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MODERN FAMILY

A young family enlists Vincere to design an elegant yet kid-friendly abode in Lincoln Park.

By Laura Hine // Photographed by Werner Straube

Clockwise from top: Carousel lights over the kitchen island are by Barbara Barry for Visual Comfort; Vincere designed the faux boxwood wall on the terrace. Bloomfield Development built and installed it; Vincere designed the custom living room sofa and Eurocraft fabricated it in a Thibaut velvet. The coffee table is by Robert James.



From top: Mielke Stair Company built the custom stairway; the family room sectional sofa is by Kravet and the chair is by Chaddock. Vincere designed the ottoman, which was fabricated by Eurocraft in a faux leather; in the master the Noma bed is by Dmitriy & Co.



"We wanted to balance a timeless home with modern touches that are still cozy for everyday living," says the wife of a couple who moved into their new-construction Lincoln Park home last year. Looking around at the immaculate kitchen she adds, "And it had to be durable. We have a 2-year-old and 5-year-old!" Brought in to make that wish list into a house was the team of Vincere, with principals Tom Konopiots and Michael Stornello, along with builder Bloomfield Development.

"We wanted to live in the city, so we decided to find a teardown," says the husband. "It took almost a year to find the lot, but that gave us time to do a ton of research." That search led to a quiet street and purchasing next to a home on a double lot, which gives space and light on three sides of the house—hard to find in Lincoln Park.

"When we came to the project, they had a floor plan, but we tweaked the interior architecture before we started the design," CONTINUED...

...CONTINUED Konopiots says. One feature is the standout staircase near the front of the house. "We conceptualized these steel and glass windows on both sides to connect the spaces all the way through, so the stair became sculptural and light-filled." Another brilliant feature of the open first floor was the treatment of built-ins, not just as storage units, but as polished pieces that give each room an identity and still have a cohesive aesthetic. That open floor plan also means that the dining room is a passage to the kitchen and family room. "Rather than have a chandelier hanging down, which would have to be centered over the table, we chose to keep the lights tighter to the ceiling," Stornello says. "You can easily pass through, but when they have guests, the table extends, and then it's centered on the lights."

Also important to the couple was outdoor space for entertaining.

The family room opens to a deck, which leads to a large party space on the garage roof, complete with a television, lighting, heaters and fans, as well as cooking and dining areas. But even on the grayest of days, the view from the family room is green and cheery thanks to the faux boxwood wall designed to hide the brick garage. Stornello adds that the installation has embedded lights so the plants glow at night.

The rest of the 5,200-square-foot house continues in the modern yet warm vibe Vincere and the homeowners established on the main level, with a serene master suite, adorable kids' bedrooms and all the add-ons one expects in Lincoln Park—a home gym, a guest suite, casual entertaining spaces and kids' playrooms. "They really understood what we were looking for and presented us with ideas we loved for almost everything," the wife says. "It was a really easy process for us." ■

