

DOWNTOWN: IT'S NOT JUST
FOR TOURISTS ANYMORE

SGT. YVONNE VANN: TRAGEDY
PROMPTS NEW DEDICATION

San Antonio

MAGAZINE | SEPTEMBER 2012

IDEAS, TRENDS
AND TIPS FROM
THE PROS TO
TURN YOUR
HOUSE INTO
A LIVING SPACE
YOU LOVE

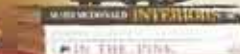
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EXPERT SAYS



Alexandra Matthews,
on the magic of lighting, *Lucifer*
Lighting, luciferlighting.com



WHEN A ROOM IS UPDATED it often involves painting, hanging something on a wall or adding new furniture or a rug, but without light accenting these things, the impact can be lost. Lighting can make a room look bigger or crisper, or create a room within a room.

DECORATIVE LIGHTING like chandeliers or lamps get a lot more attention than architectural lighting, but it shouldn't be ignored. For example, fixtures that are flush with ceilings or walls—what we call zero sight lines—are popular right now. Also look at the hardware and finishings. Unifying the look of fixtures with other hardware in a room can bring it all together.

WHEN IN DOUBT, call in a lighting designer. They can help take into account what kind and how large of a space you're lighting. A 15-foot ceiling and an 18-foot ceiling need different things. The International Association of Lighting Design (iald.org) has a searchable list of registered industrial professionals who can provide guidance, especially with things like energy codes, which can be difficult to navigate.

LOOK TO MAGAZINES and websites for ideas and to learn a little more. Great industry magazines include *Architectural Lighting* and *Mondo Arc*.



A couple's contemporary collection of works by regional artists, including this piece by Waddy Armstrong, adds a modern edge to a home originally built in the post-WW II era.

Case Study

A small post-WWII era tract home was transformed with contemporary vision and a keen understanding of the active family's lifestyle by Tobin Smith, one of the region's architectural "young guns." Smith then partnered with fellow young talents, Clay Hefly and Kristin Wiese Hefly to form a super group of sorts they call Dado Group. These talented practitioners of the design/build integrated approach are creating habitats for living, recreation and enterprise.

After purchasing a home in 2004 in a quiet neighborhood lined with

mature trees, Katie and John Case made a few modifications and settled in. Several years and two young sons later, the family needed more space. They decided to explore the possibility of transforming their existing house into a home that would respond to their future needs and excite their design sensibilities.

"It's a great neighborhood and we love our neighbors," John says. Katie adds, "There are so many young children on our block who our sons can grow up with. We really did not want to move."

The objective was to sensitively add to the existing composition in a manner that would not overwhelm