



# A DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH

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PHOTOS BY MATT CORNELIUS

Finding the perfect home often means seeing beyond the surface and straight to the potential. And sometimes, in looking for the potential, the perfect home might just find you. For Amber and Byron Stewart, what started as a financial investment has turned into an even better investment in family and friends. When they first purchased their home, it was a three bedroom, two and a half bath with a mother-in-law suite and no garage, but they have turned it into an incredible six bedroom, five and a half bath, entertainer's dream.

With their uncommon ability to see the full potential of the home, the Stewarts were able to highlight the best parts. First, the beautiful white brick home welcomes guests with a large circle drive

that allows plenty of parking whenever friends or family come to visit. Inside, guests continue to be welcomed by the spacious open concept living provided throughout.

The home's original living room is now a large dining room, complete with a custom dining table. An old, enclosed porch was completely reborn into a large family room that connects the dining and kitchen areas. The Stewarts seamlessly created the new addition in a manner that allowed them to organically update the floor plan.

Amber credits Byron with most of the design choices. "I have to give Byron all the credit on the layout and most of the design. When we bought the house, our original thought was to flip it, but the previous owners had converted the garage into a mother-in-law suite,



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and we knew in this area we really needed it to have a garage. So, we decided to keep the square footage and add a garage. Byron decided that with that, we should also add the upstairs. About halfway through the remodel was when we then decided that we should keep the house and finish it to our style."

As for aesthetics, the Stewarts chose an overall color palette that mixes both warm and cool neutrals. By choosing this as the background, the house feels clean and modern while also welcoming and laid back. The neutral background also gave them the opportunity

to mix metals throughout and to add bold color with their choices in art and other decor. You can find pops of blue, yellow and even orange. One grouping of art is above a table flanked with orange lamps, drawing in the subtle use of orange from the rugs and pillows of nearby spaces. "I had seen a piece of art that was a mix of sizes and liked the concept, but not the exact piece. So, I talked to a local artist and told her that we wanted something similar but gave her free range with textures and color scheme and I love how it turned out," explained Amber. Another favorite decorative feature is



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a beautiful mirror wall in the dining room that was created using a variety of mirrors in multiple shapes and sizes. The mirrors not only add a fun quality to the space, but help to accentuate the vaulted ceiling, as well as the stunning pair of black and gold light fixtures that hang over the dining table.

In addition to using repetition in their color palette, the Stewarts created cohesion by adding two brick fireplaces that match the fireplace in the dining room. The home now has a fireplace in the dining room, the new living room addition and outside on the covered back porch. The three fireplaces line up down the same side of the house, leading the eye out to the backyard. Further enhancing the open concept of the home and increasing flow for



entertaining is the glass wall system between the family room and the porch that can be opened completely.

The backyard is every entertainer's dream and boasts plenty of covered and uncovered areas framed by the large yard and wooded view. Walking out the back doors, you are greeted by an expansive covered area with space for grilling and plenty of seating. Further from the house is an inviting wooden deck with more seating, along with an uncovered dining area with two eight-top tables. All three spaces flow seamlessly alongside a pool and jacuzzi area that has a water feature at the far end. "We had a pool at our old house, so once we decided the house was going to be ours, I told Byron, 'If we're moving out there, we're going to put in a pool,' and I'm really

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glad we did. Just this past weekend, we were out of town, but a friend called and asked if we would mind if they came over and went swimming. I was like, of course, come on, use the pool! I love having people over and being able to share our space," Amber said.

Back inside, the welcome feeling of the home continues. Warmth was created in sweet baby Wells' room by using lots of wood tones accented with navy blue and soft white. His adjacent bathroom was another space that received a complete facelift during the remodel. Byron and Amber absorbed some unused space to open the bathroom up to serve both nearby bedrooms. They debated whether to add a tub or leave only a shower. Amber said, "We were going to make it a walk-in shower, but I told Byron it really needed to be a tub. This is going to be a family house and people with kids need a tub." It

was almost as though the house chose them long before they even realized how much they needed the new space.

As for the former mother-in-law suite, the entire area was completely reworked as a guest space. Byron created a design that allowed a new garage adjacent to the space. Above the garage are two guest rooms, two bathrooms and a small living area. Downstairs is a game room with a pool table, an additional guest room and a large bathroom that services these areas, as well as the pool.

You can tell from the moment you walk into the Stewart's home that they love to make other people feel welcome. With an open mind and open hearts, they have filled this diamond in the rough with space and warmth, making way for a lifetime of friends, family and memories. ①

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