

## LIVING IN CHICAGO

rooftop design



## ZONED OUT

A sporty, outdoor-loving bachelor enlists a veritable dream team to build his entertaining oasis in the heart of the city.

*By Megan Kulick*

*Photography by Davis Harris*

How does a self-described outdoorsman turn a teardown on an alley in Lincoln Park into his dream home? By hiring Maria Segal and Richard Blender of Blender Architecture ([blenderarchitecture.com](http://blenderarchitecture.com)) and Mia Rao of Mia Rao Design ([miarodesign.com](http://miarodesign.com)). The main priority was to have a fully integrated indoor-outdoor floor plan with plenty of room for entertaining, but the lot's awkward location on a corner was a blessing (full southern exposure satisfied the owner's request for lots of sunlight) and a curse (it offered nothing for privacy).

The team solved the problem by executing three outdoor areas: a patio off the kitchen, a roof deck above the garage and another roof deck on the third story of the house. "For the patio off the kitchen, we played with how the house met the ground plane," says Segal. "We raised the terrace off grade so it's only four steps down from the indoor kitchen, which also creates fewer... CONTINUED...

A custom geometric screen made of rusted Corten steel is a focal point in this multi-level outdoor space designed by Blender Architecture and Mia Rao Design. Whipy grasses and light blue are a theme continued throughout, coordinating with the interiors of the home.