

ELLE

CARRIAGE HOUSE





Nestled in the charming Buena Park neighbourhood of Chicago, a historic carriage house has undergone a truly enchanting transformation, culminating in a vibrant blend of styles and eras. The journey to create a harmonious living space for a couple in their 40s was not without its challenges, but the final result is a testament to the power of design to bridge individual tastes and create a cohesive, inviting atmosphere.

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Susannah Holmberg
is a design magician who weaves
dreams into tangible reality.

The design brief of this project was no small feat. The carriage house had already been sensitively updated by an architect, tailored to the unique lifestyle of the owners, who sought a space that exuded both opulence and modernity. Her penchant for maximalism, chinoiserie, and the belief that the ceiling is a canvas was juxtaposed with his affinity for clean lines and mid-century aesthetics. The objective was clear: to weave these seemingly disparate tastes into a rich tapestry of design that would breathe life into every corner. Undoubtedly, the heart of this spectacular transformation lies in the living room. Often dubbed the "favourite room" by its owners, this space emanates the luxurious comfort of a boutique hotel lobby. Multiple seating areas invite exploration,

each piece of furniture inviting new discovery. A bold move was made with Zak and Fox wallpaper adorning the main living room wall, infusing an element of intrigue that is further accentuated by the carefully placed artwork by Gabriel Godard.

Challenges were not in short supply during this renovation. The carriage house's limited natural light posed a hurdle that the design team tackled with creativity and finesse. By infusing color, warmth, and texture, the once dimly lit spaces now radiate life, a testament to the transformative power of thoughtful design. Marrying two distinct aesthetics was yet another triumph, as the designers adeptly balanced pattern and sleek mid-century



Credenza revamp

The living room credenza's story unfolds as vintage knobs make way for oversized brass lions, exuding a timeless allure. Atop, a stately duck painting finds new purpose, complemented by vibrant orange chairs that infuse a touch of modernity. This fusion of elements encapsulates our design ethos – a harmonious blend of tradition and innovation.



Cozy Transformation

Rustic elements spread warmth throughout. The room's length led to a clever split into two distinct seating zones. The first flaunts a rust sofa, red marble coffee table, and boucle-upholstered Lignet Rosie chairs. The second charms with a vintage wood-backed sofa, Little Petra chair, and a tucked game nook crowned by a pendant-lit Blu Dot table surrounded by vintage chairs adorned with House of Hackney cushions.

profiles to create an aesthetic that is both layered and fresh. A symphony of features harmoniously come together to create an inviting tableau. From the Little Petra Chair and Tradition Pendant over the game table to the vintage game table chairs sourced from 1stDibs, every piece tells a story of design evolution. Notable highlights include the House of Hackney upholstery on the game table chairs, and the remarkable House of Hackney wallpaper that infuses the office with an air of whimsy.

The time invested, approximately a year, was well worth the dedication. The result is a home that seamlessly melds new and vintage elements, encompassing a timeless, preppy, and textured

charm that wraps occupants in comfort. The layers of design, a medley of eras, create an engaging backdrop that is as dynamic as it is inviting. Furthermore, the space has successfully achieved the delicate balance between intimacy for the couple and a welcoming environment for entertaining larger groups, making it a true haven for all occasions. In the heart of Buena Park, a historic carriage house has emerged from the cocoon of its former self to become a vibrant, inviting space that deftly marries two distinct design sensibilities. A true testament to the transformative power of design, this renovated dwelling is a living testament to the harmony that can arise when artistry and individuality intertwine.





Radiant bedroom

Patterns and textures, subtly infused with blue and gold, boucle, rattan, and block prints, created an interplay of elements that resonated with the room's luminosity. A Mathis Brothers bench, expertly upholstered with holland and Sherry fabric, crowned the thoughtfully curated space.

Enchanting workspace

House of Hackney wallpaper graces the walls, while carefully selected complementary hues adorn the trim and ceiling. A vibrant red desk, accompanied by a meticulously patterned ceramic lamp, introduces a subtle yet striking contrast, adding to the room's distinct charm.

