

BEFORE
+AFTER



LIGHTENED-UP LUXURY

Designer Heather Harkovich sheds light on a dark gothic-style home using a fresh palette of whites, grays, and blues and plenty of updated elegance throughout.

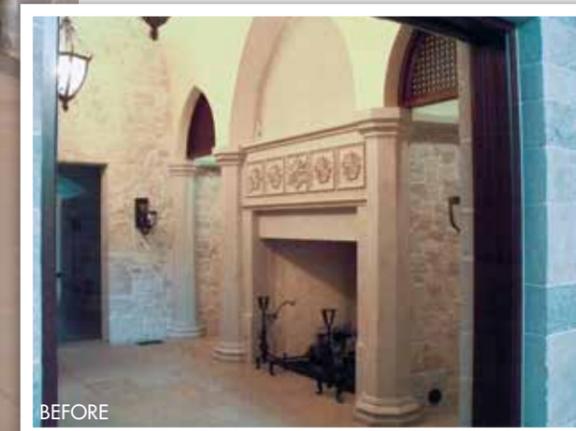
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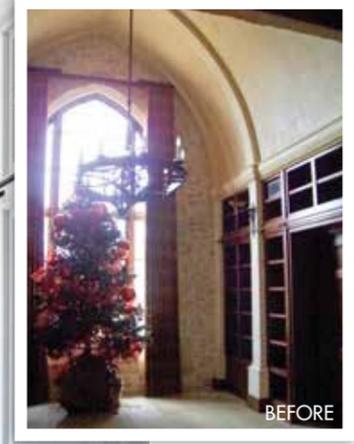
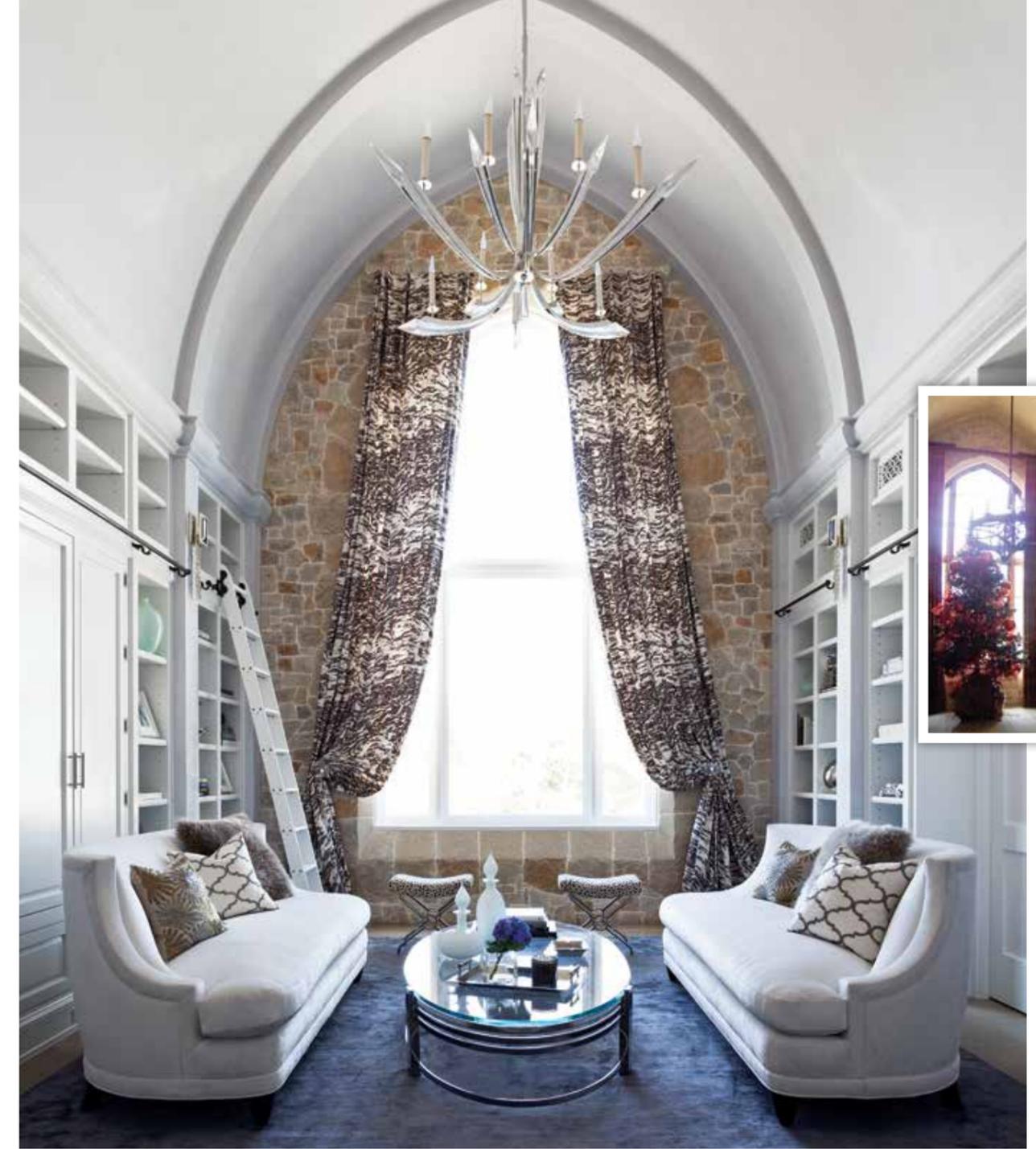
Turn an enormous, heavy-handed “castle” in Austin’s Barton Creek community into a light-filled, happy home with a bit of Hamptons style. Such was the task facing Heather Harkovich of Heather Scott Home & Design. “The only part of the home that originally appealed to my clients was the garage space for the husband’s collection of motorcycles,” says the designer. “The rest of the house was the opposite of the wife’s taste. She prefers a lot of brightness and glossy accents with a beachy attitude.”

Undaunted, Harkovich rolled up her sleeves and tackled the superscaled rooms by bringing in lighter hues of white, blue, and gray through paint, furniture, and textiles. “I used larger custom pieces to make sense of the oversized spaces and add some needed comfort,” says the designer. In the foyer, for example, she chose an 84-inch oval settee upholstered in a plush blue velvet and placed it beside two generous lounge chairs. An orb-shaped chandelier with row upon row of sparkling lights brightens the space.

In the kitchen, Harkovich orchestrated a top-to-bottom renovation. “My client is an avid home chef,” she says. “For her birthday, her husband gave her a blue La Cornue range with hood. She even travelled to France to



Left and far left: Even though the fireplace, arches, limestone floors, and stone walls in the former baronial-sized foyer remained, the addition of white paint, beautiful blue velvet furniture, and an eye-catching chandelier did much to rid the space of its gloomy unwelcoming attitude. Now guests can gather around the large settee for drinks and mingling during parties. Top: While the palatial exterior maintained its original appearance, the interiors received a complete makeover.



"When I first saw the home, the scale of the rooms was a bit daunting. They were bigger than I typically work in," admits Harkovich. She welcomed the challenge and rose to the occasion. The family room (opposite page) and library (above) benefitted greatly from the transforming power of Benjamin Moore's White Dove paint. In the library, Harkovich embraced her client's attraction to animal prints by choosing Schumacher's Serengeti fabric for the curtains. The library shelves are dressed in white and now house the homeowner's vast collection of cookbooks, which are easy to reach using ladders that slide across the bookcase walls. In the family room, pale-gray silk curtains soften the large windows. A mixture of generously sized upholstered pieces in various gray shades and a neutral rug add comfort.

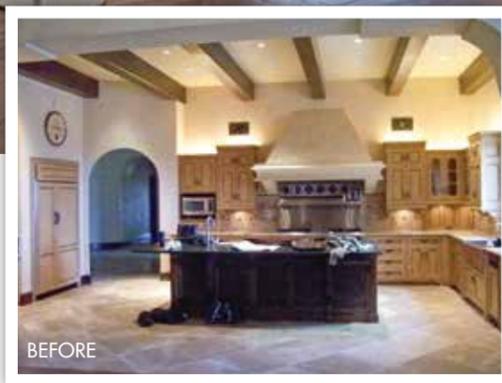


take cooking lessons on how to use it. So the range became my starting point, and I designed the whole kitchen around it." To allow the appliance's custom blue color to really stand out, Harkovich created all-white surroundings. And in a nod to her client's love of shimmering surfaces, she chose mother-of-pearl mosaic tiles for the backsplash.

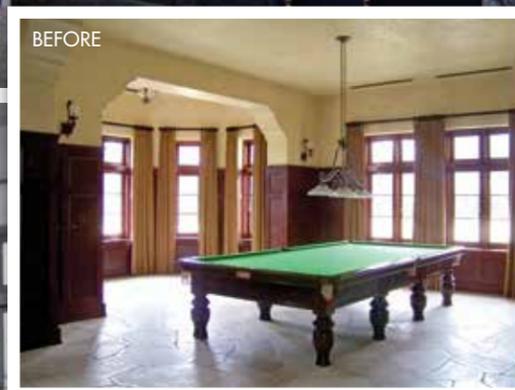
The master bath also received a dramatic makeover. Wrapped in white with mirrored vanity alcoves topped with additional Venetian mirrors, the room offers no hint of its prior dark and somber atmosphere. Two oversized chandeliers, dripping with accents that resemble layers of Chanel pearls, add to the elegant ambiance.

For the game room's update, Harkovich departed a bit from the neutral palette by bringing in stronger shades of blue through the upholstery, window treatments, and rugs—even extending to the felt on the custom pool table. The space emits the relaxed vibe of a private club with dark gray paint covering the millwork, a navy velvet nailhead-trimmed sectional, and textured fabrics with shots of cobalt and other vivid blues.

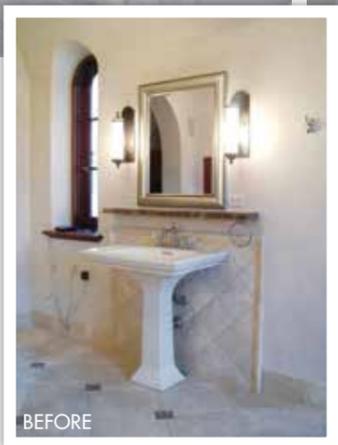
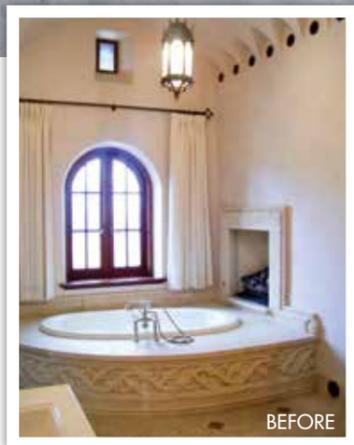
Although evidence of the home's prior castle-like existence remains in certain architectural details, it's the light-filled, welcoming spaces that now reign supreme. Under Harkovich's deft hand, the home has transformed into a Texas Hill Country gem with a Hamptons mind-set.



This page: As the homeowner loves to cook, the kitchen renovation was a top priority. An all-white space was in order to better showcase the custom blue La Cornue range, vent hood, and rotisserie oven. A wall of drawers and cabinets contains hidden appliances. Upper shelves offer display space. "My client collects cake plates, so we wanted a special place to showcase those," says Harkovich. "We even matched the blue of the La Cornue and painted the back of one display area the same shade." This nook was designed to be right above the rotisserie, so the eye travels up to the next pop of blue.



This page: The game room combines luxury and comfortable style at every turn. The wainscoting's deep gray color gives the room a stately attitude. Varying shades of blue appear in solids and prints for added texture and interest. The curtains are in a striking Schumacher print from the company's 'Waterfall Moiré' collection. Harkovich surrounded the poker table with swivel chairs for ease. Soft rugs warm up the travertine tile floors.



Left: The master bedroom is a study in feminine style. "My client likes lavender and lots of shine and gloss, so we included those elements throughout the room," says Harkovich. An updated large-scale damask print brings a dose of glamour to the wall behind the bed. Bedside tables with mirror fronts, a Lucite-legged upholstered bench, and a crystal-laden chandelier add luster to the space. Even the headboard's curved back is outlined in mirrors. This page: In the master bathroom, herringbone detailing in the marbled floor tiles offers an unexpected change from the usual square tiles. Layered mirrors and elegant chandeliers play into the client's desire for lots of bright and light details.

