

THE MIDAS TOUCH

Think a family home can't be both edgy and comfortable? Think again! This Lincoln Park dwelling by Studio Gild is proof.

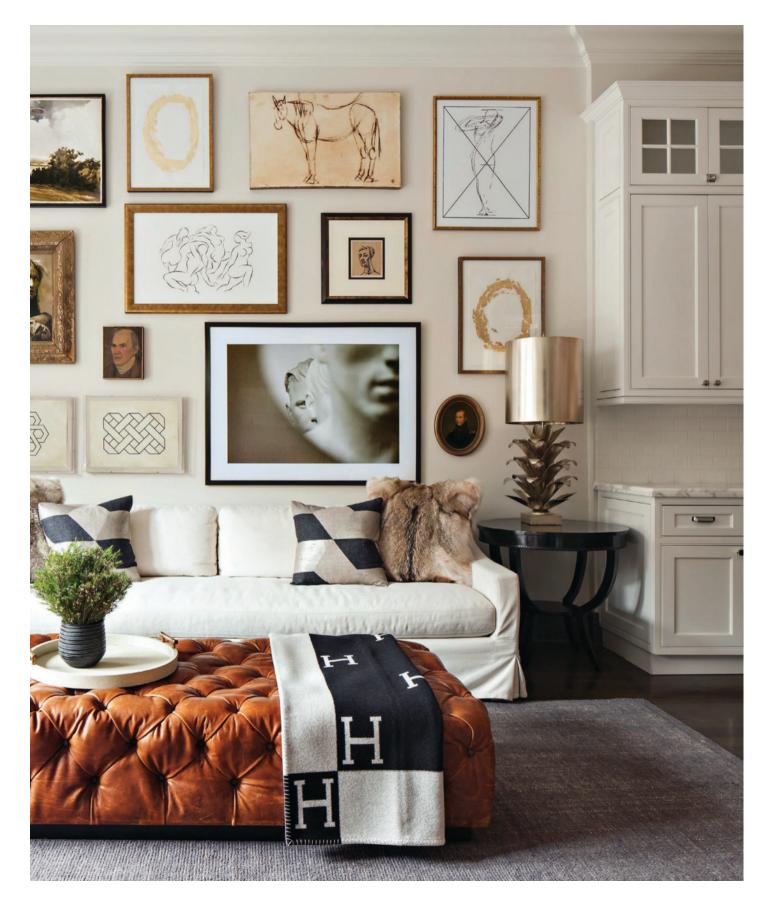
By Amalie Drury Photography by Mike Schwartz

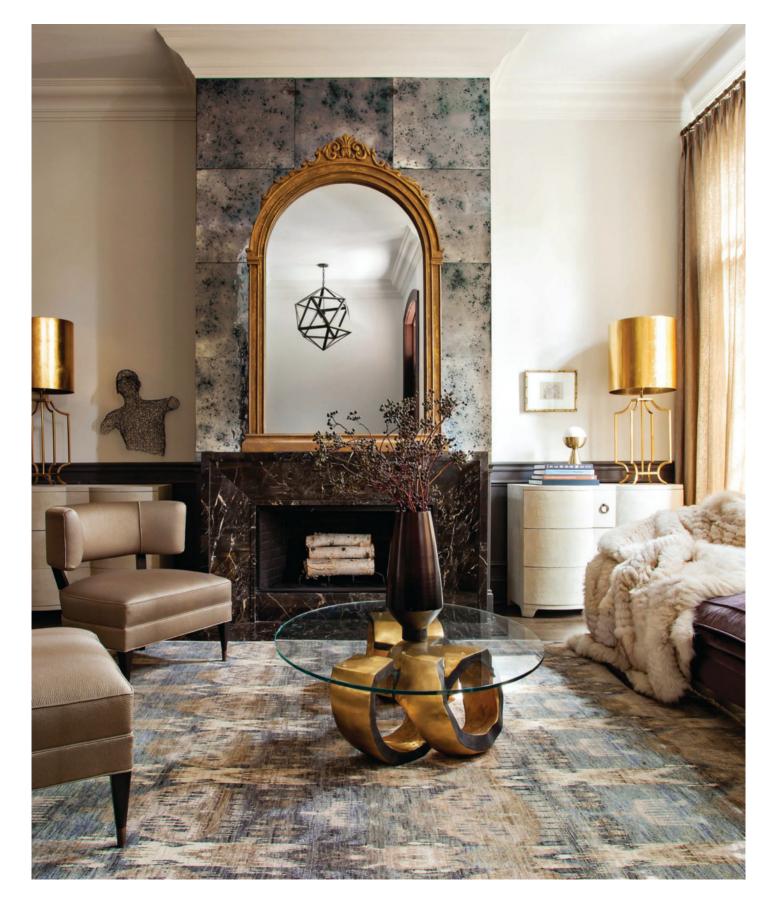
There's no motivation like a baby on the way to get a design project wrapped up. And by the time Ashley Lebovic was heading to the hospital to deliver her second son, she was tantalizingly close to being done with the house she'd been working on for 1½ years with her designer, Jennie Bishop of Studio Gild. As her husband, Ken Lebovic, drove, Ashley focused on breathing while she deftly sketched out a gallery wall of family photos she wanted Bishop to hang in the upstairs hallway—on the same scrap of wallpaper she was using to time her contractions.

"That's a testament to her level of involvement and attention to detail," says Bishop, laughing, "Her drawing was perfectly to scale. That wallpaper sample should be framed."

The Lebovics—Ashley holds a law degree and is now a stay-at-home mom, while Ken is a real estate investor bought the four-bedroom, 3½-bath Lincoln Park house









THE GREAT ESCAPE
From left: Custom rope detail on
the shelving in the nursery is a
showstopper; the serene moster
bedroom has soft neutral tones
with grounding hits of black and
glamorous accents like the Roll &
Hill antler sconces and cast resin
Muriel chandelier by Oly Studio.
Opposite page: Located just inside
the front door, this room is a luse
spot for grown-up entertaining.
Bishop's penchant for gold accents
is evident, from the table lamps to
the antique mirror.



in 2011 as unfinished construction, and the only existing element they decided to keep was the airy kitchen with its beautiful marble countertops. They loved the bones of the house: a traditional brick exterior and interior details like wainscoting and 14-foot-high ceilings. The open floor plan seemed just right for their modern, family-friendly lifestyle, and the 3,200-square-foot home was largely a blank canwas awaiting their chosen fixtures, flooring, paint colors and lighting design.

"We had a strict deadline of my son's birth," says Ashley. "I wanted for the house to feel finished when we welcomed him home." She told Bishop the look should be neutral with a bit of edge—a style she'd seen the designer successfully execute in a friend's home—and not stark. "It needed to be warm and homey for our kids and for our

friends when we entertain."

In the sitting room and dining room, Bishop used a palette of moody blues, grays and deep taupe that progresses from dark and edgy as you enter the house through the front door to bright and clean as you move toward the kitchen and family room to the rear. From a towering antique mirror above the black marble fireplace to a pair of gleaming table lamps and the subtle sheen in the upholstery on a pair of occasional chairs, Bishop's liberal use of gold accents gives the rooms a soft glow.

The Lebovics' sons, ages 3 and 6 months, have free reign in the family room, where Bishop covered both a long, plush sofa from Restoration Hardware and an antique accent chair with pristine white, surprisingly soft outdoor fabric from Perennials. "They run around back



here with snacks and markers, and I don't worry about it," says Ashley. "I've actually spilled red wine on that sofa and have been able to wipe it right off."

Instead of a coffee table, Bishop designed a custom leather ottoman that's all soft edges to prevent head bumps, and the boys' toys and books are discreetly stored in a shelving unit on one side of the kitchen island. To give the room a sense of definition and set it apart from the rest of the downstairs, Bishop brought in Mary James of A Curated Wall to create the ultimate in salon-style art displays on the massive expanse above the sofa. "It has every medium—paintings, photographs, drawings—and it gives the space a cozy, collected feel," she says.

Upstairs, the master bedroom is a serene white respite for the parents, while the two nurseries are a showstopping blend of fun and sophistication. For Ashley's older son's room, she dreamed up a floating

shelving system anchored by thick rope, which presented an interesting logistical challenge for Bishop and her go-to fabricator. "My dad's a retired orthodontist who also happens to be a rope expert, and he came in from California to consult with the millworker on the knots," says Bishop. Chimes in Ashley: "Those knots make the room. They're gorgeous."

The home was indeed nearly complete when the Lebovics carried their new bundle through the door; all that remained were a few final accessories. Ashley and Bishop decided to wait a year before adding that last layer. "It was good to take a break because it gave the house a chance to mature and gain personality," says Bishop. And now that it's just right, Ashley feels the design bug coming on again. "Jennie's a lovely person to spend time with," she says. "This project was so inspiring, I can't wait for our next one together." »

THE GATHERING PLACE
Bishop's dient wanted a
kitchen that suited the young
family's busy lives and
would still be appropriate
for entertaining. Bishop
designed the table and custom
banquette with extra storage,
while a bronze and python
pendant by Apparatus and art
by Jodi Fauset ("Onion Rag")
add style. Opposite page:
The kitchen features a mix of
dark lower cobinets with white
uppers for a family-friendly
yet chic open-concept space.



DESIGN DETAILS

TYPE

Single-Family Home

LOCATION

Lincoln Park

INTERIORS

Jennie Bishop, Studio Gild

studiogild.com

RESOURCES

Studio GildCustom lounge chairs in living room, throw pillows, ottoman, dining table, breakfast table, fireplaces, lounge chair in master bedroom, powder room vanity, nursery ottoman, window treatments studiogild.com

Lawson-Fenning

Living room sofa lawsonfenning.com

Oscar Isberian Rugs

Living room rug isberian.com

Romo

Fabric on living room sofa romo.com

Holly Hunt

Fabric on lounge chairs hollyhunt.com

Jean De Merry Dining room chandelier jeandemerry.com

Classic Remix Chicago

Accessories classicremixchicago.com

Jayson Home

Dining chairs jaysonhome.com

Circa Lighting

Hicks pendants in kitchen circalighting.com

Restoration Hardware

Foyer chandelier, family room sofa and rug, master bed rh.com

Elena Kalis

"Underwater" photo in dining room elenakalisphoto.com

Design Within Reach

Roll & Hill sconces in master bedroom dwr.com