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bought was far from perfect—with small rooms and a very outdated 1950s style—but with her artist's eye, the Barnes' daughter Emily saw the potential. "She made me look again. She kept saying, 'this is it,' until I believed her," Julie Barnes says sitting in the sunlight-filled great room of the home that has been totally transformed.



Old Fairhope Ranch House Is Transformed into

designer: jg gordon interiors

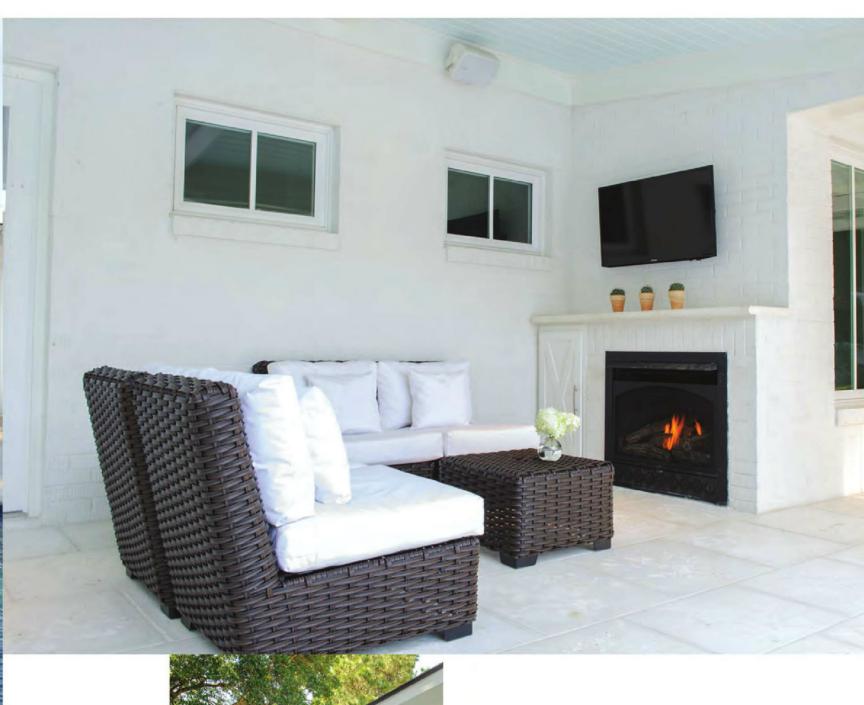


Barnes credits the work of two "visionaries," Clay Adams of Walcott Adams Verneuille Architects in Fairhope, and John Grant Gordon of JG Gordon Interiors in Orange Beach. "We told Clay that we didn't want the typical Fairhope Arts and Crafts-style bungalow. He understood and worked with us to create these wonderful open and light-filled spaces. It was important to have the right space to feature Emily's art. Then, working with John Grant, we created a space that is minimalist and timeless yet comfortable and classic. We found ways to

incorporate some of the old house—we kept the floors and reused a few of the doors—and also brought in a few wonderful vintage pieces."

Gordon says the house is unique to our area. "There's nothing cookie cutter about it, and I love that. Some designers have a signature look or color, but I don't. To me, it's all about working creatively with the client. I found furnishings and accessories that were a perfect fit, but this house was not a one-person show, it took a lot of input to create, and it was a fabulous project to work on."

barnes home



Clay Adams, who has worked in Fairhope for more than 20 years, says revitalizing a classic ranch-style house was a fun challenge. "When you are updating an old bungalow, there are obvious details to save, but we found good ways to add interest and yet keep it so that the house didn't overpower the neighborhood."

architects Walcott adams verneuille



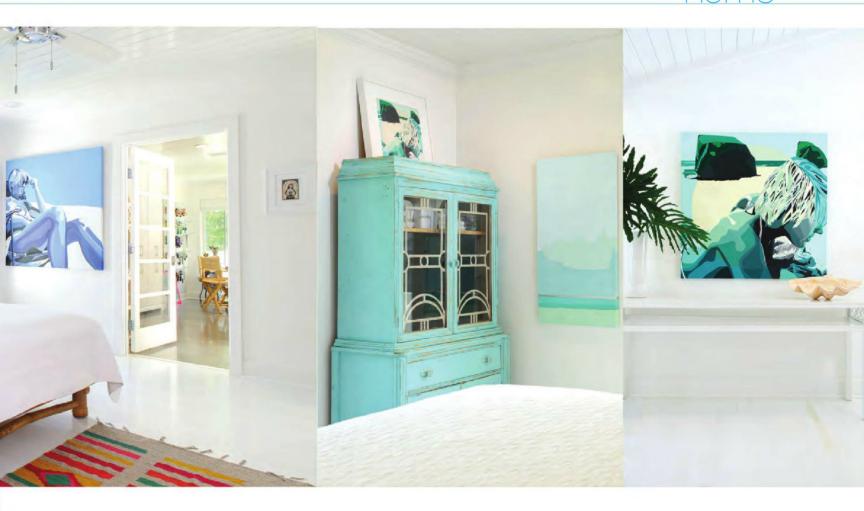


The inside and outside of the all-white house work well together. "Sometimes the exterior of a house is completely different from the inside. Here it is seamless," Adams said. "The interior is really a backdrop for Emily's art: it takes center stage when you walk in. But the combination of her art, the white backdrop, and the natural light all goes handin- hand."

As an artist, Emily Barnes says she derives energy from the sun and water to create her works that are inspired by the reflections and optic transformations that occur in and around an aquatic environment. So working from the studio that is attached to her bedroom is inspirational. "I can look out at the pool and watch how the light moves throughout the day. It's a wonderful place to work but it's comforting, too, because I'm not isolated from the rest of the family."

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An all-white house isn't for everyone, Julie Barnes admits, but from the painted brick outside to the painted wood floors inside, she couldn't be happier. "It's white, but there's nothing sterile about it. It's a very comfortable, livable home for my family. It's exactly what we wanted."

ABOVE: Working from the studio that is attached to her bedroom is inspirational. "I can look out at the pool and watch how the light moves throughout the day. It's a wonderful place to work but it's comforting, too, because I'm not isolated from the rest of the family."

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Designer - John Grant Gordon JG Gordon Interiors

Architect - Clay Adams Walcott, Adams, Verneuille Architects Artist - Emily Barnes

