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# Interiors

CHICAGO

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# 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 BIG PICTURE

The chic but kid-friendly family room has a pristine white sofa covered in spill-proof outdoor fabric and a soft-edged ottoman in place of a coffee table. The large-scale gallery wall began with Ashley Lebovic's impulse purchase of the small oval portrait of a man, placed just below center.







#### THE GREAT ESCAPE

From left: Custom rope detail on the shelving in the nursery is a showstopper; the serene master 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 luxe 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 canvas 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 client 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 Bag") add style. Opposite page: The kitchen features a mix of dark lower cabinets with white uppers for a family-friendly yet chic open-concept space.



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## DESIGN DETAILS

TYPE  
**Single-Family Home**

LOCATION  
**Lincoln Park**

INTERIORS  
**Jennie Bishop, Studio Gild**  
[studiogild.com](http://studiogild.com)

## RESOURCES

**Studio Gild**  
Custom 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](http://studiogild.com)

**Lawson-Fenning**  
Living room sofa  
[lawsonfenning.com](http://lawsonfenning.com)

**Oscar Isberian Rugs**  
Living room rug  
[isberian.com](http://isberian.com)

**Romo**  
Fabric on living room sofa  
[romo.com](http://romo.com)

**Holly Hunt**  
Fabric on lounge chairs  
[hollyhunt.com](http://hollyhunt.com)

**Jean De Merry**  
Dining room chandelier  
[jeandemerry.com](http://jeandemerry.com)

**Classic Remix Chicago**  
Accessories  
[classicremixchicago.com](http://classicremixchicago.com)

**Jayson Home**  
Dining chairs  
[jaysonhome.com](http://jaysonhome.com)

**Circa Lighting**  
Hicks pendants in kitchen  
[circalighting.com](http://circalighting.com)

**Restoration Hardware**  
Foyer chandelier, family room sofa and rug, master bed  
[rh.com](http://rh.com)

**Elena Kalis**  
"Underwater" photo in dining room  
[elenakalisphoto.com](http://elenakalisphoto.com)

**Design Within Reach**  
Roll & Hill scones in master bedroom  
[dwr.com](http://dwr.com)

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