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Interiors

CHICAGO

BEST OF DESIGN 2019

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ANTONIO CITTERIO'S NEW COLLECTION
& TADAO ANDO'S MARK ON THE CITY

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BEST UP-AND-COMER

Dan Rak Design
(1959 W. Erie St., Ste. 1N, 312.877.5757, danrakdesign.com)
With a background in business and real estate, Dan Rak has a gift for sensing what will sell a client—and he is just as creatively minded too. While much of the floor plan changed drastically, the formal dining room was left intact during this complete home renovation. The fireplace, original to the 1904 home, was restored, and new millwork was painted in Benjamin Moore's inky Anchor Gray (2165-30) melding together old and new.

BEST HOME BAR

Scott Himmel, Scott Himmel
Interior Architecture and Design

(333 N. Michigan Ave., Ste. 521, 312.332.3323, scotthimmel.com) The center of a new home in East Hampton, N.Y., is the living room, and Himmel was tasked with bringing a modern interior to the classic shingle-style house. Contemporary paneling made from Ono wood updates the space, while a bar upholstered in orange leather with nailhead trim, paired with yellow leather Jean

Royere-style stools and lighting from Alison Berger Glassworks, adds personality.

BEST BACKSPLASH

Simes Studios (1809 W. Webster Ave., Ste. 200, 773.327.7101, simesstudios.com) For a mahogany bar in a residence designed by Morgante-Wilson, the artists at Simes Studios created an artful églomisé backsplash named Constellations. A deep blue-black background with a 24K white gold and platinum-leaf etching of

mythological figures is accented with clear glass circles that each contain a cranberry silver-leaf star. The entire panel is backlit with a thin LED light, allowing the stars to shine through.

BEST ENTRYWAY

SuzAnn Kletzien Design (1579 N. Milwaukee Ave., Ste. 230, 312.835.1551, suzannkletzien.com) Kletzien's clients hired her based on a unique transition from hardwood floor to hexagonal tile in her portfolio. To solve the issues of a very traditional home with no formal entry, the designer installed custom built-ins to separate the door area from the living room while providing coat and shoe storage. Black-and-white graphic tile "spills" onto the hardwood in a zigzag pattern with a brass liner, while a stainwell that is open to all four floors of the home was updated with a new modern railing.

BEST EXPERIENTIAL SHOWROOM

Viking and La Cornue (222 W. Merchandise Mart Plaza, Ste. 137, 312.374.3091, middlebyresidential.com) Viking and La Cornue's new concept showroom in theMART has

become the blueprint for Middleby Residential's expansion (it owns Viking, La Cornue, Aga and more). Designed by Creative Director and Viking brand ambassador Jaime Laurita, the space features beautiful vignettes that incorporate tile, wallcoverings and finishes sourced from other vendors in theMART. Cooking demonstrations, lunch and learn sessions and cocktail parties make for an experience that feels more like you are visiting Laurita's well-appointed home than a showroom.

BEST SHOWROOM RENOVATION

WPA Chicago, B&B Italia, Arclinea, Maxalto (314 W. Superior St., 312.335.3855, wpachicago.com) This mainstay source for Chicago designers for more than 20 years recently moved and revamped an old warehouse space to become the first monobrand location of the B&B Italia Group in the U.S. The 7,000-square-foot space pays homage to the architectural bones of the building while providing a beautiful backdrop to highlight the furnishings from B&B Italia, Maxalto and Arclinea.



BEST KITCHEN

Leo Designs
(4011 N. Ravenswood Ave., Ste. 103, 872.829.3172, leodesignschicago.com)

"We wanted to create a space that would be both lasting and impactful," explains Stephanie Wirth (left) of the show-stopping Parisian-inspired kitchen in Lincoln Park that nabbed her and Georgeann Rivas, (right) co-founder of their firm, Leo Designs, along with Sarah Mellor, a top spot on this list. Herringbone flooring, intricate moldings and handsome painted cabinetry with beefy stone countertops foster a decidedly European sensibility. "There is a balance of old and new, and that's a very European approach," says Wirth, who grew up in Vienna. True to what the young firm is known for, details play a crucial role, such as a custom zinc-and-nickel hood and an armoire-like refrigerator, which is painted in a dark hue to contrast the white cabinetry. The Leo Designs team prides themselves on not having a signature look and instead drawing out the personal style of their clients. "Interior design is about enhancing people's lives," says Wirth. "That really is our primary goal."