

BEST IN DESIGN

AT HOME

BEST LIVING SPACE// SWEET PEAS DESIGN

The theme of the 2014 Gracious House Interior Designer Showhouse (supporting the nonprofit organization Prevent Child Abuse America) was Boutique Hotel. Taking their cue from hip, international hotel lobbies, Susan Brunstrum and her team at Sweet Peas Design created an intimate yet airy family room with two distinct areas in which to lounge. One of these seating arrangements is delineated by an ivory patchwork hide rug with a linen sofa flanked by two Andrew Martin chairs. A modern, statement-making chandelier by Baker features Murano glass and brushed gold, a theme which is carried throughout the space by mixing metals with natural, textural elements. The Harlequin wallpaper was hung in a deconstructed, semirolled effect to add an urban edge. The colorful glass-bust sculptures by Chicago artist Pearl Dick of Ignite Glass Studios on the Bradley cocktail table were chosen to represent a global



BLISSFUL LIVING
With a calm palette punctuated by a few pops of color, Sweet Peas Design curated a serene setting for the Gracious House show-home benefit.

clientele who would stay in this stylish spot during their travels. **What We Love:** The room feels both comfortable yet refined: Expertly edited modern pieces are balanced with eclectic finds for both luxury and livability. 100 E. Bellevue Place, sweetpeas-inspired.com

READERS' CHOICE

BEST KITCHEN// CANNON FRANK

A few years after a shoddy remodel, the owner of this North Michigan Avenue high-rise residence was unhappy with her kitchen's discolored and shrunken cabinetry, fragile countertops and cramped layout. The project: Gut the existing space and create a functional and glamorous kitchen from scratch in the seven months the homeowner is away on business. Designer John Cannon hit the ground running, reaching out to Neff of Chicago for premium-quality custom cabinetry. After perusing the company's 87 different door styles, Cannon worked with Neff to create a never-before-seen door design, which sets the sleek and sophisticated tone for the space. Despite some setbacks due to the previous contractor's oversights, Cannon managed to pull together the stylish kitchen just two days before the client arrived home. **What We Love:** Cannon has an architectural eye, so he sees spaces with a holistic angle (and he's an expert when it comes to displaying art of any kind!). Cannon Frank, The Merchandise Mart, Suite 1530B, cannonfrank.com



A LA CUCINA
How to deliver full-on glam in a flash: Ask John Cannon of Cannon Frank and Neff of Chicago (here, their remastered Mag Mile kitchen).

BEST BEDROOM// MICHAEL DEL PIERO GOOD DESIGN

This multifunctional guest room packs a whole lot of amenities in one small space. Designer Michael Del Piero worked with the "client" on this show house in Lake Forest—a single man who desired a serene respite for overnight guests. The once dark and dreary space was transformed after the Bucktown interiors diva splashed the dark-wood-paneled walls with fresh, high-gloss white. A pair of custom-designed daybeds were made the focal point, floating in the center of the space to do double duty as a sleep station or cozy sitting area by the fireplace. These highly flexible pieces will be included in Del Piero's furniture collection, debuting this spring. **What We Love:** Del Piero's mix of the natural and unnatural always makes us feel transported to an exotic locale—even in the dead of winter! 1914 N. Damen Ave., michaeldelpiero.com



COZY AND CLEAN
Earthy organic accents play with mod light fixtures and luxury hotel-like furnishings in Michael Del Piero's guest room design for the Lake Forest Showhouse.

76

INTERIOR DESIGNER/SPRING 2015

MICHAEL DEL PIERO BEDROOM PHOTO BY JANEY MESSING/ADRI. SWEET PEAS DESIGN/FAMILY ROOM PHOTO BY WERNER STALLER. CANNON FRANK KITCHEN PHOTO BY NORDAN SEEMOE

ELIZABETH STAMOS DESIGN BATHROOM PHOTO BY ERIC HAUSSMAN. PORTRAIT BY JOHN STAMOS



FLOWER POWER
From left: Elizabeth Stamos shows us that florals can be youthful in her latest bathroom redo in Evanston; interior designer Elizabeth Stamos.

BEST BATHROOM// ELIZABETH STAMOS DESIGN

When Elizabeth Stamos took on the redesign of this Victorian-era bathroom, the challenge was simple: Create a space for the clients' 7- and 11-year-old daughters that was timeless without sacrificing style. "I think the choices speak to the age of the girls now, but also to them growing into chic, young women," says Stamos. The bold floral Brunswick wallpaper brings that idea to life, while a pair of ornate vanity mirrors speak to the Evanston home's Victorian design. A crystal chandelier adds a touch of sparkle, and the framed fashion sketches inject some girly whimsy. To balance all the bold details, Stamos chose soft, white imperial Danby marble countertops, an Aurora Marble & Granite tub surround and mosaic-sized hexagon floor tiles to prevent slipping. And while the girls are happy with their new bathroom, the parents are thrilled. "[They] liked the new tub so much, they used it for a while instead of their own," says Stamos. "Now we are redoing their master bath!" **What We Love:** The Suzanne Lovell alum has a sophisticated style with a down-to-earth attitude. 211 E. Ohio St., elizabethstamosdesign.com



BEST DINING ROOM// BUCKINGHAM INTERIORS + DESIGN

Oklahomans Maureen and Jim were thrilled to begin a new chapter of their life after relocating for Jim's new job as CFO of a local medical school. But their French Country furniture didn't fit with their fresh downtown high-rise condo address. Enter Julia Buckingham, who transformed the entire space to reflect the couple's new urban lifestyle—including this dining room clad in a fun, graphic wallpaper and sophisticated accents like the bold mirror, modern chandelier and plush new furnishings. "On installation day, I think they both thought they had walked into the wrong apartment!" laughs Buckingham. **What We Love:** Buckingham's modernique mantra cleverly meshes modern lines with antiques. 1820 W. Grand Ave., buckinghamid.com



URBAN UPLIFT
From left: Interior designer Julia Buckingham; the dining room scheme includes a few funky prime modern touches and luxe accents for this downtown high-rise redo.

77

INTERIORS WINTER/SPRING 2015