

HOME

AT HOME WITH APRIL JENSEN



Photos by Alise O'Brien

HOT PINK

is designer's 'neutral' in this 157-year-old Glendale home

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Special to Ladue News

From our partners at Ladue News.

The CEO and founder of ADJ Interiors lives in color, surrounded by art, music and poodle knickknacks. Her husband and three kids hardly bat an eye at the bold wallpaper, crystal chandeliers and vibrant accents she's chosen. "I don't think anything surprises them," Jensen laughs.

Clients of this St. Louis-area interior designer know that Jensen is skilled at mixing patterns and textures, and this home showcases what she can do when there are no guardrails in place. Jensen's Glendale house is 157 years old, and it's belonged to her family for almost 13 years. Since moving in, the goal has been to honor its historical character, welcome natural light, and modernize the interior with color. So, she started by painting nearly everything pure white, of course.

"Every room was a different color, and it was all very dark and heavy," Jensen explains. "My entire goal was to basically streamline [the rooms] so that you could actually read the architecture of the space. So you could celebrate the sunlight, celebrate the architecture, the molding, the doors — you know, everything that [the] home had brought with it throughout the years. So, I painted the entire home pure white, sans bedrooms. ... I did keep the wallpaper in my office."

The office wallpaper and clean white walls and cabinets provided a blank canvas for Jensen to paint upon over the next five years. In addition to actual paint, she's used wallpaper, furniture, window treatments, lighting fixtures, decorative accessories and personal memorabilia to create a work of art.

The combination of colors, modern art and the occasional farmhouse finish might seem random, but there is a



cohesive intention. "You want a common tone throughout your home. You want to repeat without being so overt with it," Jensen says. "I think it's a matter of picking your accents. I have to have hot pink in almost every room — it's my neutral — but I love, love, love the color jade. I love yellow. I love blue."

In the living room, for example, wood floors and gray furniture allow those colors to pop and to relate to other rooms. "I always tell people to think about it as: You buy really good jeans and



start ripping everything out and making it something modern," Jensen says. "To me, those sconces and that light ... you can't find those today?"

She points to a few thrifted pieces in that same space, emphasizing how antiques can pair well with modern fabrics and wallpaper. The distressed cabinets in the powder room were originally in the kitchen, and the kitchen preserves a rustic feel with its wood shelving, table and range hood.

Of Jensen's three children, two still live with her and maintain autonomy over their bedrooms. They are generally supportive of her expressive designs throughout the rest of the home. And as long as the home is comfortable and functional, her husband, Jason, trusts the vision.

"I always say, if I've done a good job, you're probably going to understand a little bit about that family or that person the minute you walk in the door," Jensen says. "Another sign of good design is when you can move things around within a home and they still fit. ... I can refresh things easily because I've worked out the tone of the home. Hopefully, that's what this reflects."

good white T-shirts and black T-shirts. Everything else is layering — your jacket, your jewelry, your great shoes. That's kind of how I approach a room."

Similar to fashion, developing a unique sense of interior design comes as a result of borrowing from different styles and combining them according to personal taste. Lighting fixtures are, to Jensen, the jewelry that add sparkle to a home. Chandeliers are a staple for her, and she kept a couple of the chandeliers that came with the house — in the entryway and in the upstairs landing area. The upstairs chandelier is particularly unique with its floral, dark details.

"I love anything organic. I don't want to go through a historic home and just



The Jensen family, from left: Lily, Julien, Jason, April and Tallulah

April Jensen

OCCUPATION:
Founder and
Interior Designer
of ADJ Interiors of
Webster Groves

HOME: Glendale

FAMILY: Husband,
Jason; children, Lily,
Julien and Tallulah