



WE ARE HOME!
 It's the design team's second time in the house, and they're still in love with it. The house is a mix of Victorian and mid-century modern, and they're still in love with it. The house is a mix of Victorian and mid-century modern, and they're still in love with it.

HARMONY HAVEN

A vintage Victorian is inflected with a local designer's finely-tuned mid-century tone.

By Sue Gardner | Photography by Mike Schwartz

"I told them that they would be crazy if they didn't buy this house," explains KitchenLab founder and lead designer Rebekah Zaveloff, of the late 19th-century Victorian home in Chicago's Lakeview neighborhood that she shared with her clients. "It had the street presence, glamour and elegance of an era gone by," she explains, pointing to the three-level home's original details, which included cozy salon-style trunks, antique fireplaces and pocket doors. "The only thing it needed was for them to put their fingerprints on it."

Zaveloff's clients—a physician and a stay-at-home mom of three—first discovered her work when they attended a book club at another Victorian in Highland Park that she had renovated for a prior client years earlier. "What I loved is that Rebekah respected the heavy weightiness of that house, but you could tell that a young, fun, creative family lived there," the wife says. "I knew that there was something special about this designer."

When the couple began house hunting in Chicago, they asked Zaveloff to help them narrow down their options and ultimately hired her to coordinate...



MASTER OF THE HOUSE did not see some together in the master bedroom, when Zaveloff passed a vintage leather table from Roman's home with a contemporary lamp from lighting.

continued... redesign their new home. "We started with the kitchen," says Zaveloff, who had a wall demolished to open it to the adjacent dining area. White cabinetry and a gray island topped with a thick slab of marble replace a dated '80s-era kitchen. In the adjacent breakfast area, the designers laid an eclectic concrete color floor tile and incorporated a desk and built-in cabinetry for storage. "The space now does double-duty as an office and a mushroom," Zaveloff explains.

Throughout the home, Zaveloff painted walls, swapped out light fixtures and incorporated historically accurate molding and ceiling medallions. "We reintroduced some of the architectural character that was missing," the designer says. Lighting bridges the gap between the home's antique charm and the midcentury modern furnishings that Zaveloff helped his clients select. In the kitchen, a pair of contemporary pendants by Laura Kiraz balance an antique brass Italian chandelier. "We were looking for this tension between modern and traditional, something that balanced and clashed at the same time," says Zaveloff. The comingling of influences carries through to the interior design, which CONTINUED...

DINING AREA

"By default it sits up, but every area in a while, it more needs something broad spanning area," Zaveloff says of the dining position by Laura Kiraz that she selected for above the kitchen island. A tile backdrop from Larkspur Studio lends a textured element to the new kitchen's simple gray and white palette. Roman counter stools and a vintage French farm table, surrounded by midcentury chairs by Eames and Thonet, offer plenty of seating.





coexisting—includes an eclectic array of modernist pieces that contrast the architecture. “The house felt like it was going in two different directions, and it wasn’t immediately obvious to me how to approach it,” Zaveloff explains. “I love Victorian houses, and I feel the same way about midcentury modern furniture. The clients liked a little of both, which is probably why they picked me.”

Indeed, Zaveloff’s approach works for her clients. “I’ve never wanted to have an aspirational house, because they don’t look real to me. They look too ‘decorated,’” the wife says. “In the past, I never really trusted designers completely, because I was afraid that we’d end up with coordinated rooms that look stale. But Rebecca has a very playful sensibility, which really worked for us.” ■

YOU’RE HOT
 From the Zaveloff look a client had bought a set of approved pair of (1970s) velvet chairs from West Elm in Michigan for the family room (they got the rest). The parcel there with a sofa from West Elm that she had received in love from Joyce Hunt. After weeks of searching, Zaveloff finally found a lacquer chair from West Elm long enough to fit the scale of the family room. In the corner is a 1970s velvet chair from Boudier that she had received in a graphic gesture from Joyce Hunt.

