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HOUSE OF STYLE

SPRING FASHION + HOME DESIGN

**Trendsetters' Fave Finds
Aisle Style With Debi Lilly
A Vintage Mansion Goes Mod
& Chicago's Newest Frock Stars**



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Editor-in-Chief

Editor's Note

March 2012

Even though this was an incredibly mild winter (as of press time, that is), the lack of snow this year hasn't dampened my enthusiasm for the upcoming arrival of spring, and this annual Spring Fashion and Home Design issue in particular. After all, it's our first glimpse at the lighter looks that will be dominating our closets and homes for the foreseeable future. Some of my favorite products highlighted in this issue? An aquatic-inspired Chanel dress, a gorgeous box clutch by Diane von Furstenberg and a fabulous vintage watch-turned-necklace from Division Street Watch Co. As you can see, the goodies in this issue span the spectrum.

Two of our feature stories prove once again that Chicagoans are paving the way in both fashion and home. In our Style Stars "The Luxe Life!" feature, Senior Editor Elise Hofer interviewed three Chicago trendsetters—clothing boutique owner Lissa Shipley, Orange Skin furniture showroom owner Obi Nwazota and architect/designer Jessica Lagrange. Hofer asked them about products they own and love, or ones they simply covet—and the list is pretty fabulous. Nwazota raved about his Alexander McQueen for Samsonite travel suitcase, while Shipley is loving the Ploum sofa from Ligne Roset.

For another home-themed feature, contributing writer Tate Gunnerson takes us into a Gold Coast home that is an incredible blend of modern and vintage. The homeowner, a former trader and mom of one, is known for throwing killer parties, and the house is a modern masterpiece centered around a vintage staircase. Take a look in our "Stairway to

Heaven" story. Warning: You're going to have some serious house envy.

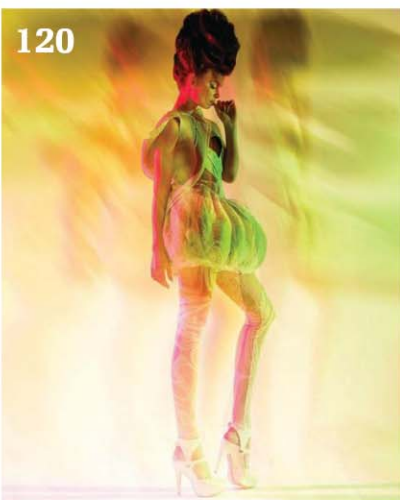
And, while our April Men of Style issue is coming next month, this issue is packed with amazing women. Contributing writer Lauren Viera interviewed Debi Lilly, the owner of one of Chicago's premier party planning companies, A Perfect Event, about her new business venture with Safeway (that's Dominick's for all of us Chicago folks). I seriously have no idea how she finds the time, but the mom of two has created a new line of floral creations for Safeway markets around the country. She currently has more than 200 products on the shelves in 2,000 stores—with more on the horizon. We'll also introduce you to Anna Livermore, a former clothing designer turned consultant, who works with the creative folks who dream of having their own line of products. She and her team assist from the vision to the sketches to the manufacturing—and this all happens out of a quaint Ravenswood studio. It's just another cool Chicago business to get you inspired!

Lastly, as a former reality TV columnist, I was thrilled to interview the recent winners of *The Amazing Race*, Chicagoans Cindy Chiang and Ernie Halvorson, who are tying the knot this month at The Rookery, followed by a reception at the Chicago Cultural Center. After winning \$1 million on the televised race around the globe, they plan to use some of their winnings to launch a nonprofit right here in Chicago. Want the details? Flip to our Chicago Confidential story, "The Next Leg," to find out more. Enjoy!
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Stairway to Heaven

A savvy design duo takes a Victorian greystone from classical to modern—and creates a perfect party spot in the process.

| By Tate Gunnerson | Photography by Werner Straube |

For many architectural preservation professionals, the mere idea of dismantling an intact, late-19th-century Gold Coast Victorian borders on sacrilege. For the architecture design team of Marc and Patti Trudeau, however, it was the project of a lifetime. “The original house was a maze of dark and unhappy rooms,” Patti says of the 7,500-square-foot, 5-bedroom home. “I always hoped that [the owner] would have enough guts to start over.”

As it turns out, the owner had guts to spare, and as the demolition proceeded, it became clear that the house did, too. “The only thing remaining once the demolition was complete were the side brick walls, the

staircase and the front façade,” Marc says. “We moved in almost every direction.”

Walking into the bright and airy Dearborn Street home, it’s hard to imagine that its former walls were once covered with stencils, leather wainscoting and loads of dark woodwork and paneling. “The woodwork was absolutely gorgeous and irreplaceable, but it wasn’t my taste at all,” says the owner, who used the company Murco Recycling to salvage the Victoriana for resale to antique lovers.

Known for hosting frequent dinner parties where 50 to 60 guests are the norm, the owner—a former trader and part owner of the newly opened wine bar

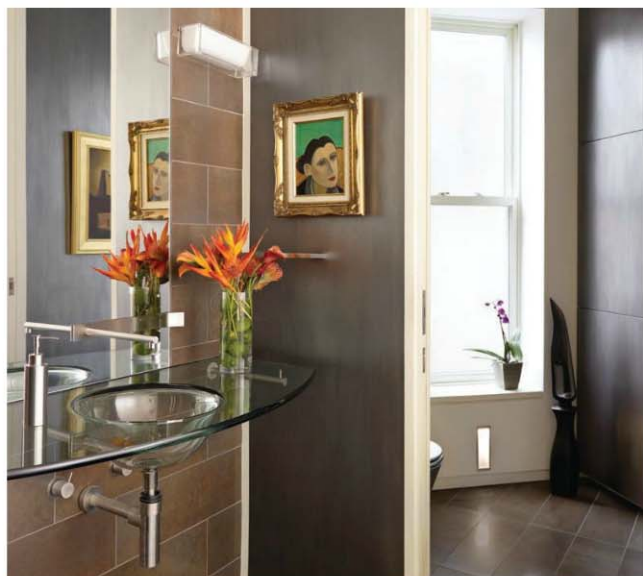
Architect Marc Trudeau designed the modern steel and glass staircase, which connects the second and third floors, for both form and function. Skylights flood the entire stairwell with natural light, which filters through the glass steps to reach the first floor.

Flight 1551—asked the Trudeaus to design a brighter and much more spacious house on the same lot. “I looked at every property that was for sale, and I decided that I could build the exact house that I wanted on this property,” she explains. “I always thought that Marc was very innovative, and I just love his details.”

Marc, who works as the architect on the team, designed many distinct elements throughout the space, including curved walls to soften the long hallways, storage walls with cleverly disguised doors and built-in shelving in the living room, family room and master bedroom. “We like to keep the amount of furnishings in







a room to a minimum,” explains Patti, the interior designer on the project who took the homeowner on short, targeted shopping excursions to replace her traditional antiques with stylish but comfortable modern furnishings. “Her attention span for design is pretty short, so we’d never see more than one thing at a time,” Patti explains. “At first, she had an aversion to modern, but as we picked out pieces, she started to understand what casual, modern furniture could do for the house.”

Although the owner gave the Trudeaus near-free reign, she made one

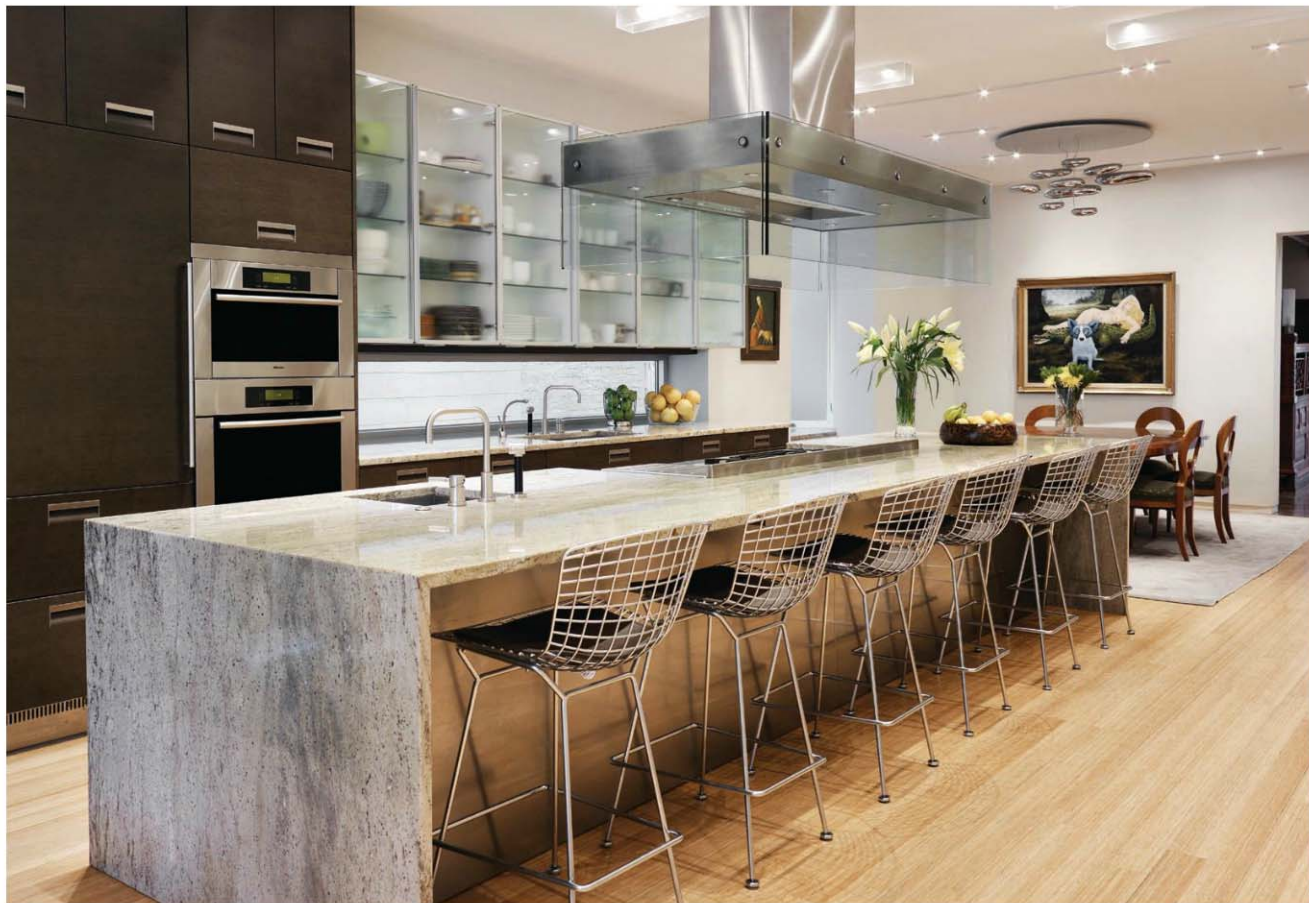
major demand: “I wanted to keep the magnificent original stairway and tie it in to a super-modern house,” she explains. “I had to fight for it because everyone involved thought it would just be cheaper to tear it out. Over my dead, cold, lifeless body!” Instead, the builders constructed a plywood box around the stairs to protect it during construction.

Although incorporating the antique staircase was not part of Marc’s original vision, the architect used it to good effect. Originally the house had been built with a main staircase that accessed the first two levels and two separate

Opposite page: A Mylar chandelier from Artemide cuts quite a contrast over the dining room table, which was one of the few furniture pieces to remain from the original home. The painting is by George Maziu, a favorite artist of the owner. Above, clockwise from top left: Marc carried the entry floor tile right up the wall in the nearby powder room. The adjacent

wall has been faux-painted with a white edge to appear as if it were a paneled insert, courtesy of Mo Faux. The painting is by Martha Laughlin from Thomas Masters Gallery. In the third-floor office, a mix of custom and IKEA cabinetry conceals all the workings of a functional kitchen. Accordion doors open to a patio facing east toward the Hancock building and the

Chicago skyline. In the entry, porcelain floor tile unites the warm wood tones of the original antique staircase with the metal panels on the opposite fireplace wall. With help from Patti, the owner picked out all the tile in the house. Marc designed and made the contemporary banister fixture.



“At first she had an aversion to modern, but as we picked out pieces, she started to understand what casual, modern furniture could do...”

service stairways in back. Marc eliminated the rear staircase between the second and third floors entirely and designed a new glass and steel one that meets the antique staircase at the second floor and continues on to the top floor. Natural daylight pours through skylights and filters all the way down through the glass steps to the first-floor entry. A porcelain tile floor with brown and gray tones ties the warm wood tones of the staircase with the cool metal panels that surround the fireplace at the foot of the stairs. “The porcelain tile was critical in bringing together the old and the new,” Marc explains.

Marc’s design includes many clever ways to brighten the house. Acid-etched glass walls allow light to filter into dark internal spaces such as the first-floor powder room, and glass pavers in the top floor hallway’s bamboo floors do the same for the second-floor hall. In the evening, recessed lights concealed in the pavers accomplish the same effect, becoming a source of glowing light for both levels. Perhaps most notably, Marc added a 15-foot, east-facing addition to the entire back of the house, which he clad in floor-to-ceiling glass windows that flood the kitchen, master bedroom and top-floor

Above: Arclinea brought Marc Trudeau’s kitchen design to life. The long granite-clad island has enough space for a cooktop, sink and six Bertola wire stools, which come in handy when the owner whips up a meal for guests. Marc designed the oversize stainless steel vent hood. Opposite page: Off the kitchen, the family room features a painting by Susan Hall from Thomas Masters Gallery and green felt stools from Luminaire.

office with sunlight all morning long. The greenwashed custom cabinetry in the office disguises a fully functional kitchen, and the accordion doors can be opened to the balcony just outside. “It gives you this indoor-outdoor feel—even in the winter,” says the owner, who was happy that the 30-month project was completed in time to host approximately 200 family, friends and colleagues for her annual holiday bash.

“I consider this a community home in a way,” she elaborates. “I can have just me and my daughter in the house or I can host 50 people and it feels welcoming either way.” ■

