

MODERN LUXURY

2 THE PUBLISHER'S LETTER BY MICHAEL COLE

Interiors

CHICAGO



OUTSIDE EDGE

THE POSHEST PIECES FOR
AN ALFRESCO LIFE



VOYAGING WITH FERNANDO WONG

INSIDE THE NEW CHANEL BOUTIQUE

JOSH YOUNG'S WITTY ART STUDIO



Kristin Nelson,
founder of design
firm Nelson
Collective

STUDIO VISIT

READY FOR THE SPOTLIGHT

Portrait by Lucy Hewett

After 12 years with Kara Mann and almost five years with Gary Lee Partners, it was time for Kristin Nelson to strike out on her own. **Nelson Collective** (nelsoncollective.com) started small, but with completed projects under her belt, Nelson is ready to put her name out there. "I started getting busy right away with word-of-mouth," Nelson says. "I was building a small practice and figuring out what I wanted it to be." She and her team of three already knew that they were less interested in hospitality or large-scale residential buildings. "I have a background in residential," she says. "When you go big, you end up designing for a committee, but with an individual client, you can get close to people." Her clients now include suburban families, city empty nesters and grandparents looking to upsize to a home big enough for a growing extended family. But what they have in common is that they trust Nelson to help them figure out how to use their space and love where they live. "I hate hearing people have rooms that they're never going to go in," she says. "What can we do to make you actually use your house?" The homes designed for her first clients are ready for viewing, which means Nelson is ready to turn the spotlight on her business. "I love the work and creating an environment, but trying to launch a website and create a little fanfare? That's hard for someone who's more of an introvert," she admits. Fortunately for Nelson, her work does a pretty amazing job of speaking for her. —LH

NOW IN CHICAGO

new & notable

FAB COLLAB

TEAMING UP

For **Dan Rak**, occupation and recreation are one and the same. The former tax attorney married the two when he launched Dan Rak Design, which has become recognized for its beautifully balanced, symmetrical spaces. In his recent collaboration with **ModShop**—the new furniture showroom in Lincoln Park—Rak explores another venture: furniture design. "It was something I've always wanted to do," says Rak. "I've been carrying around a sketchbook of pieces I want to build for years." Destiny had its way when he met John and Taryn Bernard—owners of the California-cool furniture company based in Los Angeles—who were looking to urbanize their inventory for a new Chicago audience. "It's been a very organic process, in which we've pushed their aesthetic by incorporating a more masculine, Midwest sensibility," Rak says. The end result is a smart, sophisticated capsule characterized by aged brass, black marble and naturally finished wood. "It was important to me to not just focus on what sells but what fits both brands," Rak says. "I have started

Halsted sofa,
\$2,495, by Dan
Rak for ModShop

brainstorming about what's next, but for now, my main focus is on making sure this product is great." 1511 N. Halsted St., modshop1.com —NR



FRESH PRINTS

CLEAN SLATE

Frenchman Frederic Schumacher was ahead of the trend when he introduced art nouveau and art deco fabrics to America in 1889. Over a century later, his company, **Schumacher**, continues to pave the way not only in textile design, but in showroom design as well—as is obvious in the brand's new streamlined spot in theMART. "We wanted to create a light-filled, welcoming space," says Creative Director Dara Caponigro. Shared with sister company Patterson Flynn Martin, the open-concept showroom's fresh palette allows the brand's vibrant assortment of fabric, wallpaper, trim and custom rugs to take the stage, while an atelier allows designers to create something truly unique for their clients. "I'm always impressed by the talent and know-how of

Chicago's designers," says Caponigro. "Design is in their blood, and it's wonderful seeing how they make our product theirs." 222 Merchandise Mart Plaza, Ste. 6-133, fschumacher.com —NR



Majestic Garden is just one of the many classic Schumacher patterns on view at the newly renovated showroom.