

NASHVILLE

# at home

SPRING/SUMMER 2011

HOME AWARDS

## DESIGNER OF THE YEAR

SHOWS US HIS  
LATEST PROJECT

GO INSIDE  
ROCKER  
**JOHN  
OATES**  
NASHVILLE  
HOME



## A tall, clear glass pitcher stands behind five matching glasses. The glasses are arranged in two rows: three in the front and two slightly behind them. All items are made of clear glass and are placed on a highly reflective, polished surface that creates clear reflections. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. The number '30' is printed in a large, white, serif font in the bottom right corner.

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32

## A large, bright interior space, likely a living or dining area, featuring a wide staircase with a dark metal railing and a large arched doorway leading to a covered outdoor area. The room has light-colored walls, dark wood flooring, and a large painting on the left wall. The number 58 is visible in the bottom right corner.

A guide to the essentials and new trends

Artist Peter Fleming

The city's most stunning restaurant dining rooms

Interior designer Jonathan Savage channels luminary Albert Hadley in this modern interpretation.

Musician John Oates lays down Nashville roots—and reflects on a life-long career with a new memoir.

Rustic plus modern results in family-friendly living in Brentwood.

Tea leaves have been a thread through Sarah Scarborough's life—from Nashville to China and back.

# HILL-SIDE PERCH

Rustic plus modern results in family-friendly living in Brentwood.

BY **KAREN PARR-MOODY**. PHOTOS BY **STUDIOBUELL**.















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*The owners love the outdoors and wanted everything to be soothing, calm, and peaceful.*

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Though Pinterest is flooded with images of built-in bunk beds that would enhance any childhood dream, these ideas rarely get beyond the “Pin” stage of wishful thinking—unless you’re working with interior designer Connie Vernich. While putting details in place for a family-friendly home in Brentwood’s exclusive Windstone neighborhood, she recreated these functional bed designs, along with a host of playful features.

The owners, who worked with Vernich for more than three years to develop the 10,000-square-foot home, have young children who enjoy entertaining their many cousins in a room that includes the four built-in bunk beds. The room has a cheery vibe and also features a clever touch—a chalkboard on which each guest can write his or her name. “They wanted to have a place where all the cousins could hang out and have sleepovers together,” Vernich says.

Custom homebuilder Justin Davis, the founder and president of Davis Properties, was chosen as builder, and the homeowners tapped Vernich for the interior design of the home before the architectural plans were even rendered by Jack Herr Design Associates. Set within the bucolic topography of Windstone, the home is >>>







built on a multiple-acre foundation, and Vernich's team worked with Davis to put the home's look together, blending industrial and rustic elements into the hilltop retreat.

Vernich cleverly brought the woodland setting indoors through rustic accent pieces, branch-framed artwork and a natural palette that includes pewter gray tones. "The owners love the outdoors and they wanted everything to be soothing, calm, and peaceful," she says.

Vernich used modernism as the counterpoint to rusticity by adding asymmetrical pendant lighting, a modern metalwork staircase, and black-framed windows. The staircase is the pièce de résistance. It features iron-tube railing complemented by thick oak steps. Upping the drama is a custom-built, contemporary chandelier that hangs at different heights.

The floors throughout the house are heavily distressed and stained with a blend of classic gray and dark walnut tones to give them a weathered look.

The kitchen is a bright, inviting space that includes a massive island. "The clients wanted a really large island as a gathering space for friends and family," Vernich says. "So, we've got plenty of areas where people can talk, and the kids can do their homework." Two styles of wooden mid-century modern chairs offer seating. "We needed the warmth of wood," Vernich says. "Those chairs warm up the industrial look."

Another highlight, though not necessarily for the public eye, is the home's stunning white-and-gray master bath, which garnered the Best in Show award from the American Society of Interior Designers' annual competition. The white bathtub, with its sleek lines, was the room's inspiration. Vernich added gray tiles as a flattering backdrop to the tub and finished the large shower, which features his-and-her doors, in the same gray tiles.

"That's one of my favorite bathrooms I've ever done," she says.

This house will be a favorite, as well, for anyone who loves a modern-rustic aesthetic—and a leafy perch. (*vernichdesigns.com*)

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