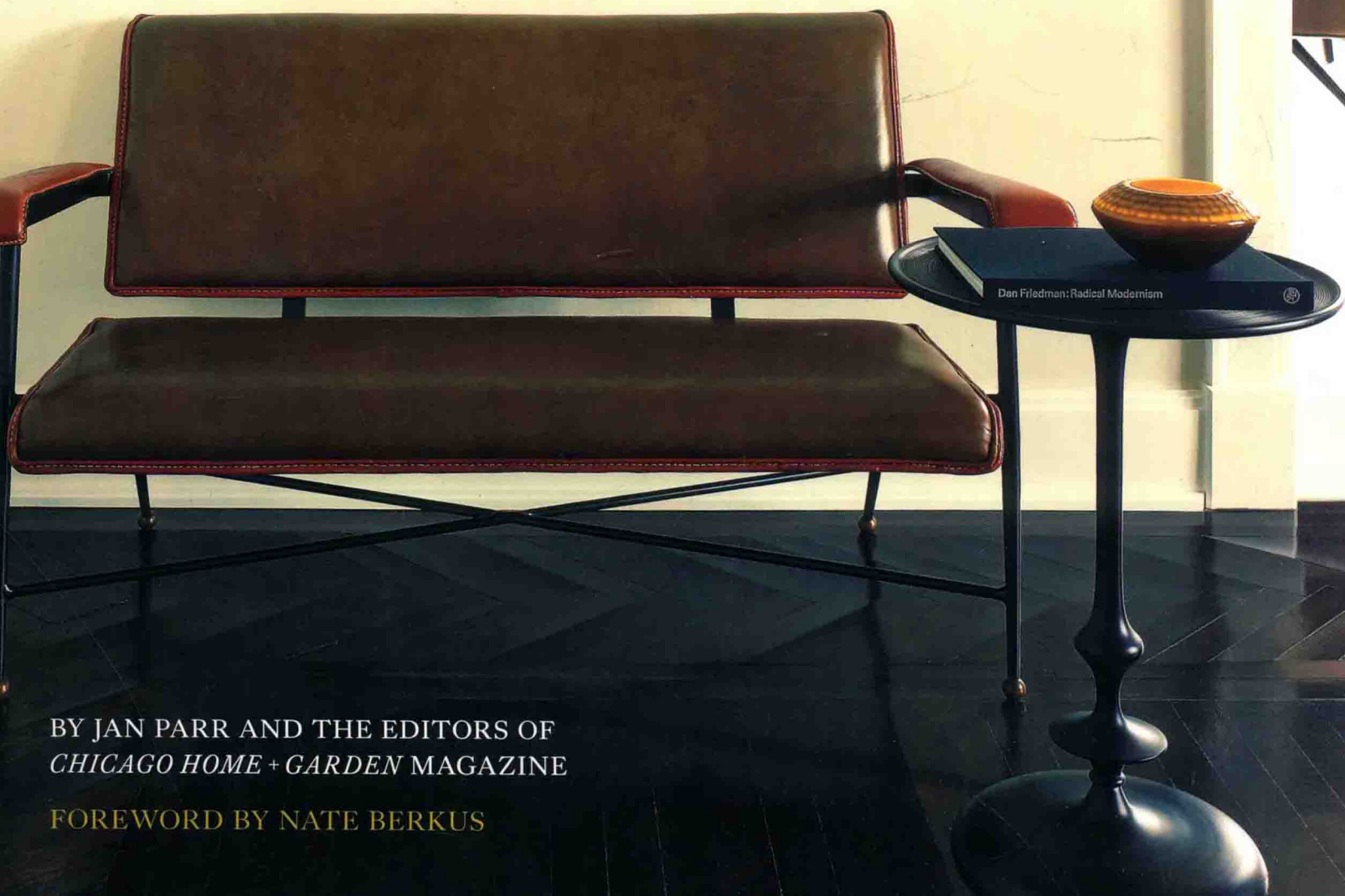




CHICAGO SPACES

INSPIRING INTERIORS



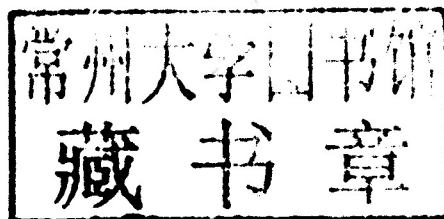
BY JAN PARR AND THE EDITORS OF
CHICAGO HOME + GARDEN MAGAZINE

FOREWORD BY NATE BERKUS

CHICAGO SPACES

INSPIRING INTERIORS

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BOOKS
CHICAGO

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Chicago **HOME**
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CHICAGO SPACES

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FOREWORD

I GREW UP IN THE MIDWEST and learned early on that weekends bring with them a full roster of garage sales, flea markets, and auctions. At the age of ten, I would scan the classifieds, happily mapping out a plan of attack for me to navigate on my bike. As an adult, I could easily spend each Saturday deploying those same tactics, hitting every estate sale in a 50-mile radius.

Point is, you can't grow up around here without noticing one very important thing: The Midwest is the ultimate source for all things vintage, antique, and wonderful. Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin are gold mines when it comes to one-of-a-kind finds at you-can't-be-for-real prices. Those of us lucky enough to call Chicago home sit on the doorstep to it all.

I started my design business in Chicago in 1995. People from both coasts scoffed, wondering how I'd ever manage to fill a client's home using the Midwest as my sourcing stomping ground. At first, I defended our great states, but then it occurred to me: Maybe it was to our benefit that only we knew just how good places such as the Chicago Antique Market, Pavilion, and Leslie Hindman Auctioneers really are. Maybe other people didn't need to know the great price you could get on a 1960s Italian leather sofa in Saugatuck, Michigan. The more for us, then!

I guess, though, you can't keep a good thing quiet for long. Today, the word is definitely out, in part because the staff of *Chicago Home + Garden* helped spread it. The Midwest does indeed have style, loads of it to be exact, and this book, full of the amazing interiors that live in this city (including, I'm proud to say, one I called home for eight years and another one that my firm designed), is proof of that.

And while I can't claim my ten-year-old self started any style revolutions in the Midwest—especially considering I spent most of my money at Dairy Queen on my way home from the sales—I can say I'm proud to have witnessed our well-designed evolution.

Live well,
NATE BERKUS

INTRODUCTION

CHICAGO'S REPUTATION for world-class architecture is well documented. Mention Chicago to people who are interested in design, and Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and Frank Lloyd Wright pop into their heads. But while we are rightfully proud of those two giants, the idea that Mies and Wright alone define our design aesthetic is as outdated as the image of Chicago being full of Tommy gun-toting gangsters. Prairie-style houses around here are actual homes, not museums; some of us (gasp!) have furniture that is not Mission-style. An apartment in a glassy high-rise may include a Biedermeier in addition to a Le Corbusier.

The pages that follow put to rest once and for all the notion that Chicago's design sensibility is predictably conservative and safe. Our interiors are alive, vibrant, and current, mixing styles and periods and willing to surprise.

Architecture certainly informs design choices. But we are not slaves to tradition. A favorite trick of our architects is to leave the front of a wood-frame shotgun house (so prevalent on the North Side) intact so that it blends in with its neighbors, then blow out the back with a glass-walled kitchen/family-room with a deck. Around here, we call it the architectural mullet: business up front, party out back.

Designers and homeowners, too, have the guts to do things their way. They might keep the original wood moldings and built-ins in Victorian homes but paint them white, black, or gray for a fresh take. They'll put a huge architectural relic in an entryway or cover a wall with hundreds of vintage snapshots. They'll install a baroque kitchen in a sleek, minimalist home or team Louis XV-style acrylic chairs with a glamorous mirrored

dining table in a more classic setting.

As daring as they may be, these spaces, for the most part, are practical, livable, and, above all, personal. They're creative rather than showy—pure Chicago, in other words. By turns sophisticated, quirky, cottagey, sleek, refined, elegant, and laid-back, Chicago design, we've concluded, is not definable; rather, it responds to the needs and wants of its residents, its architecture, and its moment in time.

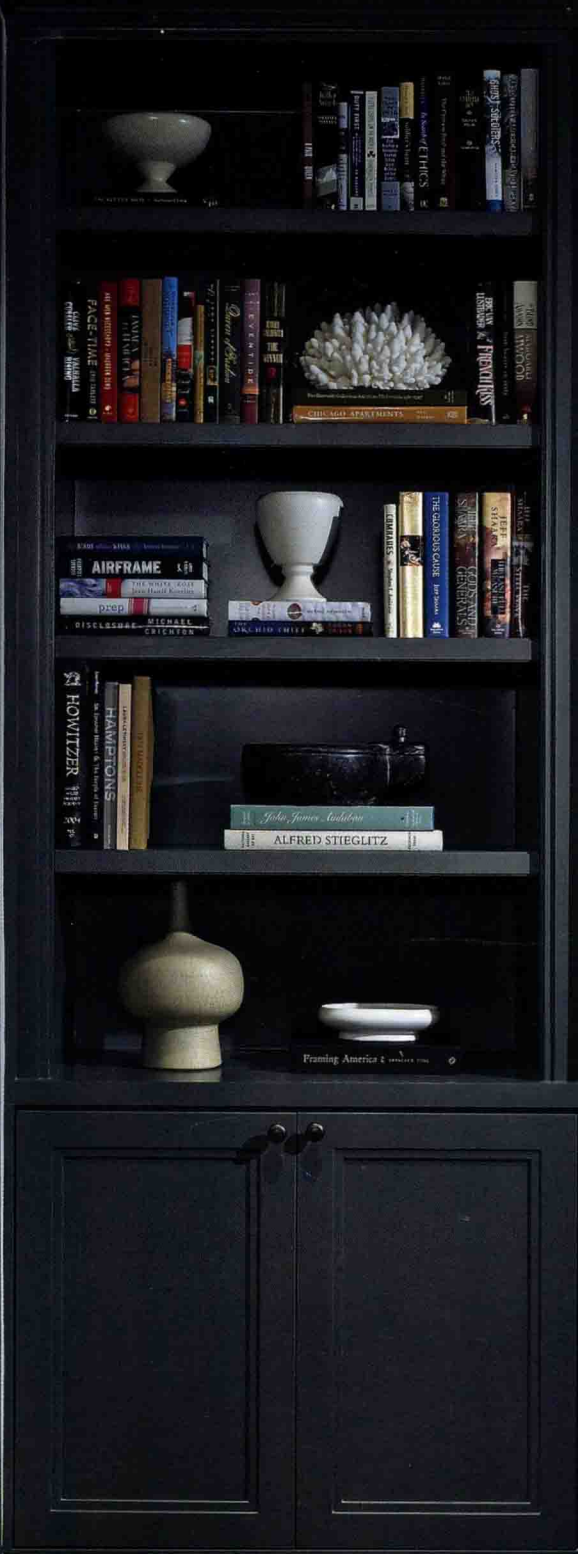
We are proud to represent a broad range of styles in our magazine, *Chicago Home + Garden*, and in the pages of this book. In a way, *Chicago Spaces* is a retrospective of the magazine, which was born some ten years ago out of a desire to give local interior design, architecture, and outdoor spaces the attention they deserved. No one was devoting an entire publication to these subjects back then;

in fact, our publisher wondered aloud whether we would run out of homes to include. As this book makes clear, we haven't and we won't.

Featuring some of the best projects that have appeared in the magazine's pages, *Chicago Spaces* tells a uniquely Chicago story about the way we live—capturing, documenting, and sharing the spirit of creativity in this town. Though the book includes the work of the area's top designers, we did not set out to make it a who's who; instead, we chose spaces we loved, interiors that spoke to us, whether put together by a nationally recognized professional or by a talented homeowner. We hope they provide inspiration for anyone, anywhere, who wants to love where he or she lives.

—JAN PARR
Editor, *Chicago Home + Garden*

Part One HOMES



THE NEW MARSHALL PLAN

Gold Coast \ Apartment \ 3,800 square feet

When a woman and her husband purchased a graceful but tired prewar apartment after living in a string of traditionally decorated suburban houses, they hired a Chicago design/build firm, Hudson Home, to renovate it, expecting one more variation on a familiar theme. Instead, she says, “they took us to a place we never thought we’d go.”

She’s referring not just to the urban comforts of their new, doorman-enhanced life but also to the unexpected peacefulness they’ve found living with great mid-century furnishings set against the backdrop of a home designed by architect Benjamin Marshall, who built a series of elegant houses and apartment residences in the city around the turn of the last century. Hudson Home’s task was to respect the apartment’s genes while imposing an entirely new order on it, thanks to a callous 1980s renovation. “The back of the apartment was deep and dark, like a cave,” says the owner. Now the apartment is sleek, yes, but with an opulent edge.

Walls in the private areas are embellished by new handcrafted traditional moldings and set off by a continuous wash of deep gray-green, from foyer to family room and back to the bedroom corridor. The effect lends continuity and spice to those spaces—deferring to the original architecture without replicating it. Ditto the new floor plan, which is modern, but not entirely open. The Hudson team snuck in some modern details, like sleek pocket doors, and chose a very 21st-century wall color (Benjamin Moore’s Titanium) to subtly play up the living room’s elaborate ceiling. Low-slung furniture increases the drama of the high ceilings, and a plum-taupe mohair sofa floating in the center of the room catches the eye. The dining room, originally an orangery, features the owners’ dreamy antique Japanese screen, which pairs perfectly with shimmering tropical-leaf wallpaper. At a recent family party, the owner says, “we sat around that table, all different generations, with the twinkling lights of the city and the lake shining around us, and I thought, It doesn’t get any better than this.”