

STONE age

Frequent collaborators dSpace Studio and Project Interiors team up to design a modernist family residence in Chicago

double take

text: tate gunnerson



First impressions, though not foolproof, are often right on the mark. That certainly was the case when designers Aimee Wertepny and Jennifer Kranitz of Project Interiors initially met their client, Stefanie Schenk. "That famous Eames quote came to mind: 'The details are not the details; they make the product,'" Kranitz says, recalling the colorful fur tassels on her new client's handbag as well as her brass-studded heels. "I was intrigued and thought the project could go in a good direction; also, I wanted to know where she shops!"

After raising their three children in a typical painted-clapboard house in Chicago's Lakeview neighborhood, Stefanie and her husband, Jared, decided to demolish it and build a modernist structure that better reflected their style. They engaged architects Kevin Toukoumidis and Robert McFadden of dSpace Studio, who recommended Project Interiors for the interior design. Both firms share a progressive spirit that appealed to the clients. "We had lived for so long in a traditional space, and we really wanted this house to have surprising moments," Stefanie says.

Built at grade with no basement, the new 6,000-square-foot five-bedroom residence has a dramatic 9-foot-tall glass door that grants entry to a soaring foyer that flows into the double-height living area. Flooring throughout the main level is concrete, scored with angled lines to create a trapezoidal motif. "The pattern generates energy," Toukoumidis says.



"This house keeps unfolding, what's fun is the discovery"



Previous spread: In a Chicago residence by dSpace Studio and Project Interiors, the folded-steel staircase connecting floors two and three is visible from the double-height living area, animated with artworks by Marlon Portales Cusett and Vladimir Leõn Sagols.

Opposite: A matte-black brass pendant fixture suspended from leather straps illuminates the open kitchen.

Top: The dining room seats six on wool-upholstered Cédric Ragot chairs and more on a custom bench; above it is a painted-fabric triptych by Gina Dorough. **Bottom left:** A suspended brass sculpture by Gold Leaf Design Group sluices through the library floor. **Bottom right:** The kitchen backsplash is Orca marble.

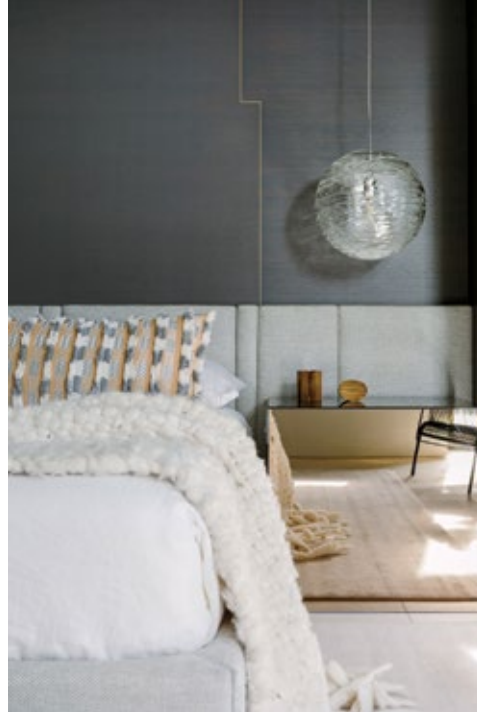
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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: GIANNI FRANCHI/LOUCCI; AIMEE MAZENZA (2)

AIMEE MAZENZA

Energy is certainly a hallmark of the project. In the open kitchen, for instance, the clients opted for a graphic Orca marble backsplash. The veiny black-and-white Brazilian stone, which also fronts the vent hood and tops the breakfast-nook table, pops against the white-lacquered cabinetry with bronze reveal. "The Schenks welcomed big moves," Wertepny reports. ➤



Top: In the master bedroom, a hand-blown glass pendant illuminates brass-inlaid rift-cut oak paneling. **Center:** Viewed from the second-floor deck, the courtyard side of the house has beveled apertures shaded with ipe louvers. **Bottom:** The master bathroom's marble-top vanity meets walls in Venetian plaster.

Opposite: In the same room, brass wall panels and porcelain flooring feature the same trapezoidal form.



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As evidenced by their expansive contemporary art collection, the clients are also unafraid of color. In the dining room, for example, curvaceous chairs by Cédric Ragot are covered in blush wool mélange with a contrasting zipper detail. The hue reappears in the oak bar's lacquered interior.

Brass is another through-line. In the master suite, thin bands of the metal are laid into the bathroom's porcelain-tile floor. Brass panels also line the tub niche, reflecting the sunshine that spills in through the skylight above. "This house keeps unfolding," Kranitz notes. "What's fun is the discovery."

The master suite boasts a double-sided fireplace that can also be enjoyed from the adjacent ipe deck, outfitted with a hot tub. "The indoor-outdoor experience here is truly extraordinary given the city location," Toukoumidis says. Glass walls glide open to a courtyard—a lush space, planted with ornamental grasses—that boasts an outdoor kitchen and pergola. Slab-on-grade construction, which positions living areas and courtyard at exactly the same level, further promotes the easy rapport between the spaces.

A couple who enjoys expressing themselves through fashion and art, the Schenks say it's been rewarding to realize a house that reflects them so well. "The design is a little bit irreverent," Stefanie enthuses. And unlike their rather nondescript former abode, the family's new home makes a striking—and far more accurate—first impression. 🍷

FROM FRONT ERNESTOMED: CABINETRY (KITCHEN). **ANTOLINI:** MARBLE. **RUBN THROUGH TWENTYTWOONE:** LINEAR PENDANT. **DIRESO:** ISLAND COUNTERTOP. **DORNBRACHT:** SINK FITTINGS. **NOIR:** BAR STOOLS. **ROCHE BOBOIS:** CHAIRS (DINING ROOM). **CARNEGIE FABRICS:** DRAPERY FABRIC. **REJUVENATION:** CHANDELIER. **C.SANCHEZ:** CUSTOM BANQUETTE; **HOLLY HUNT:** FABRIC. **CB2:** LAMP, CHAIR (LIBRARY). **C.SANCHEZ:** CUSTOM BED, HEADBOARD (BEDROOM). **LEUCOS:** PENDANT FIXTURE. **PINDLER:** HEADBOARD FABRIC. **POLLACK:** PILLOW FABRIC. **JAIPUR:** RUG. **PLANTERWORX:** PLANTERS (EXTERIOR). **VMZINC:** ZINC PANELS. **LEE LUMBER:** IPE. **TRESPA:** RESIN PANELS. **STUDIO BK:** WALL TREATMENT (BATHROOM). **PURE EDGE LIGHTING:** SCONCES. **CB2:** MIRROR. **WATERMARK:** SINK AND TUB FITTINGS. **TRANSCERAMICA:** FLOOR TILE. **APPARATUS:** CHANDELIER. **THROUGH RANDOLPH STREET MARKET:** VINTAGE STOOL. **SIGNATURE HARDWARE:** TUB. **THROUGHOUT** BENJAMIN MOORE & CO.: PAINT. **TERRAZZO + MARBLE SUPPLY:** STONE SUPPLIER. **UNILUX:** DOOR, WINDOWS, CURTAIN WALL SYSTEM. **EMERALD CONCRETE:** CONCRETE FLOORING, PAVERS. **RODE BROS:** WOOD FLOORING. **STUDIO41:** KITCHEN/BATH SUPPLIER. **RH:** BEDDING. **LG DEVELOPMENT GROUP:** GENERAL CONTRACTOR.

CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM: ATMEE MAZZENGA (2); TONY SOLURI

TRITON AND

