessica and the Urbane Design team's meticulous attention to detail and respect for the home's history has created a space that honors the past while embracing the present, ensuring its charm will endure for generations to come. **E**

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