

ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST

THE INTERNATIONAL DESIGN AUTHORITY

APRIL 2016

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SECRET SOURCES

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8

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THE
ULTIMATE
RENOVATION
STYLE GUIDE



ONES TO WATCH

Below: Decorators Jennie Bishop, Melissa Benham, and Kristen Ekeland of the Chicago firm Studio Gild.
Right: Metallic accents enliven a living room outfitted by the company.



STUDIO GILD

Three heads are better than one, according to the principals of this Chicago decorating firm. “The outcome is strongest when we work together,” says Kristen Ekeland, who started Studio Gild with her friends Melissa Benham and Jennie Bishop in 2014. (The trio bonded while working for Kara Mann.) Focusing on residential projects, they began with mostly local commissions, later tackling homes from New York to San Francisco. They’re also currently delving into the commercial realm with the transformation of a 1916 Illinois estate by architect Howard Van Doren Shaw into an event space. Along the way the team has developed a versatile, sophisticated style, mixing smart furniture covered in richly textured fabrics with sculptural metallic pieces that add a bit of shine. The firm’s name references its trademark golden flourishes. Says Benham, “We pride ourselves on those artisanal details.” —JULIE COE

For more information go to studiogild.com.