

DEREK FISHER

Grounded In Family Life

A **Successful Collaboration** by Sue Firestone and Kara Smith

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The expectation for the interior of a residence with a traditional Cape Cod exterior is seaside country casual, yet for NBA basketball player Derek Fisher's family residence opening the front door reveals a surprise—a more sleek, contemporary look created by sfa design's masterful interpretation of their clients' wishes. Enter another expectation turned on its head—a basketball player more grounded in family life, giving back and integrity, than NBA fortune and fame.

OPPOSITE Walls, wood paneling, molding, and inset and vaulted ceilings are painted in subtle tones for NBA player Derek Fisher and his family home's entry creating a neutral yet architecturally interesting space. Walnut wood for flooring and the grand sweeping staircase anchor the space while bright orange-hued contemporary artwork and accessories add color.

ABOVE A twelve foot three-tiered custom chandelier by Royal Lighting made up of hand blown glass balls adorns the entry making an impactful first statement upon entering the residence.



Sue Firestone and Kara Smith, principals of Smith/Firestone Associates—who count numerous professional athletes, celebrities and luxury hotels like the Four Seasons Los Angeles and The Ritz-Carlton Abu Dhabi among their clients—were selected by the Fishers to renovate the six bedroom, eight bath residence boasting a pool and guest house, which sits on two acres nestled in a lush Los Angeles community. “Given the fact that we have four children we wanted something kid friendly,” says Candace, Fisher’s wife, “yet we also wanted something that reflected our own tastes and personalities.” What transpired was a thoughtful balance of casual and formal contemporary interiors informed by subtle tones with ample splashes of color and modest touches of bling.

“They really wanted a neutral backdrop,” says Firestone, “so we used mostly taupes and tans for walls, added glamour by using Venetian plaster, and chose dark wood floors for their richness.” The great room—also known as the family room—and the kitchen open up to one another. “We love to gather in the family room and everyone spends a lot of time in the kitchen,” says Derek. “Candace is a great cook.” Furniture was custom made to not only be durable for children, but also to be supremely comfortable. “We had to make it appealing to everyone to come in, sit back and put your feet on the coffee table.” In the family room, large facing sofas, a pair of leather lounge chairs, a game table and accompanying chairs, two clover leaf ottomans, a desk, and two coffee tables that abut each other offer ample opportunity to agreeably pack the space with family and friends.



OPPOSITE A frosted glass and macassar ebony wood coffee table from Lily Jack is set in front of the tan painted living room fireplace where a piece of art laid on the mantle adds depth and dimension.

ABOVE An American Leather sofa and Lily Jack chairs are generously proportioned and packed with pillows for extra comfort. Unique lighting—a polished nickel and glass rod chandelier and chrome sconces—both from ELA Lighting—and an Arteriors floor lamp—add intrigue. Donghia fabric is used for generous draperies that create intimacy without obstructing the stunning views.

LEFT Deep red covered, dark wood accented seating—C. F. Kent barstools and J. A. Alexander chairs—provide bold pops of color in the kitchen offsetting the walnut wood flooring and dark wood faux finished cabinetry.







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—Sue Firestone.



OPPOSITE The back hallway is packed with Fisher’s basketball memorabilia.

ABOVE Rich red Opuzen fabric covered armchairs pop against Fisher’s wood enveloped office, where his Los Angeles Lakers number 2 jersey is proudly displayed.

“Some rooms, like the living and dining rooms, are more formal,” says Firestone. “They love to entertain.” The dining room, where a tan and brown rug and semi-glossy chocolate walls anchor the space, exudes a sophisticated feel with organic references. A custom sparkling twig-like chandelier cleverly echoes the accents of the rug. Firestone and Smith updated the traditional paneling and moldings by selecting paint colors and finishes that offer a more “contemporary edge.” The same was done in the living room where the moldings and walls are painted alike providing a sleeker look while still allowing the beautiful architectural detail to enhance the space. Reflective and crystalline selections infuse it with an opulent shimmer.

“For the master bedroom we created a private, calm sanctuary from kids, friends, business and sport,” says Firestone, “with a serene theme throughout.” Conversely and appropriately, the children’s rooms explode with color and whimsy. Also on the lively side, “His office was really fun because it’s packed with pictures, trophies and special mementos,” notes Firestone.

There’s nothing more gratifying than a home a family loves. “sfa did a phenomenal job,” says Candace, “down to each accessory placement on every shelf. I don’t think anything has been moved!” Now that’s a truly successful collaboration and the ultimate compliment. 





OPPOSITE INSET An accent wall of organic toned miniature horizontal tile adorns the powder room where a custom vanity with vessel sink blends a classic piece with a more contemporary shape.

ABOVE A Royal Custom Edelman Leather accented coffee table is set between two facing A. Rudin sofas covered in Calvin fabric in the family room, where a pair of Pindler & Pindler covered lounge chairs (left), Century Furniture 'clover' ottomans (right), a Duralee covered armchair (back right) and a walnut game table and matching chairs from Abracadabra offer enough seating for family and guests.