

Building a new home from the ground up can be a daunting task. When the Smiths, a busy Birmingham family of five, secured the lot for their new home, they immediately hired Heather Duggan of Heather Duggan Interiors to help them create an environment they would love for years to come.

With three children ranging in ages from four through 12, family-friendly finishes that also look pretty and pulled-together were a must. "Everything I chose looks good, but lives hard," Duggan said. "For example, the leather cocktail ottoman does not scratch, and the seating fabrics were all treated to resist stains."

Duggan's involvement in the early planning stages ensured every detail was considered while modifications could still be made on paper, which is far more cost-effective than changing items already completed.

Duggan describes the Smith project as one of her favorites. "These clients are lovely, and they were very open to new ideas. I am so grateful they trusted me – we took some chances that were out of their comfort zone, and they are really happy with the results."

The kitchen is clean and timeless, with ample space for two islands. The marble mosaic backsplash coordinates beautifully with quartz countertops, which look like marble but are more practical for a busy family. The kitchen has easy access to the butler's pantry, craft room, and a "drop zone" for shoes, bags, and homework.

Faux leather seating: Kravet, Suite 105.

NanaWall glass opens on both sides of the breakfast nook for easy access to the covered terrace and outdoor grill and dining areas. The faux leather chairs are easy to clean, and the resin finish on the table resists scratches.

Faux leather: **Kravet**, Suite 105. Pillow fabrics: **Tennant & Associates**, Suite 61 and **Kravet**, Suite 105.