

#### BEST FEMININE BATHROOM

**Elizabeth Stamos**

**Design** (773.915.3295, elizabethstamosdesign.com) A client who travels often was looking for a soothing oasis to come home to and enlisted Elizabeth Stamos to create a pretty, relaxing space. Stamos gutted everything and incorporated a more European wet-room layout to create a spa vibe. Handmade terra-cotta tiles are paired with clean white marble, a brushed-oak vanity and various sources of dimmable light, including a beaded chandelier.

#### BEST DESIGNER FOR CUSTOM PIECES

**Eva Quateman Interiors** (220 W. Huron St., Ste. 2002, 312.255.8800, evaquateman.com) Designer Eva Quateman says that one of her favorite spaces to decorate is a

powder room because "you can be a little more fancy or a little more fun" than in the rest of the home. For a gut renovation of a home in Lincoln Park, she customized a vanity out of a traditional demi-lune table. Paired with grass cloth-covered walls and a ceiling with crown molding, the small space exudes a huge amount of style and elegance.

#### BEST FIRM FOR RESIDENTIAL-INSPIRED CONTRACT DESIGN

**Eastlake Studio** (333 N. Michigan Ave., Ste. 2600, 312.527.0200, eastlakestudio.com) After 30 years of designing hip and cool workplaces around the city (along with other projects), Eastlake Studio celebrated its milestone anniversary by moving and renovating its own new digs. Formerly the Tavern Club on

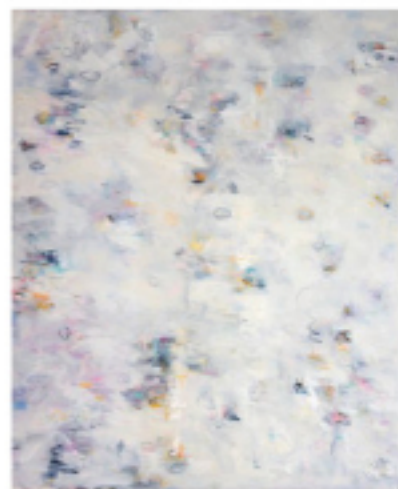
Michigan Avenue, the team kept the same ethos of community and socializing in their redesign while modernizing the space.

#### BEST FIREPLACE WALL

**Honsen Interiors** (W. Kinzie St., 312.890.9059, honseninteriors.com) After renovating the main floor of an Old Town townhouse, Allison Delaney was called back to renovate the second-floor living room. A new modern limestone fireplace and hearth, surrounded by a Venetian plaster wall with custom crown molding, creates a focal point, bookended by built-ins with trelliswork details that mirror a graphic rug.

#### BEST SWANKY DEN

**Ilene Chase, Ilene Chase Design** (1218 Washington Ave., Wilmette,



#### BEST ARTIST FOR DESIGNER COMMISSIONS

**Linc Thelen**  
(1620 W. Carroll Ave., 312.593.5463, lincthelen.com)

Lush musical scores often fill the air at artist Linc Thelen's studio, and he believes that the symphonic tunes influence his work. "I try to create drama and then resolution, so people get sucked into a story," Thelen says. Starting with random scribbles, Thelen builds up layers of oil, pastel, pencil and chalk to create abstract compositions with texture and depth. His pieces, many of which are custom commissions, can be found in posh homes and corporate offices around the globe. A successful interior designer as well, Thelen is open to collaborating with his clients on scale and color. "The work has to be in the vein that I'm working in," he explains, "but I keep it really open and easy."

847.828.0305, ilenechasedesign.com) A moody, sexy place where the parents of young children could retreat to at the end of the day to watch TV or read was the direction given to designer Ilene Chase when she was renovating a spacious home in Long Grove. Her answer was a den with elaborate millwork, a wall of built-ins for storage, a fireplace and an antiqued mirror wall that reflects glowing light from a Sputnik-style chandelier.

BARN PHOTO BY JONAS GERB, ART PHOTO COURTESY OF LINC THELEN

#### BEST BARN CONVERSION

**Tom Stringer Design Partners** (919 N. Michigan Ave., Ste. 320, tomstringer.com) Set on a long lake in Michigan, the newly renovated barn on this large family property provides space for charity events or workshops; a theater; and entertainment space that includes a billiards table, lounge seating, a dining area and a small kitchen, as well as storage for antique cars and boats—including a Model A Ford that has been in the family for generations. The masculine but comfortable vibe features unstained wood, leather, energy-efficient lighting and several antique treasures that give it even more character.



#### BEST BEDROOM

**Brianne Bishop Interior Design**  
(2256 W. Grand Ave., 312.243.4930, briannebishopdesign.com)

Interior designer Brianne Bishop went to a dark place when she was tasked with making over a cavernous master bedroom in Deerfield. "I take sleep very seriously, and a dark room is one of the best ways to promote a good rest," explains Bishop. To wit, she replaced the neutral wall-to-wall carpeting with ebony-stained hardwood flooring, introduced a textural handpainted wallcovering and painted the lofted ceiling in a matching graphite hue. A large-scale chandelier made of leather strips takes advantage of the high ceilings, and at night, it creates a sexy glow that is reflected by the large brass mirror propped against the wall next to the silk mohair-covered headboard. "This is one of my favorite projects," Bishop says. "I love the drama."

PHOTO BY ANTHONY TAYLOR

