



(Clockwise from left) A vintage resplendor hangs over the bed in the master bedroom; leopard textiles peek out on an antique couch finished in chartreuse velvet; the geometric tiles are original to the home; Younger's daughter helped her design this daybed to match the painting by Raymundo Gonzalez.



Casa Chica

Alamo Heights home creates eclectic vibe with a mix of fabrics, patterns and artwork

BY MIKELA FLOYD KINNISON

With the kids out of the house, Chica and John Younger knew exactly where they wanted to live. “I’ve driven by this house for years and always said it was my favorite house in Alamo Heights,” Chica Younger says.

And in the nearly two decades the Youngers have now called the house home, Chica (born Fredericka) has made it entirely her own. Located on a picturesque Alamo Heights street, the house looks similar to that of its neighbors—a sprawling stucco with lush landscaping. But get closer, and it’s apparent the home is something special. A sign reading “Casa Chica” greets all who enter, and a vintage doorbell summons the warm and bubbly matriarch.

Once inside, it’s clear a lot of thought went into the home’s carefully curated charm. Almost immediately, the home’s original tile—a geometric redondo the couple carried throughout the home as they renovated—jumps out from underneath oriental rugs in the entryway. “To me, a house

should reflect the personality of the people who live inside it, and when we moved in, we found a fabulous architect, Catherine Nored,” Younger says. “She understood why we loved this house, and helped us to keep it the way we liked it.” Nored helped to expand the bedrooms and make the rooftop more accessible.

On the walls and throughout the home, the couple’s love of Mexico shines through, from the vintage resplendor hanging over the couple’s bed, to the embroidered textiles and abundant wall art by Mexican artist Raymundo Gonzalez. The home serves as a gallery of sorts for Gonzalez’s work—nearly every painting is for sale.

While eclecticism reigns at Casa Chica, Younger admits she sometimes needs a little reigning in when it comes to design. Enter daughter Galeana Younger, founder of local design outfit The Galeana Group. When her mom recently approached her to design a custom daybed modeled after one of Gonzalez’s paintings, for example, Galeana was the one who made sure the function fit the

form, all while embracing the vibrant personality of her parents’ empty nest home. “She’s the one to keep me in check,” says Younger.

A mix of family heirlooms and reupholstered finds furnish each room, making every space unique. Younger cites a longtime love of textiles as her inspiration, and it shows. In one room, an antique couch is covered in beautiful chartreuse velvet, with colorful serape-style cushions intermingling with leopard print pillows. Younger says, “Every house needs a little leopard.” ★