

INTERIOR DESIGN / MICHELLE WILLIAMS,  
MICHELLE WILLIAMS INTERIORS  
ARCHITECTURE / WILLIAM BICKFORD AND  
MYRIAM MIGRDITCHIAN, NORTHWORKS ARCHITECTS  
HOME BUILDER / MATT POLLACK AND JOSHUA  
ACKERMAN, RED ROCK CUSTOM HOMES, LLC



# COME TOGETHER

INDUSTRIAL TOUCHES AND GLOBAL FINDS BLEND  
INSIDE A CALIFORNIA-INSPIRED HOUSE IN HIGHLAND PARK.

WRITTEN BY **TATE GUNNERSON** / PHOTOGRAPHY BY **WERNER STRAUBE**





Lined with windows by Loewen Windows, the foyer in a Highland Park residence boasts limestone floors, walls clad with wood from Evanston Lumber and decorative wooden beams with metal ties from Wilson Railing & Metal Fabricating.



The whole is greater than the sum of its parts.” Aristotle’s famous sentiment is an apt way to describe the handsome limestone manse—complete with a pool house—designer Michelle Williams and architects Bill Bickford and Myriam Migrditchian created for a family in Highland Park. Located on a sprawling lot, the property originally consisted of several houses due to the cobbling together of several smaller plots of land over the years.

“The main house on the site was beautiful and statuesque, but it had deteriorated and there had been various additions over the years,” Williams says of the red-brick building, which the new structure replaced. “The clients wanted their home to be very California cool, with industrial touches.”

Before demolition, the team’s first step was determining the best parts of the lot to build upon. “To be successful, the design needed to take advantage of the North Shore views while honoring a complex series of setbacks open to interpretation,” Bickford says. Armed with their crew, builders Matt Pollack and Joshua Ackerman tore down existing structures, preserved key elements such as brick garden walls and the tennis courts’ terraces, and carried out the architects and designer’s plans for the new buildings. The most challenging part, Bickford says, was adding a basement-level sports court beneath the motor court, which is defined by restored brick-and-limestone columns. Because this area in the front of the house has no structure above it, the team had to create a concrete roof and interior drains to ensure water does not leak into

At the far end of the spacious dining room, a casual sitting area is furnished with a custom sofa by The Charles Stewart Company in Hickory, North Carolina; a pair of ottomans covered in blue velvet; and four wood cocktail tables with stone tops from Baker Knapp & Tubbs. The pillows wear fabric from Schumacher, Donghia and Holly Hunt.





In the dining room's formal area, a pair of Tony Duquette sunburst chandeliers from Remains Lighting illuminate the custom ebonized-wood table from Plantation in Los Angeles and chairs from The Charles Stewart Company. The artwork over the fireplace is from Art Basel in Miami Beach.





The kitchen's custom hood, designed by Michelle Williams Interiors and fabricated by Avenue Metal Co., Inc., complements the custom cabinetry from Specialty Woodworking Inc. and the Ann Sacks backsplash tile. Adorned with nailhead trim, the barstools from The Charles Stewart Company are covered in metallic-faux leather from Maxwell Fabrics.



the subterranean space. "It was like building a bridge," Pollack says, noting motorists park atop the sports court. Although the exterior exudes formality, the interior boasts a more casual vibe that reflects the California style the owners desired. The long front foyer, for example, has been outfitted with limestone flooring juxtaposed by an accent wall clad with rustic pine boards. "We wanted the house to feel warm and inviting," Williams says. Adding an edgy feel, metal sconces and exposed beams with decorative steel ties introduce the first of many industrial elements. The foyer's stone flooring flows into the spacious dining room. Conceived as a hall for entertaining, the convivial space includes a seating arrangement furnished with pieces in creamy shades punctuated with blue accents, such as velvet ottomans. "The art and fabrics pop against the

neutral color palette," Williams says, pointing to the gold wall sculpture above the fireplace that complements the brass light fixtures over the dining table. Making a similar dynamic statement, a floor-to-ceiling fireplace clad with three-dimensional tile in the family room creates a sculptural backdrop amid the space's white walls. By contrast, the nearby open kitchen contains wood cabinets with a deep ebony finish that allows the woodgrain to show. "The clients originally had a white kitchen in mind," Williams says. "But this house is so expansive that I persuaded them to go with a darker color." A ribbed-ceramic copper backsplash and white marble countertops add a sense of elegance that juxtaposes the room's industrial pieces, which include a stainless-steel hood and safety-glass-front cabinets.

Between the dining room and office, lacquered walls reflect the moody lighting in the bar, which is outfitted with custom cabinetry from Specialty Woodworking Inc., glass wall shelves, countertops from Terrazzo & Marble Supply Companies and Ann Sacks backsplash tile.





A metallic spiral staircase by Wilson Railing & Metal Fabricating leads from the master suite into the husband's clubby first-floor office. Here, a custom sofa covered in Schumacher fabric and a pair of chairs, all from The Bright Group, offer a place to relax with a cocktail. The vintage French mirrored cocktail table is from The Golden Triangle.



As seen in the reflection of the mirror, a sculptural Arteriors chandelier made of metal chains highlights the powder room's metallic-grass-cloth Innovations wallcovering. The stone countertop from Terrazzo & Marble Supply Companies displays the owners' eclectic selection of pottery.



In the daughter's bedroom, a vintage lamp perches next to the channeled bed from The Charles Stewart Company, which is upholstered in Donghia fabric and dressed with Donna Karan bedding.



Safety glass is also embedded in the backsplash tile in the bar, a moody space with high-gloss lacquer walls and glass-wall shelving. Not far from there, a sculptural steel staircase makes an industrial statement in the husband's office. "Most of the house is very light; this is dark and cozy," Williams says, pointing to the wood-paneled ceiling and deep brown wallcovering. A blend of materials like velvet, leather and chrome add to the cozy feel. "There's texture on texture in here," the designer says. Just upstairs, the master bedroom is more ethereal. The space is mostly white-on-white; a pair of artistic pink

glass lamps atop lacquered-grass-cloth nightstands supply the only pop of color. Like most of the main rooms, it overlooks the swimming pool and the guesthouse on the other side of the landscape, creating the feeling of an exclusive compound. The two buildings feel as if they have always been there, Williams says, and together, they create a wonderful environment that has inspired the owners to entertain more than ever, often hosting pool and tennis parties well into the night. "People always want to hang out here," Williams says. "This home became something so special and gorgeous." **L**

Carrara-marble floor-and-wall tile from The Tile Shop creates a sense of elegance in the master bathroom. The space contains a Studio41 bathtub and a spacious separate shower.