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# Interiors

CHICAGO

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**MIX AND MINGLE**  
In the living room, Zaveloff blended a chaise sofa by Jonathan Adler covered in linen with vintage furnishings, including a black, wire chair by Woodard, a Lucite-and-brass cocktail table from Jayson Home and a '30s-era Italian chandelier.

## HARMONY HAVEN

A vintage Victorian is inflected with a local designer's finely-honed midcentury tone.

By Tate Gunnerson | Photography by Mike Schwartz

"I told them that they would be crazy if they didn't buy this house," explains KitchenLab founder and lead designer Rebekah Zaveloff, of the late 19th-century Victorian home in Chicago's Lakeview neighborhood that she toured with her clients. "It had the street presence, glamour and elegance of an era gone by," she explains, pointing to the three-level home's original details, which included cozy salon-style rooms, antique fireplaces and pocket doors. "The only thing it needed was for them to put their fingerprints on it."

Zaveloff's clients—a physician and a stay-at-home mom of three—first discovered her work when they attended a book club at another Victorian in Highland Park that she had renovated for a prior client years earlier. "What I loved is that Rebekah respected the heavy weightiness of that house, but you could tell that a young, fun, creative family lived there," the wife says. "I knew that there was something special about this designer."

When the couple began house hunting in Chicago, they asked Zaveloff to help them narrow down their options and ultimately hired her to

CONTINUED...



**MASTER OF THE HOUSE**  
Old and new come together in the master bedroom, where Zaveloff paired a vintage bedside table from Revision Home with a contemporary lamp from Lightology.

CONTINUED... redesign their new home. "We started with the kitchen," says Zaveloff, who had a wall demolished to open it to the adjacent dining area. White cabinetry and a gray island topped with a thick slab of marble replace a dated '80s-era kitchen. In the adjacent breakfast area, the designer laid an encaustic concrete cubist floor tile and incorporated a desk and built-in cabinetry for storage. "The space now does double-duty as an office and a mudroom," Zaveloff explains.

Throughout the home, Zaveloff painted walls, swapped out light fixtures and incorporated historically accurate molding and ceiling medallions. "We reintroduced some of the architectural character that was missing," the designer says. Lighting bridges the gap between the home's antique charms and the midcentury modern furnishings that Zaveloff helped her clients select. In the kitchen, a pair of contemporary pendants by Laura Kirar balance an antique brass Italian chandelier. "We were looking for this tension between modern and traditional; something that balanced and clashed at the same time," says Zaveloff. The commingling of influences carries through to the interior design, which CONTINUED...

**CUISINE ART**

"My default is vintage, but every once in a while, a room needs something brand-spanking-new," Zaveloff says of the Caviar pendants by Laura Kirar that she selected for above the kitchen island. A tile backsplash from Tabarka Studio lends a textural element to the new kitchen's simple gray-and-white palette. Bertora counter stools and a vintage French farm table, surrounded by mid-century chairs by Eames and Thonet, offer plenty of seating.





CONTINUED... includes an eclectic array of modernist pieces that contrast the architecture. "The house felt like it was going in two different directions, and it wasn't immediately obvious to me how to approach it," Zaveloff explains. "I love Victorian houses, and I feel the same way about midcentury modern furniture. The clients liked a little of both, which is probably why they picked me."

Indeed, Zaveloff's approach works for her clients. "I've never wanted to have an aspirational house, because they don't look real to me. They look too 'decorated,'" the wife says. "In the past, I never really trusted designers completely, because I was afraid that we'd end up with coordinated rooms that look soulless. But Rebekah has a very playful sensibility, which really worked for us." ■

**SCOUT IT OUT**

From top: Zaveloff took a chance and bought a not-yet-approved pair of circa-1970s velvet chairs from Marco Polo in Michigan for the family room (they got the nod!). She paired them with a sofa from Scout that she had recovered in linen from Jayson Home; After weeks of searching, Zaveloff finally found a Rosewood credenza long enough to fit the scale of the family room. In the corner is a 1970s swivel chair from Woodard that she had recovered in a graphic pattern from Jayson Home.

