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MAN'S MANSE! The massive dining room allowed for large-scale custom pieces, including a 13-foot buffet and 120-foot table, both custom made of ribbon sapele mahogany by William & Wesley Co. Chairs by Brueton and Beacon Hill. Cut crystal obelisks by Kathleen Allen from William & Wesley.

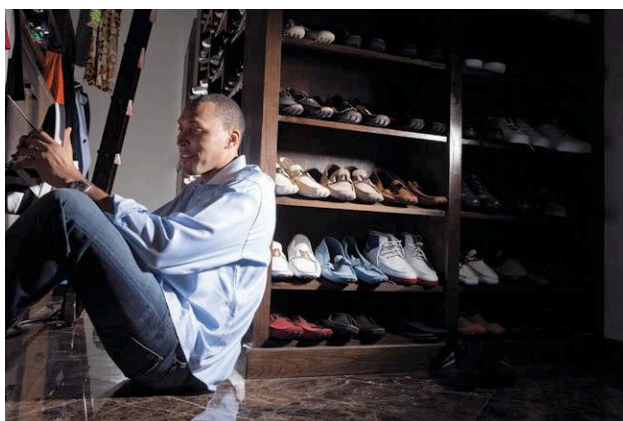
Home Advantage

Hoops star Shawn Marion's sleek Dallas abode is a design slam dunk

| *By Rebecca Sherman* |
| *Photography by Justin Clemons* |

On the court, Dallas Mavericks forward Shawn “The Matrix” Marion is an athletic powerhouse known for his unblockable shots and his quick and versatile playing style. Off the court, he’s a bit more low key. “I chill. I love being at home. The older you get the more you don’t need to go out,” says Marion, 32, who owns a large brownstone in downtown Chicago where he spends his summers, a townhouse in Phoenix where he played eight years for the Suns and an 8,500-square-foot showplace in Miami procured during a recent stint for the Heat. When Marion signed a \$39-million, five-year contract with the Mavericks in July 2009, one of the first things on his list was to acquire a new pad in town. “I was shopping for a big home that I could customize and put my stamp on,” says Marion, a bachelor who’s a free agent till the right woman comes along. House number four is a lavish, 12,600-square-foot, \$4-million-plus manse in far north Dallas, built by Simmie Cooper of Cooper Homes, Inc.

“I walked in, and it was completely empty, but it was beautiful. It just told me, ‘This is the house. This is the one,’” says Marion. “The rooms are perfectly sized, not too big, not too small. It’s my pride and joy.” Modern with classical influences, it’s a spec house with an unexpected twist: Cooper hired Ron Bogard of Childress Architectural Group to do the architecture, and interior designer Joanie Wyll to carry out the interior finishes, which include Venetian plaster walls and exotic macassar ebony cabinets. “This builder sees the importance of having a designer and architect from the very beginning on a house,” explains Wyll, who met Marion after he purchased the house and had interviewed a string of designers to help him furnish it. CONTINUED...



...CONTINUED Says Marion: "I went with Joanie because she understood the house the best."

Said to be one of the most efficient players in the NBA, Marion approached decorating his new Dallas digs with as much focus and passion as he exhibits on the court. "I had to be hands-on. I'm like that with everything, whether it's picking out furniture or cars, I make sure I'm involved," says Marion, who pounded the pavements in the Design District with Wyll before voluntarily benching himself. "After one day, he said 'I'm done, just bring stuff to me from now on,'" remembers Wyll with a laugh. "But Shawn approved every fabric, accessory and piece of furniture. He knew what he wanted. His taste is minimalist and very sophisticated."

The Matrix's design influences? Some of the most stylish hotels in the country where he's spent many nights on the road and the multimillion dollar modernist cribs that belong to teammates and friends. "A lot of contemporary homes and hotels are not livable," says Marion. "I've been in places that were beautiful, but dude, you don't want to touch nothing, and you don't know what's what, or what's where, because everything is hidden in the walls. You can't find anything. I didn't want that."

For Marion, that home feel means comfort. And for a guy who's 6'7" and 228 lbs., comfort means custom made. All the furniture in his house was custom built by William & Wesley Co. of Dallas, not only to fit Marion's commanding frame, but also to match the luxurious scale of the house, with 32-foot ceilings in the entry and main living areas. Chairs and sofas were made deeper than normal, and an extra-large bed in cast

bronze was commissioned, with a specially designed mattress that took months to make. All the paintings and sculptures in the house, many of them large-scale and colorful, were custom created by Dallas artist Doug Van Voorhis.

"We did a limited number of really good furniture pieces, so everything really stands out," says Wyll, who used stainless steel and exotic woods like sapele mahogany, with some furnishings accented in silver leaf. Mohair and leather upholstery in Marion's favorite colors—brown, taupe and black—keep it all soft and luxurious. Bespoke is definitely better, Marion attests. "I didn't want anything that you can go into a store and grab. You won't see anything in my house anywhere else."

For a guy who travels nine months out of the year playing ball, it's no wonder Marion hides out at home when he's in town. "I dabble dabble in the kitchen," he confides. "I'm either hanging out in the kitchen or in the bedroom." In addition to six bedrooms and eight baths, Marion's mansion is stocked with a full gym, a wine room, a tricked out game room and a private nightclub he designed himself, dubbed Club Trix, where people often drop by to hear him spin. "I'm working on my DJ skills," he quips.

Can there be anything next for a guy who seems to have it all? "One day I want to have my own bowling alley. Bowling for me is like golf for everyone else. I love it...I want to build a big house from the ground up, and put a bowling alley in it," he declares. If The Matrix has plans to defect from the NBA to the PBA any time soon, he's not saying. But Mark Cuban, you might want to watch your back. ■

'TRIX AND THE TRADE! *Clockwise from left:* In the living room, Shawn Marion's taste for neutral, sleek interiors is reflected in the house's organic color palette and the use of metals like stainless steel; custom chairs by William & Wesley Co. and custom painting by Doug Van Voorhis; walls throughout are Venetian plaster. Also in the living room, African sapele mahogany, polished to a high gleam, covers one wall, and the fireplace surround is made from light Emperador marble; floors are large slabs of polished Italian tile. A favorite décor item is a skull-shaped, silver-plated jewelry box, which Marion bought online. Dallas Mavericks player Shawn Marion, inside his master closet; Marion's collections include more than 400 pairs of shoes (his favorites are by Louis Vuitton), and a collection of 10 automobiles, including vintage classics, which he stores on risers in his three-car garage.