

5280

IN THE KITCHEN WITH CUBA CUBA'S OWNER *page 62*

3 PICTURE-PERFECT FALL TABLE SETTINGS *page 56*

Home

AUTUMN 2014

A SUPPLEMENT TO 5280 MAGAZINE

GREAT SPACES

21 Fabulous Fall Ideas For Your Whole House!



modern family

A Boulder home gets a sleek overhaul to satisfy the new owners' contemporary tastes.

by julie dugdale • photography by raul j. garcia



gathering place

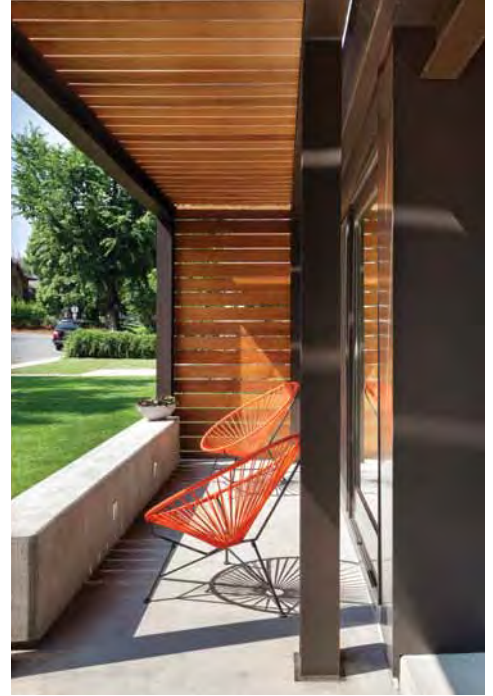
"The kitchen was conceived as an informal place for the family to hang out," says Steve Perce, a principal at BLDG Collective. The cabinetry and built-in storage above and below the window are rift-sawn, gray-stained oak, built by Marc Hunter Woodworking & Design. The glass backsplash is back-painted to add a hint of color, and the painting, a gift from owner Isabela Nuñez's parents, adds character to the clean design of the space. Pendant lights from Oxygen Lighting and a Blanco Culina stainless faucet lend touches of elegance.



t

HERE WAS NOTHING PHOTOGENIC ABOUT THE CHARMLESS 1950s home (previously a rental) the Nuñez family purchased in Boulder—nothing except its views of the nearby Flatirons, that is. The outdated home in the Newlands neighborhood suffered from plenty of design ailments, including a clunky addition from the 1990s that extended both up a story and off the back, giving the space a cumbersome, ill-conceived feel. But that perfect panorama was enough to persuade the Nuñezes to hire a design team to take the home down to its studs and rebuild it from the inside out. The result? A 3,400-square-foot contemporary, light-filled space that aligns beautifully with the family’s active, social lifestyle.

It might not have been. Isabela and German Nuñez were raising twins, now eight years old, in Erie. Craving a change from the cookie-cutter suburbs, they began to house-hunt in Boulder, where German worked and the kids attended school. The house didn’t make a great first impression: “The first time I saw this house, I said, ‘Absolutely not,’” Isabela says. But, drawn by the neighborhood’s character and proximity to Mt. Sanitas and North Boulder Park, they returned and ultimately decided to give the home a new life.





tread lightly

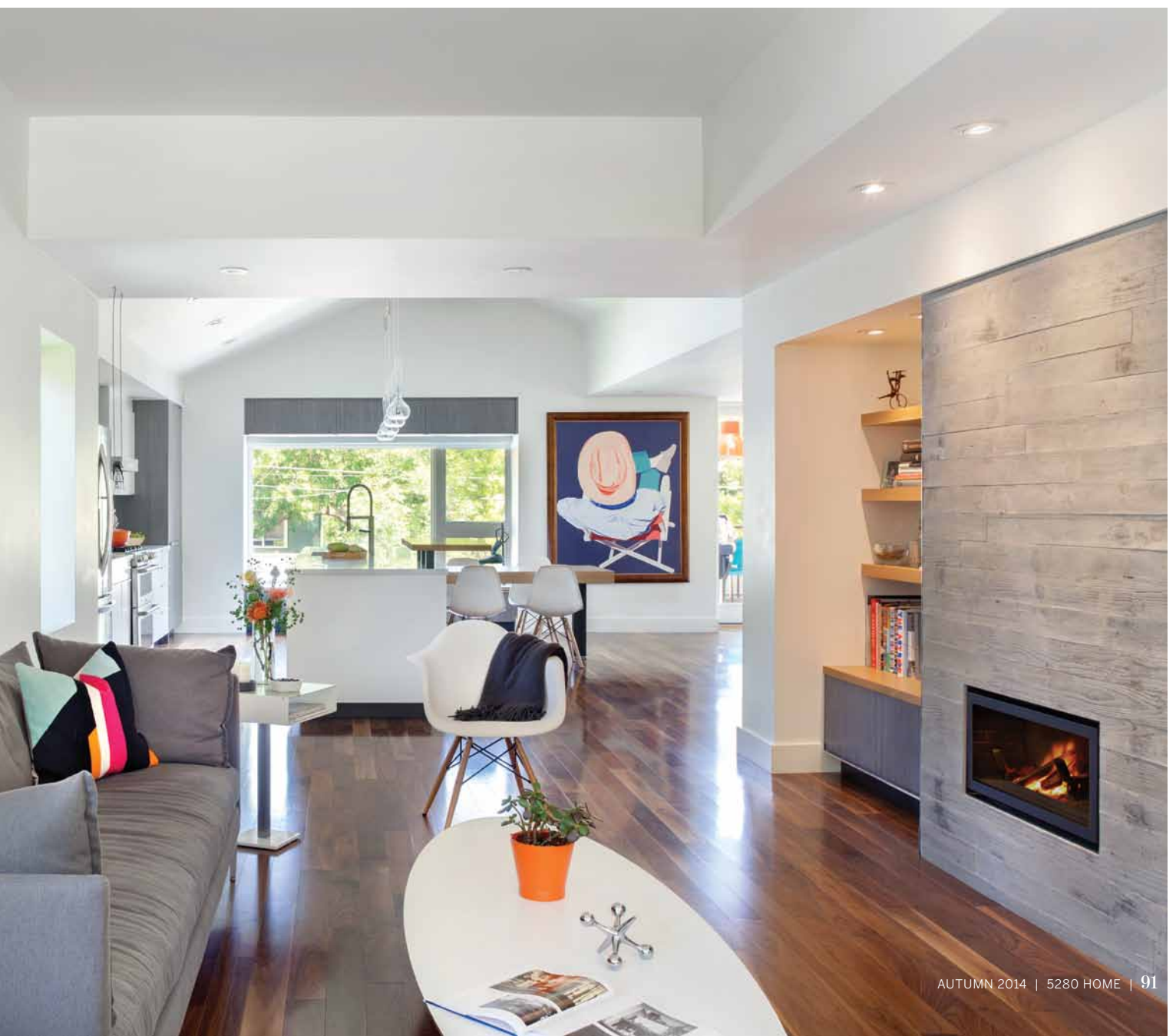
Left: The open-tread stairwell maximizes the flow of light from windows, and the glass divider wall by Cutting Edge Glass ushers in more light than a traditional wall.

bright ideas

Below: Isabela chose an abstract painting—"Unleashed" by local artist Will Day—to liven up the neutral living area, which is anchored by a concrete-cast fireplace surround. Geometric throw pillows from fab.com accent the Vela Bench-Cushion sofa from Room & Board. The Eames Eiffel Dowel Leg chair and Eames Elliptical coffee table round out the room's contemporary feel.

take it outside

Facing page: The new front porch is a modern interpretation of the classic Craftsman porches found in the neighborhood. It helps define the recessed entry and extends the living area to the outdoors.





Lacking the budget to scrape and start over, the Nuñezes assembled a team familiar with Boulder’s rigid building codes to work within the existing structure. “The house wasn’t really functional in today’s world for what a family needs,” says Chris Gray, a principal at Boulder-based architecture and design firm BLDG Collective. “It was compartmentalized with a bad flow. There wasn’t a lot worth keeping except the exterior.”

The team’s decision to gut the home came with some benefits: “You get to discover and reveal these unique aspects of the house that weren’t realized before,” says Steve Perce, another BLDG Collective principal. The biggest example is the airy stairwell, which the team installed by the windows in the south-facing wall, complete with open tread and a glass partition. “There was so much daylight pouring in there. Why deny that?” says Ryan Wither, owner of Boulder’s Buildwell, a construction and furniture-design firm. “It was kind of like an archaeology dig—we started peeling back the layers.”

The family’s desire for shared space also guided the design: In the kitchen, for instance, the wood table (cantilevered off the



fine dining

The light-filled dining room feels especially airy thanks to unadorned windows. Heller Arco chairs (in transparent) surround a custom dining table made by furniture designer and contractor Ryan Wither.



conversation starter

Facing page, top: Wither created the lamp by casting leftover concrete into a base and marrying it with deconstructed Ikea lamp parts. Interior designer Sage Case chose the bold color combo—a custom mix of Benjamin Moore powder-coat hues. “Why not be playful?” Case says. “The Nuñezes have a lot of personality. Having bold colors is kind of in their DNA.” Another example: the Pedrali Joi chairs by Claudio Dondoli and Marco Poggi.

play time

Left: Color rules in this bedroom, where durable furnishings and ample storage make it easy to be a kid (and clean up after a day of play). A recessed shelving unit saves space and adds dimension.

for vanity's sake

Facing page, bottom: Wither used salvaged wood from the original shed on the property to build the vanity in the powder room and topped it with a Victoria and Albert Edge Vessel Sink. “It’s kind of an ode to the old structure,” Wither says. The mirror—Tech Lighting’s Tigris Round Mirror—and Glam Slam Smashbox wall covering by MDC bring texture to the room.



island) provides a homework and eating surface for the twins while leaving the dining room table for more formal occasions. The kitchen's central location works well with the Nuñezes' love of entertaining. "The party always ends up in the kitchen, whether you want it to or not," says Isabela, "so I wanted it to be open."

To pull the whole home together, the Nuñezes enlisted interior designer Sage Case of Denver-based Studiotrope Design Collective. Case found innovative ways to soften the overall effect—such as painting the kitchen's ceiling beam a warm red. She also helped coordinate interesting details, such as reoccurring blackened steel, which is visible on the kitchen table and fireplace. "If the whole thing was sleek, it wouldn't have felt as approachable," Case says. "It's these subtle cues that tie a lot of this together."

A year and three months after the first sketches, the house was transformed into the perfect mix of modern beauty and family-friendly functionality. It took a highly collaborative crew of visionaries to pull it off. "I think it has a lot to do with chemistry, and that's why everything worked," says Isabela, who continues to add custom-built features. "I think I never want it to be finished." ■

rest up

Top: In the master bedroom, the horizontal window is both functional and architectural, mimicking the lines of the headboard. Contemporary wall-mounted sconces save space and allow the small, angular bedside tables to hold a few precious items.

outdoor oasis

Right: Permeable driveway pavers from Soil Retention expand the backyard's green space, making the yard appear double its actual size. A cast-in-place concrete planter frames a small seating area and the private entry to the home office.

