



CREATING COMFORT

BY TIFFANY HORTON, HORTON DESIGN STUDIOS
PHOTOS BY MATT CORNELIUS

Pulling up to Tammie and Lifford Luthringer's home, you immediately notice the traditional design. The trademarks of conventional style, including a wide front porch accented by perfectly appointed columns paired with red brick, immediately convey a welcoming feeling. It is a feeling that is continued inside the house and is obviously a very intentional part of Tammie's design.

"We've been married about seven years and have five kids between us. I wanted the house not to be stuffy or pretentious. And comfortable is the perfect word to describe the Luthringer home.

When Lifford and Tammie married, they needed to combine their physical households. However, they needed help deciding exactly how they wanted to do this. So, they put both of their houses on the market. Tammie's house sold before Lifford's, and

the decision was made to remodel the house that had once been his bachelor pad. They would make it more conducive to a family of seven, keep it for about two years, and then find something else. "Originally, we wanted an open floor plan. So, we decided to finish out the upstairs to give us more space until we found something new. And when the kids are home, we use the big space more, but now that the kids are all gone, the more defined spaces downstairs work really well for us. Lifford can watch sports in the living room and the kitchen is open enough that I can still talk to him while I cook, but I can also watch my own TV if I want to," said Tammie.

While the primary focus of the remodel was completing the upstairs space, the Luthringers also updated the kitchen and painted everything downstairs a warm taupe to create a cozy, inviting feeling. Then, to add personality, they brought in statement lamps,



eclectic furniture pieces, and local art in bold colors. "I have a lot of local artists' works. I prefer to do all my shopping locally whenever I can," Tammie said. "I have photographs by Georgia Hubnik, and I have pieces by Kathi Couch, Gregg Coker, and Judy Wright Walter." Further describing the look she envisioned for their home, she said, "I want it to be homey—to be happy and colorful. I love having company, but I don't want people to feel like they need to be dressed up just to come over. I want the house to be very, very welcoming."

Upstairs, the Luthringers converted the expansive attic into a large hangout space, complete with extra sleeping areas and a bar, plus an additional bedroom and bathroom. "The kids are scattered all over. We have one in Chicago, one in Austin, one in Little Rock, and my two boys are in Nashville. We never know who's coming home when or for which holiday, but we can usually house everybody somewhere up here... It's crazy, but it's worked out that everyone has a place to sleep, and everyone is comfortable."

Just as important as the upstairs, a favorite space is the backyard, patio, and covered porch, which allows them even more space for entertaining. "I love the outdoor space. My husband and I are out here a lot. We have friends come over and can get a ton of people outside." The porch has just the right amount of space for dining, plus room to hang out and watch a game or play cards. The private backyard is also large enough for a game of Baggo. And to top it all off, the outside space is highlighted by a beautiful maple tree just beyond the patio.

Tammie has successfully melded her and her husband's styles with the help of friends. Often, you can find Tammie and two of her closest friends, Josh Horn and Carla Nichols, running around town looking for a new find to spice up one of their homes. "Especially if Liff goes away for the weekend, Carla and Josh will come over, and we will do something. We may decide to get a new rug or rearrange the art. We love the creative process, and it will not look the same when he comes home. It's something that he's come to expect," Tammie added with a laugh.

As you can see, the Luthringer's home is a special place for family and friends to come together. Whether it is around the island in the kitchen, enjoying the big game on the back porch, or listening to their kid's band practicing upstairs in the family room, their intentionality is clear. They are creating a comfortable space, making everyone feel welcome, and drawing their family back home to spend quality time together. 📍

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