

MODERN LUXURY

INTERIORS

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HOUSE of IDEAS

Shea McGee Shares Her Living Laboratory

MODERN LUXURY

By
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Photographed by
RYAN MCDONALD

Rowhouse REVIVAL

An artfully executed renovation by Dan Rak Design infuses a historic Gold Coast brownstone with chic new life.





“We worked very hard to create interiors that, while updated and current, felt at home in the home in the historic architecture.”

—DAN RAK

THE CLIENT

In search of a sophisticated yet livable home for himself and his son, an executive at a large national law firm found just the Gold Coast property: a stunning 1891 brownstone just steps from Lake Michigan with five bedrooms, six baths and five fireplaces. To handle the interior renovation, listing agent Carrie McCormick referred the client to interior designer Dan Rak, who met with the client to discuss the project. They hit it off, Rak was hired and the design project began in earnest.

The inviting living room features multiple vignettes for lounging, while the dining room beckons beyond. Opposite page: The painting “Orange Grove” by Ali Hasmut draws the eye above a cozy Get Down sofa by Thayer Coggin covered in Opuzen fabric, complemented by a pair of sleek Barcelona chairs by Knoll. Opening image: The home’s historic exterior belies the chic interiors designed by Dan Rak.

THE PRIORITY

Explains Rak, who headed the project with creative director Emily Samano and senior designer Annee Gothard, the client was particularly keen to ensure the third floor library/study was a standout. “He spends a lot of time in his office and wanted a comfortable space with lots of storage for his many books. We did a custom buildout on the space to accommodate.” As a result, the glass-enclosed study became a focal point, offering a light-filled retreat that complements the home’s historic character.

The dining room sets a sultry mood with Sherwin-Williams' Urbane Bronze paint set off by Bernhard's Equis table and Trianon chairs finished by a pair of brass mesh console lamps by Uttermost. Opposite page: A striking blue island pops in the kitchen, which also features Fernando counter stools by Jayson Home.



THE CHALLENGE

“Working in an old home is always challenging,” admits Rak. “Spaces are tight, and nothing is level. But of course we want everything to look perfect and effortless. We worked very hard to create interiors that, while updated and current, felt at home in the historic architecture.”

THE DETAILS

“Our client has an incredible art collection,” explains Rak, “much of which he came to the project with in addition to several pieces that we sourced with him. We wanted the interiors to be art-forward and to create a

From left: The client’s art collection is displayed throughout the home, such as this hallway, where works by (from left) artists Philippe Pasqua and Adrian Barquero can be spied; with floor-to-ceiling draperies by Deziñ Sewing, a sleek Fred chaise and Drop In lounge chairs by Thayer Coggin and artwork by Adrian Leverkuhn, the primary bedroom is a feast for the eyes.



“WE WANTED THE INTERIORS TO BE ART-FORWARD AND TO CREATE A SPACE THAT WAS SUPPORTIVE OF THE CLIENT’S COLLECTION, AND WE FEEL THAT WE DID THAT.”





From top: One of the home's true gems is the library, where Arteriors' Linus Starburst chandelier hangs above a stylish desk with waterfall stone top by BeckerWorks, with custom bookshelves by A-Squared Woodworking taking pride of place; an Augustine sofa by Four Hands highlights the lounge.

space that was supportive of the [client's collection], and we feel that we did that. In addition, the third-floor library is great—it has beautiful solarium-style windows with southern exposure which allow it to be flooded with light during the day and enjoy beautiful city views at night. It also features a fireplace for architectural interest and winter warmth. Overall, the room provides a comfortable setting for our client to work, read and relax.”

THE OUTCOME

“He loves it,” notes Rak of the client's response to his newly completed home. “I think he's very proud of the house and how it allows his art collection to be shown in its best light.”

Opposite page: Bernhardt's Micah coffee table, a rug from Oscar Isberian Rugs and a series of rotating artworks displayed on the client's Samsung Frame TV set a cozy scene in front of the living room fireplace, whose dark stone surround provides chic contrast with the Benjamin Moore Silver Satin wall color.



Design Details

Type
Multilevel rowhouse
Location
Gold Coast
Interior Design
Dan Rak Design
danrakdesign.com
Painters
Northside Painting and Decorating
773.745.1963

RESOURCES
A-Squared Woodworking
Living room console table, library bookshelves/desk
asquaredwoodworking.com
Arteriors
Chandelier in library, various primary bedroom furnishings
arteriorshome.com
Becker Works
Stone desktop/waterfall in library
beckerworksltd.com
Bernhardt
Living room coffee table/ottomans, dining room table/chairs
bernhardt.com
Dezign Sewing
Bedroom draperies
dezignsewing.com
Four Hands
Various furnishings
fourhands.com
Jaipur Living
Rugs in lounge/second floor bedroom
jaipurliving.com
Oscar Isberian Rugs
Various rugs
isberian.com
Thayer Coggin
Living room sofa, primary bedroom chaise/lounge chair
thayercoggin.com
Uttermost
Dining room console table lamps
uttermost.com
Verellen
Living room swivel chairs
verellen.biz