

ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST

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hortly before embarking on a top-to-bottom renovation of their house in the Forest Hills area of Nashville, Tennessee, Jennifer and Billy Frist—junior members of one of the state’s best-known families—hosted a dinner party. Held in the building’s 77-foot-long central corridor, the festivities had nothing to do with the philanthropic couple’s involvement in the Frist Center for the Visual Arts, the Nashville Zoo, or the Frist Foundation, which supports local charities. Instead the investor and his wife brought together their architecture and interior design teams, plus their contractors—all of them joined by spouses or companions.

“For a project as big as the one we were about to undertake, we needed to acknowledge the importance of everyone’s role,” Jennifer explains. “And that included significant others, so they would understand what their partners would be doing every single day for a year and could share in the success, too.”

The renovation actually took 18 months to complete, but given the soaring, light-filled splendor that resulted, the overtime paid off. What had been

a massive, unexceptional brick-and-stucco house emerged as a 17,000-square-foot modernist lantern—its buff-color Indiana-limestone exterior framing walls of glass that take in both the property’s 17 wooded acres and the glittering skyscrapers of downtown Nashville. Spurred by Jennifer, who admired the solid good looks of old local bank buildings clad in the same material, the large panels of stone give the two-story structure a sense of permanence that the last incarnation’s abundant stretches of brick failed to achieve. Best of all, the architectural reinvention better complements the Frists’ interests and social lives.

“Historicism is the typical mode in this area, and Billy and Jennifer’s previous home [in nearby Belle Meade] was beautiful but extremely traditional,” says decorator Ray Booth, a partner in McAlpine Booth & Ferrier Interiors, which has offices in New York and Atlanta as well as Nashville. From its brown-and-rust palette to its polished-wood furnishings, that dwelling was a classic example of conservative Southern elegance, similar in spirit to other Frist residences around town, including that of Billy’s uncle and namesake, the former Republican senator Bill Frist. Except, that is, for one salient detail: the couple’s growing collection of



From top: The home's central corridor displays large-scale photographs by (from left) Pieter Hugo and Martin Schoeller; the Vistosi light fixture is from Venfield, the tall lamp is from Lucca Antiques, and the bench, with cushions clad in an Edelman leather, is by Lucca & Co. A grid of photographs by Doug and Mike Starn is mounted above the fireplace in the entrance hall; the ceiling light is from Space Lighting, the Edward Wormley wing chair and ottoman are from Todd Merrill Antiques, the curtains are of a Larsen fabric, and the carpet is by Patterson, Flynn & Martin. **Opposite:** In the living room alcove, a Simen Johan photograph hangs behind a Bright Chair Co. sectional sofa; the 1960s Austrian chandeliers are from John Salibello Antiques.