

# Southern Living show home is full of ideas for those rebuilding and recovering

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Photo: Mike Kaskel

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The family room in the 2017 Southern Living Showcase Home in the Bluejack National golf course community in Montgomery. Fabric on the back of armchairs in this family room served as inspiration for the entire house. The bold colors are repeated in nearly every room against white/light neutral walls.

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While not every home has a climate-controlled wine room, elements of one can be incorporated into any home. A wine fridge can be tucked under a kitchen counter or metal racks can be mounted on an accent wall in a dining room.

There's a lot of energy in Amanda and Nate Peterson's new home in the [Bluejack National](#) golf community in Montgomery. Colors are bright and bold, fabrics are tough enough to stand up to the activity of kids and pets, and the decidedly unfussy design fits with their laidback lifestyle.

This 6,300-square-foot home opens to the public on weekends from mid-September through the end of October on the annual [Southern Living Showcase home tour](#).

It's one of a handful of Houston-area events that escaped the floodwaters of Hurricane Harvey, and it offers dozens of ideas - high on style and budget-friendly, too - for anyone rebuilding, remodeling or recovering from storm damage.

[Cleanup: What to keep, what to toss in storm's aftermath.](#)

## More Information

2017 Southern Living Showcase Home

Where: Bluejack National Golf Club & Community, 4430 S. FM 1486, Montgomery

When: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Fridays-Sundays, Sept. 15-Oct. 29

Tickets: \$15; [HomesbyMorningStar.com](http://HomesbyMorningStar.com)



Built by Ted and Yvonne Cummins of [Morning Star Builders](#) with extensive interior design by Cindy Aplanalp-Yates' [Chairma Design Group](#), the home is family-centric. Every room is meant to be used every single day without worry that something will be spilled or knocked over.

The main home has just enough bedrooms for the family of five and a separate casita has two more for guests. There's a comforting wrap-around front porch with low-maintenance Azek decking and an expansive patio with outdoor living space by the pool in the backyard. And if you are thinking about tweaking your driveway, check out the six-piece paving pattern in this one.

Whatever your project or however you plan to tackle your own work, there's inspiration in every single inch here.

## Style

"What are you going to use every day? What's going to give you a feeling of peace when you walk in your home?" Aplanalp-Yates offered as get-started advice. "Start in the kitchen, family room and master bedroom and save other things for another day."

The Petersons wanted their home to be a place where family life is fun and the floor plan brings them together. There's only one dining area, and it sits in the big main room between the kitchen and family room.

Kids' rooms are sizable and special, but you'll find reading nooks and shelves for books but not TVs.

### [Soggy lawns and landscaping: Don't rush to clean up your flood-soaked yard.](#)

Amanda Peterson said she hopes that visitors walk away with something else: ideas and inspiration for whatever comes next.

"I hope walking through this house at least gives people a break from all the hard stuff they're dealing with, and that they know that this can happen, too," she said. "We didn't spend extreme amounts of money on anything."

Here are some of the things you'll find:

**Lighting:** In Aplanalp-Yates' projects, lighting is always a splurge. A dramatic hanging-globe fixture over the dining room makes a statement, but anyone on a smaller budget could achieve a similar effect with a group of pendant lights. Just make sure you get the scale right. Big spaces need bigger fixtures.

Don't limit wall sconces to bathrooms; they work well in hallways, kitchens and bedrooms, too. They're one of the hottest trends in home design right now and shouldn't be too matchy-matchy, just coordinated with other lighting fixtures.

It's worth noting that if your home is stripped down to studs right now, evaluate where you have/need electrical outlets. It'll be easier to add outlets and work in ceiling fixtures, whether it's recessed lighting, chandeliers or pendants.

**Window treatments:** Beautiful window treatments do a lot of work design-wise. Draperies soften a room, and sheers diffuse light. Valances add personality in a kitchen. Don't forget roller shades; they're inexpensive and give you privacy.

"I emphasize two things, getting light fixtures and window treatments right. That's what I would spend money on because it elevates everything else," Aplanalp-Yates said. "That applies to any room, but public spaces and the master bedroom are the first focus. There's not a hack on that."

**Color:** For instant attitude, there's no faster solution than color. In this house, navy-blue paint in a sitting room (Sherwin-Williams Sea Serpent) creates intimacy in a space meant for conversation. Teal sofas and a bold print on armchairs and

a rug add energy in the family room. The pantry ceiling and kitchen island are painted yellow, and it's pure joy. There's even a pop of color in the laundry room - the washer and dryer are bright red.

**Paint:** If you flooded and your cabinets are salvageable or if your kitchen needs an affordable update, consider painting them. If you do it yourself, do it right: Steps will vary based on what you're starting with - stain, glossy finish, oil-based paint or latex paint. Consult a paint-store pro for advice that fits your project. Consider buying new hardware, Aplanalp-Yates says; something "bigger and bolder is money well spent."

This Southern Living home has white kitchen cabinets, but gray is another popular choice. In the master bathroom, pale-turquoise cabinets sparkle against gray-white porcelain tile and quartzite counters.

**Shiplap:** It's on trend and can cover a multitude of sins if you've got imperfect walls. This home has fresh, white shiplap through much of the main floor public space, and it's available at a variety of prices. You can re-create the stained-wood version in their 10-year-old son's bunk room with materials from a big-box store at about \$2 per square foot. There's a lot of bang for the buck in this idea.

**Rugs:** Floor coverings can be a showpiece in any room. You can splurge on a fine, hand-made rug with wow factor, but you have other options, too.

Just as layering is a fashion trend, it's in style in home décor: Put an animal hide or a colorful rug on top of a larger neutral seagrass or jute rug.

The Petersons' front hallway has a rug crafted out of squares of carpet that were cut into octagonals, then fused together with carpet glue in the seams and carpet tape underneath. Mix and match colors, and if one gets a spill or wears out, simply remove it and replace it with another. DIYers can pull this off at any price. Use it in a hallway, mud room or any high-traffic space, Aplanalp-Yates said.

**Wine features:** The tree-bark wall covering in this wine room is so amazing that you'll want to walk up and touch it. There's no substitute for that, but this room offers ideas for anyone. A wine fridge can be tucked under any kitchen counter for those who like to entertain.

Metal wine racks mounted on the walls of this room would work in any dining room. Use them on an accent wall with patterned wallpaper, shiplap or rustic palette boards. This one's easy for DIYers; others with a bigger budget could go for a fabric wallcovering.

**Adapting spaces:** If your home is older and its original floor plan doesn't work for life in 2017, consider adapting spaces to different uses. Get started by being honest about what spaces rarely get used and what family needs aren't being met.

For example, many people rarely use their dining room. Depending on its location in the house, turn it into a super pantry, a conversation room, a hobby room or a music room. If you have an oversized garage, maybe part of it could be used for that nice laundry room you always wished you had.

"Most houses didn't have a significant mud room back in the day," Aplanalp-Yates said. "Think about pinch points your space had before, where it didn't work or where doors banged into other doors or a room felt claustrophobic."

"You've got this awesome opportunity to reimagine your space differently. Do what you want, and use all your square footage the way you want. It's your home; you get to decide," she added.

**Hacks:** One factor in the price of floor tile is its size. Twelve-inch-square tile tends to be more affordable, but you don't have to use it that way. In the master bathroom, Aplanalp-Yates bought 12-inch tile and cut each into four, 3-inch strips. Those strips were then laid in a herringbone pattern and look stylish and luxurious.

**Leftovers:** As you rebuild or remodel, use leftover materials wisely. In this show home, leftover composite-wood flooring was repurposed for counters on built-in cabinets in the family room. Not only is this financially smart, but it adds

continuity in the repetition of materials.