

MODERN LUXURY

Interiors

CHICAGO



BEST OF DESIGN 2019

INSPIRATION TO NOTE NOW!

PLUS

FABULOUS FEMALE MAKERS,
ANTONIO CITTERIO'S NEW COLLECTION
& TADAO ANDO'S MARK ON THE CITY

#INTERIORSCHICAGO
MODERNLUXURY.COM
BY THE PUBLISHERS OF MODERN LUXURY CS

LIVING IN CHICAGO

design

Designer Cari Giannoulas added a black-and-white series by Greg Dickerson to her clients' existing art collection. She paired the pieces with a custom sofa done in Holly Hunt fabric, a custom coffee table and an antique wood-and-cork lamp from Lucca Antiques. The Tibetan rug is from Organic Looms.



PERFECT HARMONY

A galleryworthy collection of artwork and vintage guitars adds personality to a Gold Coast penthouse that is as comfortable as it is elegant.

By Zlata Kozul Naumovski // Photography by Eric Hausman

Designers love clients like Chris Wall and Betsy Spence. The couple, executives in advertising and marketing respectively, gave designer Cari Giannoulas (carigiannoulas.com) carte blanche to design their three-bedroom penthouse in the Gold Coast. The only direction the couple gave her was to keep it casual. CONTINUED...

LIVING IN CHICAGO

design



From top: Giannoulas transformed a corner into a cozy reading nook with custom built-ins, a half-moon rug from Oscar Isberian Rugs, and a custom chair and ottoman in a Kyle Bunting hide; the office doubles as gallery space for Chris Wall's collection of Gibson, Fender and Epiphone guitars. It still functions as an office with its centrally placed desk and credenza, both custom designs by Giannoulas, and a Herman Miller chair.

« *"Incorporating art into design is a much more fluid process than people make it out to be. If you really love the piece but it's a little bit large or small or not the exact right color, that's what makes it so special and stand out from everything else in the room."*

—CARI GIANNOULIAS»

...CONTINUED "We wanted to keep it clean and simple but very comfortable, with chairs and sofas you could sink into in front of the fireplace," says Spence.

Comfortable, however, doesn't mean sloppy. More like a well-put-together outfit of nice jeans and a tailored shirt, the home exudes a simple sophistication. "They have incredible artwork, vintage guitars and other things with an authenticity to them," says Giannoulas, who launched her eponymous design firm in 2018. "They wanted to be surrounded by these beautiful things in an environment of understated elegance."

Surround them she did. A black-and-white screen print by Andy Warhol—"Flowers" (1974)—hangs in the master bedroom, while a series of Greg Dickerson sketches appears in the family room. A work by Mark Beck graces the modern kitchen, and a painting by Randy Twaddle welcomes visitors in the entry. There are also small pictures by Wall's mother throughout the house and a beautiful work by local artist Sally Ko in the guest bedroom. One bedroom that became a private study showcases Wall's collection of guitars.

"They had wonderful pieces; we installed everything from their collection," says Giannoulas, who chose unified white walls to highlight the work. "Incorporating art into design is a much more fluid process than people make it out to be," she says. "If you really CONTINUED...



LIVING IN CHICAGO
design

Clockwise from top left: Betsy Spence's favorite record covers take the place of art in the hallway; a bench from Jayson Home and art by Chris Wall makes a big impact in the entry hallway; the marble-clad master both features sconces from Visual Comfort and a mirror from Baker; the master bedroom's nightstands and headboard, in a Holly Hunt fabric, are custom designs by Giannoulas. The bedding is from Chicago Luxury Beds, and the sconces are from Visual Comfort.



...CONTINUED love the piece but it's a little bit large or small or not the exact right color, that's what makes it so special and stand out from everything else in the room."

Most of the furnishings were custom-designed by Giannoulas, including the master bed and an extra-deep sectional sofa with a Great Outdoors fabric by Holly Hunt. The designer added rugs from Organic Looms underfoot and papered the powder room in a Phillip Jeffries silk for a look that is both functional and approachable.

Spence especially appreciates the soft textures. "Cari warmed up the stark marble bathroom with antique rugs," she says. "Even though the color palette comprises a lot of whites, grays and blacks, it is warm and peaceful." In other words, comfortable. ■