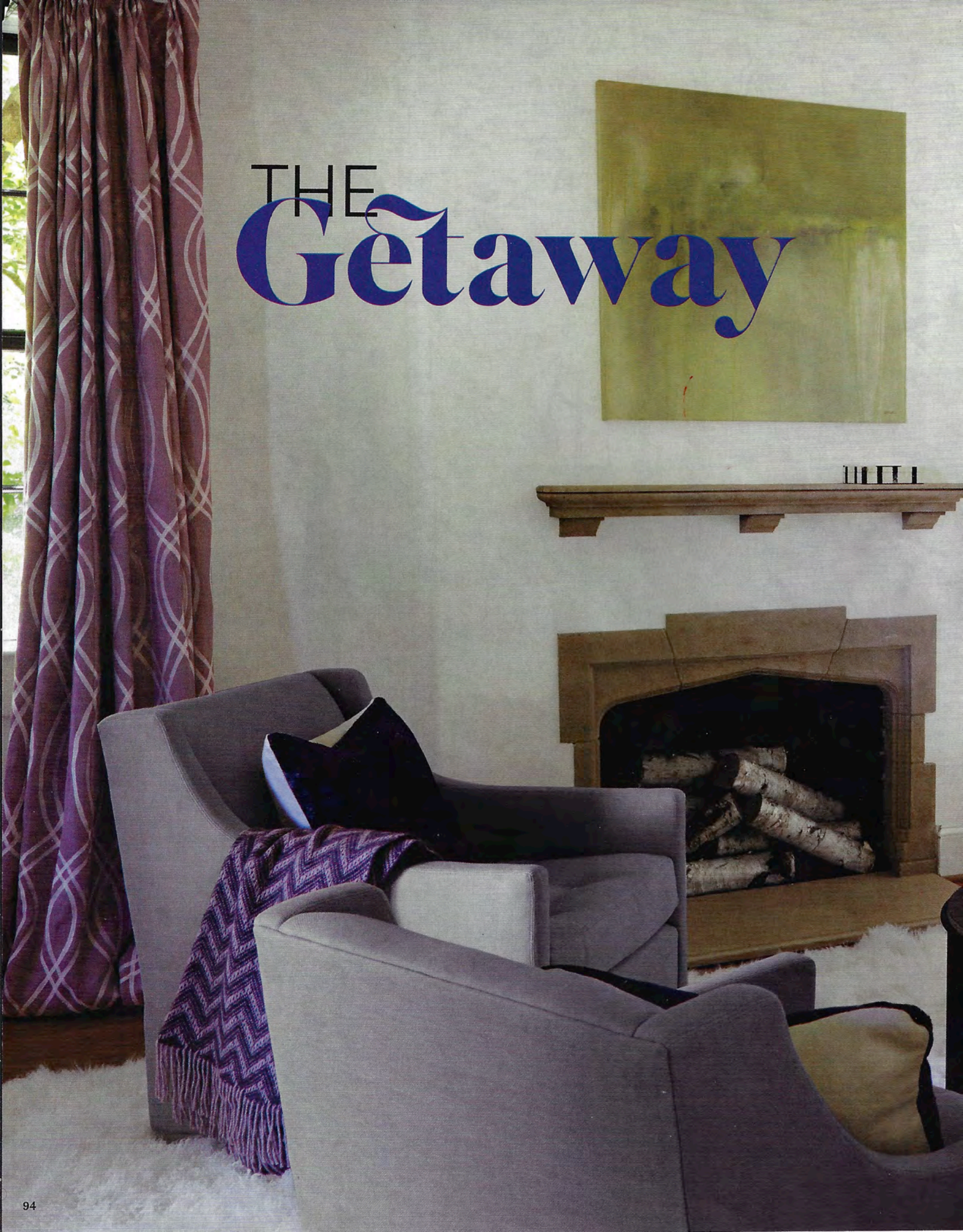


# THE Getaway







Everyone dreams of a private retreat. This lucky client has one just a few blocks from her Birmingham, Alabama, home. Designers **DOUG DAVIS & HANNON KIRK DOODY** create a glamorous, ultrafeminine apartment that blends inviting textures, modern furnishings, and a sparkling collection of crystal chandeliers.

INTERVIEW  
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**LEFT:** Stone-color linen upholstery on Verellen's Courtney club chairs in the living room gets an exotic lift from deep purple pillows made from rug fragments. Coffee table, Dwell Studio. Curtains in Lee Jofa's Verve, a topstitched cotton, soften the white walls. Regency chandelier, Visual Comfort. The natural goat-hair rug is from Paige Albright Orientals.



**MIMI READ:** I hear that the homeowner, a wife and mother of four, lives nearby and uses this apartment for hanging out with friends or just being alone. Is this an outrageous lie concocted to induce widespread envy?

**HANNON KIRK DOODY:** It's true. She and her husband have a beautiful house with French antiques right down the road, and that's where they live, raise kids, and entertain together. This is just something she wanted—a feminine getaway where she can have parties, drink wine, and watch movies with her girlfriends. She uses it as guest quarters when family comes to town. And she loves to read; she'll stop by for a quiet hour or two after car pool. How did it feel to design a retreat that nobody actually lives in?

**HKD:** Extremely liberating. There were no rules, no guidelines. We got to throw down an ethereal goat-hair rug in the living room, because there won't be children running around every day to ruin it. We used tones of lavender, plum, white, and charcoal because those shades seem ultrafeminine, and they're a departure from her primary residence. We wanted it pale and airy, but with some richer colors so it wouldn't look monochromatic or washed out. Tell me about this building and the apartment as you found it.

**DOUG DAVIS:** It's a great landmark building—a 1929 brick Tudor detailed in limestone. It's three stories, and every apartment looks out onto a center courtyard. Our client always loved it, so when this 1,200-square-foot unit came up for sale, she bought it. It had good bones and original black steel casement windows in perfect condition—the kind you dream about finding in a house. But most of the place was pretty rough: radiators and window-AC units, a terrible 1980s kitchen, and a vintage bathroom that was not vintage in a good way—it was just old. So you rejiggered it?

**HKD:** We knocked down walls and made the living spaces bigger, a bedroom smaller, the bathroom bigger. We took it down to the bones, and then we put it back together.



**ABOVE:** A dining banquette in Kravet's Brina, styled to evoke a camelback sofa, looks even more inviting piled with pillows.

**OPPOSITE:** A Swedish cabinet from Henhouse Antiques serves as a bar ready for entertaining. "It's our effort to get people out of the kitchen and into this living room during parties," Hannon Kirk Doody says. In the dining room beyond the arched doorway, Victoria Ghost chairs by Philippe Starck add more seating without taking up visual space. Eero Saarinen Tulip table.

**DD:** It's our favorite kind of space to do. You get a complete vision that way. You're not having to work around awkward trim or fix things with paint.

The kitchen is small—but what a tour de force.

**HKD:** We didn't need to put in upper cabinets because our client didn't need much storage, so that freed us up to cover the whole wall in a chevron marble pattern. We'd been dying to use it. The veining and the pattern are so prominent and striking, it's like a piece of art.

**DD:** In a small space, it's better to make a few big statements. We made the one gesture with the marble tiles on the wall and then used it again for the island top. Then we stopped. We didn't try to do a fancy edge on the island. It's just a little eased edge—we like to take the sharp corner off but leave it as close to square as you can get it. It's just simple. It's one of those small things you don't really notice, but when all those little parts and pieces work together, a room feels right.

Well, you definitely notice those shutter doors on the storage cabinet. Such a warm, lyrical foil to all that marble.

**HKD:** I love the shape. We'd like to have found old shutters, but we needed a really specific size, so we had these made. They were painted, stripped, and chipped with tools. A painstaking process. The point of them is for the kitchen not to feel sterile and cold—sometimes kitchens can when you have so much stainless steel and white marble. Upholstered beds are the norm these days—we see one after another. But in the guest bedroom, you've fashioned one with a profile that's clever and fresh.

**HKD:** That was a fun challenge. We stole a few feet out of the guest room to make the bathroom larger, but the homeowner still wanted a queen bed in there even though there was barely room. So, working with a great craftsman, we created an upholstered bed and tucked it into the corner. We didn't want to block the window, so we made it swoop down underneath it, which gives it that unique, beautiful shape. Why is there no sofa in the living room?

**DD:** It's more lounge-like this way. The four chairs are Belgian-inspired silhouettes covered in Belgian linen, a little raw, which is nice. The coffee table is covered in shagreen with an iron base. It's definitely one of the more modern silhouettes. We love that piece of steel sitting on that puffy cloud of a rug. It's a marriage of textures.

Layering an assorted mix of alluring textures seems to be your thing. Is that why you used crystal chandeliers in virtually every room, even against the dining room's pecky cypress ceiling? Or is this a nostalgic Southern flourish?

**HKD:** Honestly, the client loves them. It's her favorite thing to hunt for. She'll be traveling and send us pictures of them. But it's also a nod to the Southern lifestyle. It reminds us of our grandmothers' dining tables, or putting on your Sunday best for a family meal. And the chandeliers are beautiful, too, so why not put them in a bedroom or hallway?













An entire wall of the kitchen is clad in Calacatta Gold marble tiles from Kenny & Company and laid in a chevron pattern for extra drama. Simple slabs of the same marble cover the countertops and island. The cabinet's distressed louvered doors with bronze Cremona bolt hardware, a custom design, add a feeling of age to the room. Custom cabinetry is painted in Benjamin Moore's White Dove with Lucite knobs and pulls from Decor Island. Range and hood, Wolf. See page 128 to get the look.





1. New closets in the entry, with antiqued mirrored doors and French hardware, hold coats and AV equipment. 2. A handsome storage wall replaced an awkward closet in the master bedroom. 3. A pair of chairs by Lee Industries is covered in the company's Serengeti with leather piping. 4. A Chatham pivot mirror by Restoration Hardware hangs above the generous Aquagrande sink by Lacava. Acqui faucet by Rohl. 5. Design duo Hannon Kirk Doody and Doug Davis. 6. The kitchen tiles show off the marble's sinuous gray veining. 7. An Art Deco chandelier adds a feminine touch. Vapor barstools, CB2. 8. The dining room's crystal chandelier from Restoration Hardware looks like a piece of jewelry hanging from the pecky cypress ceiling. **OPPOSITE:** A custom queen bed upholstered in Highland Court's Voltaire fits snugly in a corner of the guest room. Roman shade and bolster fabric in Schumacher's Rivington Weave. Odeon chandelier, Restoration Hardware. FOR MORE DETAILS, SEE RESOURCES





