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# A Place FOR HER

This expert designer created a serene and stunning Women's Retreat in honor of the Infant Welfare Society of Chicago.

BY AUTUMN KRAUSE  
DESIGNED BY ANDREA GOLDMAN  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY AIMEE MAZZENGA

*It's rare that a designer gets to follow*

the dictates of their own heart. "When you design for a client, there are many opportunities to be creative, but you are tailoring a home to the client's lifestyle and needs," says Andrea Goldman, principal designer and founder of Andrea Goldman Design. "There are more considerations to take into account." However, when a designer is selected to design for a showcase, they are given complete control—and all for a good cause! So when Andrea Goldman was selected by committee to transform a room in an early 1900s Lake Forest, Illinois, house to benefit the Infant Welfare Society of Chicago, she was thrilled, saying, "We were excited at the opportunity to create something unique for a great cause. It allowed me to push the boundaries a bit with my design choices and do something really different."

A sizeable coffee table is a wonderful place to stack current reads and place a hot cup of tea on a tray alongside a fresh bouquet of flowers. Andrea had the top of the custom coffee table upholstered, saying, "it was another way to bring softness to this serene space."



**[TOP LEFT]** A console is situated along the north wall behind the main seating area. It is a 10' one-of-a-kind table from India and Andrea and her team hung French postcards custom framed in linen above it. Andrea says, "we love sourcing furnishings and accessories from unique vendors, which allows us to make a space feel full of personality."

**[LEFT]** Whenever she is designing, Andrea seeks to bring a bit of the outdoors inside. In order to do that, Andrea selected a fiddle leaf fig tree and a jade tree to place in the corner of the room. "Both do well with very little attention, and I enjoy the color and shapes of the leaves," Andrea says. Stunning planters from Pennoyer Nowman continue the theme of neutral dimension and are the perfect scale to fill the corner.

**[ABOVE]** A lot of the inspiration came from a striking lighting fixture from Longhouse. Its unique shapes delicately balance in the air, giving the room a sense of effervescence as well as dimension. Andrea says, "we were drawn to using such a statement piece to anchor the room—the helix knot rope that suspends the fixture brings such beautiful texture to the space."

#### WOMEN'S RETREAT

In her proposal to the committee, Andrea dreamed up the concept of a Women's Retreat, envisioning it as an empowering and revitalizing answer to decades of man caves and converted garages. "It's about having the space for a woman to focus on herself and recharge within her own home. We prioritized creating a comfortable room with a variety of places for meditation, relaxation, entertaining and more," Andrea says. Under her guidance, the cavernous room would become an intimate place and the epicenter of a woman's life in her home.


The design for the room was inspired by defined areas for different activities. Andrea says, "It's versatile. It can be used for a game night, reading, or morning coffee on the terrace. It's a space dedicated to relaxation, recharging and wellness, and the layout reflects it." She selected a neutral color palette in order to celebrate the natural light in the room. "We generally gravitate toward a neutral color palette for our spaces, focusing on texture instead of bringing interest to a space," she says.



**[ABOVE]** Andrea designed this area as the game table, imagining it as a place where a woman could host her friends for a game night. The round table is perfect for entertaining. "But, like all of the spaces in the room, it is also multifunctional, and it can be a great area for a woman to organize her schedule over morning coffee or do a bit of work," Andrea adds. The Schumacher fabric on the plush game table chairs carries through the design priorities of softness and comfort in this space. Andrea says, "we wanted to design chairs that people would want to sink into for hours."

#### THOUGHTFUL DÉCOR

A jumping off point for the design was a light fixture from Longhouse, which was a collaboration between the lighting design company and artist Windy Chien. From there, Andrea and her team prioritized texture throughout the space, from the Phillip Jeffries wallcoverings to the womb chair they recovered in shearing. The layered rugs, textiles and textures throughout create a subtle and inviting feel. It encourages shoes off and slipping onto the comfortable chair or sofa for hours. The wood details were another way to infuse texture into the space.

With thoughtful insight into how the feminine heart relates to her surroundings, Andrea's Woman's Retreat is a tranquil escape that shows its inhabitant just how beautiful life—and she—really is. 

SEE SOURCES, PAGE 128.



**[TOP RIGHT]** A one-of-a-kind piece from Thailand is repurposed as a bar area for the room. Andrea appreciated its beautiful, natural materials and the fact that it was a substantial piece that fit the space well.

**[RIGHT]** The balcony overlooks the home's backyard and allows for a deep connection to nature in the Women's Retreat. An antique bench from The Golden Triangle is made of Chinese elmwood and is a wonderful place to sit, sip herbal tea and enjoy the morning's light.