

Even an extensively rebuilt space such as the kitchen retains vintage touches, with glazed white brick tiles, a butler's pantry, and reproduction cargo-steamship lights. But while the bones of the house were left intact, the decor is decidedly contemporary. For instance, the family room has a graphic floral rug, a cocktail table with a shell-inlay top, and a modern sectional sofa.

One of the home's most up-to-date spaces is in the basement, where Allison, whose professional work includes restaurant design, transformed a former wood shop into a wine-tasting room. She had a 12-foot table custom made of reclaimed French oak, the same wood often used for wine barrels. Above it hangs a set of IKEA lamps reconfigured into a light fixture.

The McConaugheys make a point of using every inch of their home. The couple and their children—Zadie, eight; Wilson, five; and baby Lucy—often take their meals at the dining room's elegant round mahogany table rather than in the kitchen. In the master bedroom suite, a spacious dressing room furnished with a white shag rug and a Louis XVI—style armchair doubles as a private retreat for the adults. "We intentionally carved that out as a place where we could have real conversations at the end of the day and spend time alone," Allison says.

That the McConaugheys have turned their historic abode into a personality-filled family house—and not a starchy period piece—is highlighted by a sly touch they incorporated into their living room. A wall niche is lined with flea-market apothecary jars, each filled with the sand of beaches the couple has visited together, from Zanzibar to the West Indies. "With three children, we don't go to exotic beaches anymore," Warner admits. But just in case, they've left enough room so that one day they can squeeze a few more jars onto the shelves.

