





SLAM DUNK DECOR

By Marilyn Bailey

Photos by Aaron Dougherty



We're used to the professional athletes who live in our midst — in Westlake, Southlake and surrounds — and not surprised when we learn they've added batting cages or lap pools to their properties.

But one Westlake family added a beautiful basketball court onto their home simply to accommodate Dad's sheer amateur love of the sport. In the hands of designer Stephanie Nix, that cavernous playroom became a stylish, multipurpose space where all four family members gather with friends and pursue their passions.

Dad loves his hoops — the family owns the same fearsome basketball-shooting machine that NBA teams use — and some serious sports watching goes on in the well-appointed lounge next door. But these gleaming hardwood floors are home to much more than basketball.

The lounge makes smart use of space with a flat-screen embedded in a kitchenette wall. Industrial materials mingle with warm woods and cozy accessories like vintage trophies. Designer Stephanie Nix calls the look "modern industrial schoolhouse." When the homeowners liked all the tile samples they were presented with, including a stainless steel penny and a metallic porcelain, Nix decided to combine them in a custom pattern. The tri-color hexagonal porcelain floor tiles keep things "funky and fun," she says.



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The lounge's other big feature wall is an enormous piece of art that Nix designed: a mural-scale image of a basketball split into three floating panels. It looms above the man-cave sectional sofa like a giant rising sun — a strong statement that helps balance the enormity of the adjacent room. At right, the concrete farmhouse sink is paired with a Brizo Artesso collection faucet that was the first object the designer chose for the project. It's inspired by early 20th-century factories, and she says it set the tone with its warmer, more refined take on the industrial aesthetic.





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Not many of us have a half-court regulation basketball court in our homes. But maybe more of us should. This family uses theirs as a multipurpose space. Basketball games are a highlight, for sure, but Mom has a yoga instructor come over on Mondays and Fridays and invites friends for a class on those high-gloss hardwood floors. The custom barn-wood wainscoting helps muffle sounds, and the silvery gray paint softens the sunlight. The family's two children, a boy and a girl, use the room for many kinds of play and even for homework (not pictured is a movable island they use for that purpose). For Dad's 50th birthday, the week the room was completed, the builder hung a disco ball from the top of the vaulted ceiling, a stage was set up to hold a band, and voila — party in the school gym!



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The bathroom charmingly extends the gym theme, with the unexpected urinal that seems to make everyone smile (yes, the women of the house and the yoga ladies use this room, too); lockers (not seen in this photo); and more vintage schoolhouse lighting.



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