

CONTENTS DEPARTMENTS



PUBLISHER'S NOTE	18
EDITOR'S NOTE	20
CONTRIBUTORS	32
CALENDAR	34

NOW IN CHICAGO

NEW & NOTABLE 36 New design from local luminaries Pensare Group and Lake + Wells; design legend Sir Paul Smith presents his 15th anniversary collection with The Rug Company; design tomes to add to your bookshelf; YellowKorner comes to Chicago; plus design sources to download.

TRENDS 48 Cool new products in the hue of the moment, midnight green; midcentury *Mad Men*-era chairs are the best seats in the house.

LIVING IN CHICAGO

SPOTLIGHT 53 Kara Mann launches Milling Road as a stand-alone brand.

DESIGN 54 Designers at home: Hunter Kaiser, Michael Del Piero and Nora Schneider open their doors and show us their style.

PROFILE 70 Farrow & Ball introduces nine exquisite new shades to its elegant paint collection. Charlotte Cosby, the company's head of creative, gives us the broad strokes.

REAL ESTATE 72 Middlefork Development plants a stake in the city's real estate market with newly constructed single-family homes.

ARCHITECTURE 74 Architect Mason Miller builds a family-friendly dream home that is a midcentury-modern marvel.

HOSPITALITY 78 Hotel Monaco's new AV Serenity Suite pairs local artists with a touch of glam.

IN CONVERSATION WITH 80 Nate Berkus chats about his latest creative endeavor: serving as artistic adviser for LG Electronics' premium suite of kitchen appliances.

PEACE OF MIND

Hotel Monaco taps local designers and artists to create an oasis of calm in the heart of the city.

By Zlata Kazul Naumovski
Photography by Whit Preston

With its soothing tones of gray and blush, the newly renovated AV Serenity Suite at Hotel Monaco feels more like an effortlessly decorated apartment than a hotel room.

Celebrity interior designer and Chicago native Alison Victoria was chosen by the Kimpton Hotels property to transform the 578-square-foot room into a soothing oasis for city visitors—on a tight timeline.

"When I think of what serene is to me, I think of home," says Victoria. That means lots of texture, some carefully chosen accessories and a neutral color palette accented with gold that helps hotel guests forget they're in the middle of one of the most dynamic cities in the world.

"This room is an homage to the city I love," says Victoria, who can occasionally be found trawling the aisles of Lincolnwood's Lowe's scouting for home renovators for her HGTV show *Kitchen Crushers*.

Victoria and her talented team dubbed the project "Layering Locals" and incorporated the work of several local artists. Stephanie Gabel hand-painted the gold faux finish on the sitting room wall, which features an abstract artwork created by Laura Beth Cartwright. Lisa Boumstein-Smalley enhanced the wall and floor tiles in the marble-clad bathroom with gold flourishes, while Ari Smejkal built the reclaimed wood headboard wall and television cabinet. And a



GILT TRIP Cocktails from top: "Four years ago, I couldn't get my clients to buy into gold," says Victoria, who admits her "obsession with [it] has taken off." The sitting room's hand-painted wall and artwork by Laura Beth Cartwright and hammered brass cocktail tables are a perfect example; the bathroom is clad in Calacatta marble tiles, with hand-painted details by Lisa Boumstein-Smalley; self-neutral and Lucite wall-mounted shelves in the bedroom maintain the clean, calm vibe.



Ryan Ewart photograph hangs near the entry door.

"Everybody's from Chicago," explains the interior designer, who got her start by designing hotel rooms in Las Vegas.

Local companies such as Jayson Home, Kohler and Tile Outlet were on board, and the hotel is charity-minded too. Ten percent of the room rate is donated to PAWS Chicago, a no kill animal shelter Victoria supports. Appropriately pet-friendly, the suite features easy-to-replace carpet squares from FLOR in lieu of traditional rugs, anticipating those inevitable accidents that are bound to happen.

As Victoria says, it all contributes to a place where "people truly feel at home." And that is sweet serenity. \$470 per night, 225 N. Wabash Ave., 312.960.8500, monaco-chicago.com