



Eye-catching Malplaquet pendant lights by The Urban Electric Co. and counter stools by Palecek add visual appeal to the kitchen. Opposite page: A Barron Custom Furniture sofa upholstered in Great Outdoors fabric by Holly Hunt beckons in the inviting living room.

SECOND HOME SHOWSTOPPER



MICHAEL ABRAMS INTERIORS TRANSFORMS A FORMER SPEC HOUSE IN HINSDALE INTO A PERFECTLY PERSONALIZED ABODE FOR A SOPHISTICATED PAIR FROM ST. LOUIS.
BY J.P. ANDERSON / PHOTOGRAPHED BY RYAN MCDONALD

THE CLIENT

Craving a second home in the Chicago area to be close to their children and grandchildren, and to serve as a home away from home for the husband's routine business travel to Chicago, a St. Louis-based couple found Hinsdale an ideal location for them to put down local roots. Then they really struck gold, discovering Michael Abrams Interiors from online research and hiring the firm for the project. "Like many successful working relationships," notes founder Michael Abrams, "we immediately connected with their charismatic and approachable personalities. Having had designer homes before purchasing in Chicago, they were experienced and relaxed in the process of design, which made working with them a joy."

THE PRIORITY

In St. Louis, the client has a glam abode in a gorgeous vintage building but wanted something different in Hinsdale to reflect the casual, informal lifestyle they have when in the Windy City. "They loved the airy, casual feel of the house—a former spec house—but knew it needed a layer of design to personalize it. Since the husband and wife were commuting to Hinsdale for both business and family regularly, they asked us to work quickly to expedite the transformation."

Abrams' team created a cozy spot by the fire perfect for reading. Opposite page: The Holly Hunt dining table (pictured with chairs from McGuire Furniture and chandelier by Circa Lighting) expands from four- to eight-person capacity when needed for entertaining.





Omexco's Kayori wallcovering in Zen Bone adds sumptuous texture to the guest bedroom, which also features Moon Glow lamps from Circa Lighting. Opposite page: Plush Rosecore Cache Intermix carpeting from Rexx Rug leads down the stairs, brightened by artwork by artist Mihail Chemiakin.

THE CHALLENGE

"As this was not their primary home, we were challenged to work quickly with the client to complete the project and expand the home beyond the basic," says Abrams. "Functionally, the original great room was divided into two smaller areas—a breakfast room and family room. Knowing this home would be a casual retreat for the couple and occasionally their adult children, we decided to reconcept the space and eliminate the breakfast table altogether. By doing so, we were able to open up the area to create one larger great room with multiple sofa arrangements that was much more usable than the breakfast table in the corner by the patio door. Now, eating in this area of the house would be either at the large kitchen island or very casually in front of the TV as many modern households tend to do."



THE DETAIL

Notes Abrams, "Repurposing the front room of the house, which was formerly a small living room, we turned the area into a combination sitting and dining room. The round dining table opens up from seating for four to seating for eight when needed for family and business dinners. The two upholstered dining head chairs were scaled to serve a second purpose as reading chairs near the hearth when the table is not opened to its maximum size. As this room has the only fireplace in the home, the wife requested a cozy spot where she could regularly sit near the fire and read."

THE OUTCOME

"They were thrilled with the outcome in addition to how quickly it transformed their home," sums up the designer. "The aesthetic and functional transformation made the home even more usable than they had imagined when they purchased it." ■

The master bedroom's Coraggio Sojara bed is covered in a Sandra Jordan alpaca and Holly Hunt leather; bedside tables by Barron Custom Furniture, lamps by Baker Furniture and wallpaper by Romo are other standout aspects of the space.



DESIGN DETAILS

TYPE
Single-family home

LOCATION
Hinsdale

ARCHITECTURE
Patrick Plunkett
patrickplunkett.com

BUILDERS
Byrne Builders
byrnebuilders.com

INTERIORS
Michael Abrams Interiors
michaelabrams.com

PAINTER
Jack Tagler
773.844.6422

RESOURCES

BAKER FURNITURE
Accessories, bedside lamps
bakerfurniture.com

BARRON CUSTOM FURNITURE
Sofa, bedside tables
barroncustomfurniture.com

CAI DESIGNS
Various accessories
caidesigns.net

CIRCA LIGHTING
Dining room lighting
circalighting.com

EUROCRAFT INC.
Various custom furniture
eurocraft-inc.com

THE FLEMMING GROUP
Media console fabrication
theflemminggroup.com

HOLLY HUNT
Dining table, sofa fabric
hollyhunt.com

MCGUIRE FURNITURE
Dining chairs, coffee table
mcguirefurniture.com

OSCAR ISBERIAN RUGS
Various rugs
isberian.com

PALECEK
Counter stools
palecek.com

PHILLIP JEFFRIES
Wallpaper in great room
phillipjeffries.com

ROMO
Wallpaper in master bedroom
romo.com

THE URBAN ELECTRIC CO.
Kitchen and entry lighting
urbanelectric.com