

# DAI LUXURY

MODERN

*Spring*  
**FASHION**  
*— and —*  
**HOME**  
*Issue*





**COLOR CUES**  
A fiery black and white, hand-knotted silk rug anchors the living room. (The Aegean blue custom sofa is by American Leather; the coffee table is from Smink; the Boom floor lamp is by Castoai and the Borsari are by Haile Wossen of Anthos.)

# GREEK REVIVAL

WITH HELP FROM DESIGNER LESLIE EZELLE, DIMITRI AND TASSI REPPAS TAPPED THEIR HELLENIC ROOTS FOR THE DESIGN OF THEIR MINIMALIST UPTOWN AERIE.

By Ellise Pierce | Photography by Stephen Karlisch



**AU NATURAL**

Clockwise from top: In the entry, a bench by George Nelson and color block painting by Leslie Ezelle greet visitors; a Byzantine brass candle stand, salvaged from a monastery on Mount Athos, is juxtaposed with a contemporary metal sculpture from Taylors on Ten; in the entry, a mid-century modern buffet from Give and Take holds a metal lamp by Visual Comfort and a bowl from Taylors on Ten.

Call it an extreme makeover, Greek-American style. Last year, Tassi and Dimitri Reppas downsized from their 5,000-square-foot Preston Hollow home, selling all its contents, including most of their clothes, and moved into a two-bedroom, high-rise penthouse at Travis at Katy Trail. Twelve-year-old daughter Maro was the only holdout, keeping her collection of Breyer model horses, copious bottles of nail polish and dozens of colorful hair bows. "I left the house with three suitcases," Tassi boasts. "It's been so freeing."

The Reppas' new 3,000-square-foot abode represents a fresh chapter for Tassi, a Dallas native who grew up speaking Greek at home before she learned English; spent her childhood summers at the family's coastal town of Nafpaktos, Greece; then married at 18, like every good Greek girl is expected to do. Her first house was chosen by her father, along with everything in it, down to the color

of the carpet. She had two sons, divorced, and on her annual summer trip to Greece in 1999, she ran into an old friend, whom she'd known since she was 8 years old. "He was my first kiss," she says. Within six months, she and Dimitri were wed.

A sprawling six-bedroom, six-bathroom Preston Hollow home

was just what they needed for their young, still-growing family. It was filled with ethnic pieces from their travels and generations of family heirlooms, plus color—lots of color. "We had a turquoise dining room, a yellow living room and a green bedroom," says Tassi. "It was over stimulating." Last fall, she

was ready for a change; something simple and with clean lines. She enlisted friend and designer Leslie Ezelle to help with the transformation from hodgepodge and eclectic to streamlined and modern.

"Luckily she trusts my judgment and gave me the creative freedom to basically have my way with her penthouse," says

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PHOTOS BY HAILE WOSSEN



“Other than a custom leather sofa in a turquoise reminiscent of the Aegean Sea and a collection of prized Greek Orthodox icons, Ezelle had a near-blank canvas.”

#### GALLERY WALK

From top: Upstairs, a black-and-white geometric painting is by Greek artist Anastasia Papaleonida Pountza, the gray bench is vintage leather midcentury modern, handed down from Ezell's grandmother in Meridian, Mississippi, the two acrylic paintings are from Roth & Steele, and the rug is by Feizy; the minimalist master bedroom features only the essentials, including a bench by Knoll—a favorite sleeping spot for pup Mitzy—while the bedding is Palm Canyon by Barclay Butera.

Ezelle. “One huge benefit of working with your best friend is you can put all pleasantries aside and come out with what you’re thinking. This made the whole design process move much faster than normal.”

Other than a custom leather sofa in a turquoise reminiscent of the Aegean Sea and a collection of prized Greek Orthodox icons, Ezelle had a near-blank canvas. The challenge: Blend old with new, and classic with contemporary, which fit the Reppas’ passionate Greek personalities and lifestyle. No clutter, no knickknacks.

Like the breezy seaside town where Tassi and her family still spend their summers, the space is airy and spacious, with 25-foot ceilings and walls of windows, awash in crisp, clean white. “In the main

area is the Mambasa rug, which is a hand-knotted bamboo silk by Feizy,” says Ezelle. “This rug was one of the main elements I had to force Tassi’s hand on a bit. The sleek sofa needed a bold geographic backdrop, and it echoes the black-and-white geometric painting above the living room,” a piece by up-and-coming Greek artist Anastasia Papaleonida Pountza.

The exterior is all Dallas—there’s a 600-square-foot terrace with a panoramic, bird’s-eye view of downtown, yet the vibe inside remains contemporary Greek. Wall tiles by Phillips Collection from Taylors on Ten contrast a Byzantine brass candle stand from a Greek Orthodox church outside Athens, with an icon found in a monastery on Mount Athos (“We’re very religious,” Tassi says). “The

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