

MICHAEL ABRAMS INTERIORS TRANSFORMS A FORMER SPEC HOUSE IN HINSDALE INTO A PERFECTLY PERSONALIZED ABODE FOR A SOPHISTICATED PAIR FROM ST. LOUIS.
BY J.P. ANDERSON / PHOTOGRAPHED BY RYAN MCDONALD

## THE CLIENT

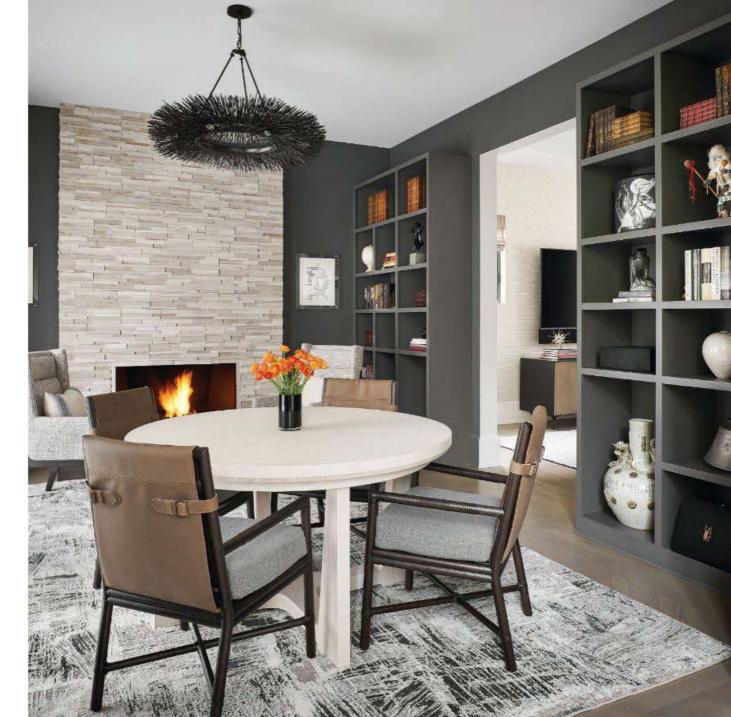
Craving a second home in the Chicago area to be close to their children and grandchildren, and to serve as a home away from home for the husband's routine business travel to Chicago, a St. Louis-based couple found Hinsdale an ideal location for them to put down local roots. Then they really struck gold, discovering Michael Abrams Interiors from online research and hiring the firm for the project. "Like many successful working relationships," notes founder Michael Abrams, "we immediately connected with their charismatic and approachable personalities. Having had designer homes before purchasing in Chicago, they were experienced and relaxed in the process of design, which made working with them a joy."

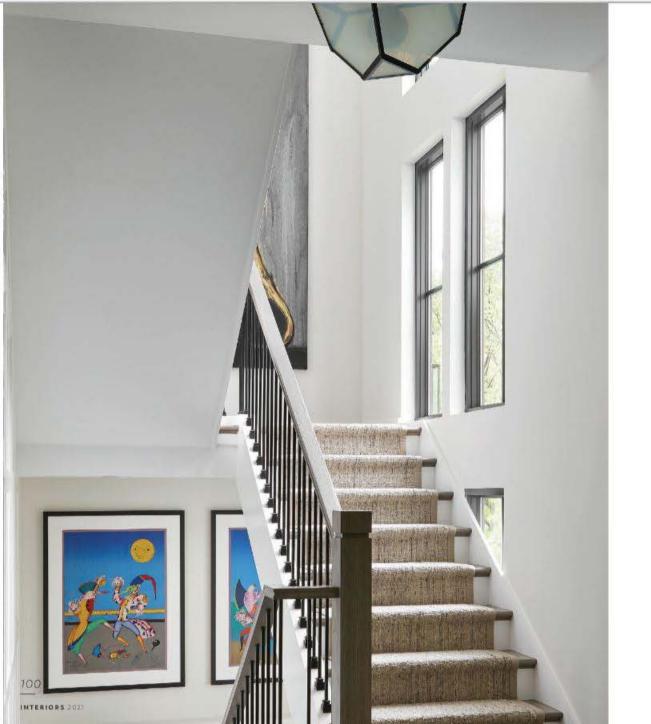
Abrams' team created a coxy spat by the fire perfect for reading. Opposite page: The Holly Hant diring table (pictured with chars from McGuire Furniture and chandeler by Circa Lightling) expands from to eight-person copacity when needed for entertaining.

## THE PRIORITY

In St. Louis, the client has a glam abode in a gorgeous vintage building but wanted something different in Hinsdale to reflect the casual, informal lifestyle they have when in the Windy City. "They loved the airy, casual feel of the house—a former spec house—but knew it needed a layer of design to personalize it. Since the husband and wife were commuting to Hinsdale for both business and family regularly, they asked us to work quickly to expedite the transformation."







# THE CHALLENGE

Omesco's Kayari wallcovering in Zen Banel adds sumptuous fecture to the guest bedroom, which also features Moon Claw lamps from Circa Lighting, Opposite page. Plush Rosscore Cache Internix carpeting from Reas Rug leads down the stairs, brightened by artwork by artist Mihad.

"As this was not their primary home, we were challenged to work quickly with the client to complete the project and expand the home beyond the basic," says Abrams. "Functionally, the original great room was divided into two smaller areas—a breakfast room and family room. Knowing this home would be a casual retreat for the couple and occasionally their adult children, we decided to reconcept the space and eliminate the breakfast table altogether. By doing so, we were able to open up the area to create one larger great room with multiple sofa arrangements that was much more usable than the breakfast table in the corner by the patio door. Now, eating in this area of the house would be either at the large kitchen island or very casually in front of the TV as many modern households tend to do."



# THE DETAIL

Notes Abrams, "Repurposing the front room of the house. which was formerly a small living room, we turned the area into a combination sitting and dining room. The round dining table opens up from seating for four to seating for eight when needed for family and business dinners. The two upholstered dining head chairs were scaled to serve a second purpose as reading chairs near the hearth when the table is not opened to its maximum size. As this room has the only fireplace in the home, the wife requested a cozy spot where she could regularly sit near the fire and read."

## THE OUTCOME

"They were thrilled with the outcome in addition to how quickly it transformed their home," sums up the designer. "The aesthetic and functional transformation made the home even more usable than they had imagined when they purchased ir."

The master bedroams Coraggio Sojara bed is covered in a Sandra Jordan alpaca and Holly Hunt leather; bedside tables by Barran Custom Furniture, lamps by Boker Furniture and wallpaper by Roma are other standout aspects of the space.



# RESOURCES

BAKER FURNITURE Accessories, bedside lamps bakerfurniture.com

BARRON CUSTOM FURNITURE Sofa, bedside tables barron custom fumiture.com

CALDESIGNS

Various accessories caidesigns.net

CIRCA LIGHTING Dining room lighting circalighting.com

EUROCRAFTING, Various custom furniture eurocraft-inc.com

THE FLEMMING GROUP
Media console fabrication

Media console fabrication theflemminggroup.com

HOLLY HUNT Dining table, sofa fabric hollyhunt.com

MCGUIRE FURNITURE Dining chairs, coffee table mcguirefurniture.com

OSCAR ISBERIAN RUGS

Various rugs isberian.com

PALECEK Counter stools palecek.com

PHILLIP JEFFRIES

Wallpaper in great room phillipjeffries.com

ROMO

Wallpaper in master bedroom romo.com

THE URBAN ELECTRIC CO. Kitchen and entry lighting

Kitchen and entry lightin urbanelectric.com