

IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE...

by Tony Montano



HOLIDAY DÉCOR FOR HOMES AND BUSINESSES THAT SPARK JOY AND SPREAD CHEER ALL SEASON LONG.





TEMPLE ST CLAIR

FINE JEWELLERY



COLONIAL MARKETPLACE

EAT | SHOP | EXPERIENCE

For all your holiday gifts, Colonial Marketplace has all you need for a cozy season! With over 20 unique boutiques, great food, and best-in-class services, you can eat, shop, and experience – all in one place. And...Santa will be on site from 12-2 p.m. on Friday (November 28) and Saturdays (November 29,





Olive Ovation

Sample size bottles of Eleganza and Frutta Extra Virgin Olive Oils, Spesso Aged Balsamic Vinegar, and All Purpose Spice Blend packed in an elegant black branded box. **\$20**



The Woman's Exchange Silk Velveteen David Suit: \$175

Scarlet Red Velveteen Classic Cherry Dress with Silk Gingham Cherries and Piping: \$250



Marmi

Vaneli Oleg ankle boot, crafted from water-resistant stretch suede with a side zip, padded insole, treaded rubber sole, and 1³/₄" stacked heel. **\$295**

Dominic Michael Salon

Parisian luxury via limited-edition holiday gift sets, catering to all hair needs.



City Sprouts

Cool stuff for cool kids - Jellycat Amuseables Letter to Santa **\$55**



IV Nutrition

Boost energy, clarity, and recovery with our IMs **\$29-\$59** IVs **\$84-\$229**



YLANG YLANG

Nouvel Heritage 18k yellow gold Diamond Soirée Mood Bangle. Exclusively sold at YLANG YLANG. \$16,100



The Original Pancake House

Chocolate Chip Pancakes. **\$12**





NEUAGE Health + Wellness

Medical Weight Loss Therapy with Semaglutide. **\$350/month**

ByrdChanel Mini Flap Bag - **\$5,995**





The Normal BrandBrightside Flannel Lined Workwear Jacket \$198





Splash

PQ Swim's triangle bikini top **\$95** and tie side bikini bottom **\$91**

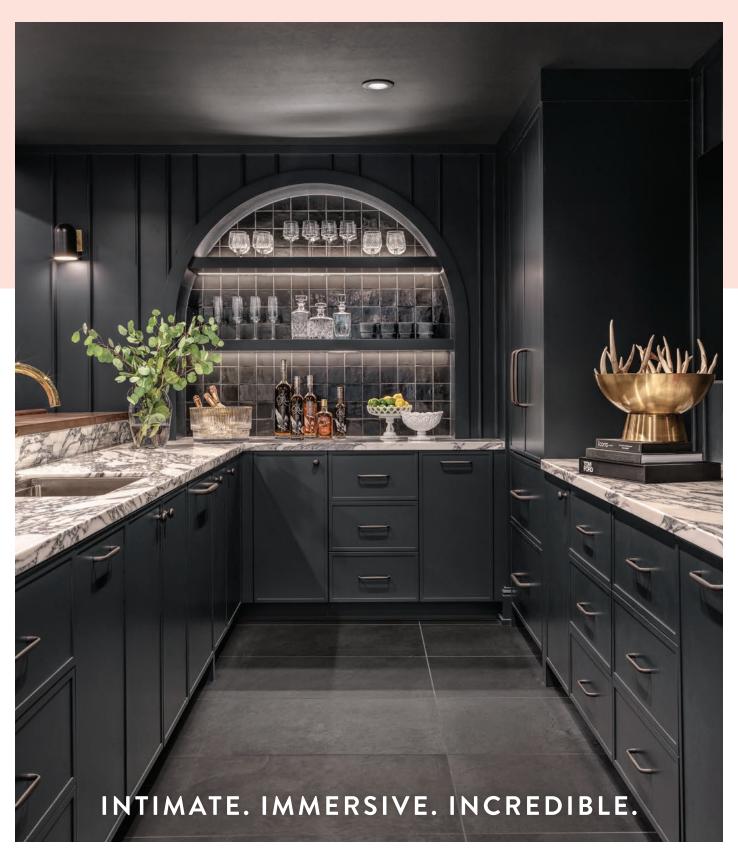
The Pasta House Co.

Salad Dressing. **\$5**



SOPHISTICATED SOPHISTICATED November/December 2025 on the cover: Design by Marshall Watson & Reid Deane Ganes; Builder: Chouteau Building Group. Photography by Luke White The Pasta Assassin The Midas Touch Sophisticated Celebrations Calendar 23 St. Louis County Library Popped from the Page 25 Operation Food Search's Feast for Change The Glennon Gallop 27 29 Unveiling the Jack C. Taylor Music Center African Vision of Hope Ranken Jordan's Together We Shine Gala 33 A Natural Selection 40 Saddle Up 43 Ring in the Holidays 44 Automotive Augury 48 **Bottle Notes** 50 The Sweet Spot Snowbirds 54 56 Setting the Holiday Bar 58 SAX in the City 62 Pairfect 64 Getting Personal **A** The SOPHI Awards 2025 69 Welcome to The SOPHIs Introducing the Judges 70 The ICON Winner: Alise O'Brien The Emcee: Marshall Watson The Winners and Finalists of the 2025 SOPHI Awards 76 Brandon Benack. slmag.net







making spirits bright





SOPHISTICATED

PUBLISHER

Craig Kaminer Craig@slmag.net

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Christy Marshall EditorSTL@slmag.net

COPY EDITOR

Lou Ann Wilcox

DIGITAL CONTENT PRODUCER

Grayling Holmes digitalSTL@slmag.net

ADVERTISING

Cortney Vaughn Cortney@slmag.net

Rachel Sokolich Rachel@slmag.net

CONTRIBUTORS

Writers

Alexa Beattie

Craig Kaminer

Christy Marshall

Design

Jon Feagain

Photography

John Lore

Kate Munsch

SOPHISTICATED LIVING MEDIA

Eric Williams

Bridget Cottrell

Greg Butrum

Jason Yann

Sophisticated Living* is published by High Net Worth Media, LLC and is independently owned and operated. Sophisticated Living* is a registered trademark of Williams Media, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Sophisticated Living* is published six times a year. All images and editorial are the property of High Net Worth Media, LLC and cannot be reproduced in whole or in part without written permission. Annual subscription fees are \$25.00; please add \$5 for subscriptions outside the US. Single copies may be purchased for \$5 at select fine retail outlets. Telephone 314-82-SLMAG.

SLMAG.NET



From the Editor-in-Chief

Over the past three decades, I've been lucky enough to have a job that actually requires me to tour beautiful homes. You might assume after seeing and writing about literally hundreds of houses, I would know what works, what doesn't and exactly how it's done.

I don't.

I hire it done.

The simple fact is there are people trained to do whatever needs to be done. So, when my sweet husband and I decided that we were going to stick it out in our very old — and structurally flawed — house, we called in an interior designer to make our abode glisten again.

In our case, we summoned the incredibly talented Chelsea Smith of Chelsea Designs, a lovely young woman I met when I wrote about a house she had done in Kimmswick. Perched on the bluffs of the Mississippi River, it was stunning. Every detail was pitch perfect. The family had first purchased the land during the Spanish Influenza around 1919 and over the years had accumulated a boatload of antiques. I empathized. My mother had a stint as an antiques dealer and I not only inherited a number of her collections but I've started a slew of my own. Translation: I've got stuff, lots of stuff. And, just to be clear, I don't fancy anyone coming in and tossing it all in the bin. So, when I saw that Chelsea had revitalized the antiquities and incorporated them in the redesign, I was sold.

> We've had designers work on our house before. The incredibly talented Tim Rohan of T. Rohan Inc. owned the abode before we moved in and he decorated it to the nines. As the years went by, we put on an addition and had other designers assist. Some experiences were more successful than others.

> Another fortunate aspect of my profession is I've met a ton of interior decorators and designers; many of them when they were just coming on the scene. I was lucky enough to find Amie Corley very early in her career after she had entered (and if I recall correctly won) a design contest launched by Jonathan Adler. When we had a disaster in our den and after our daughter, then a temperamental teen, declared pink was no longer perfect in her room, Amie drove to our rescue. Today, she ranks among the top designers in the country and she designs entire houses, expensive houses. She is leagues beyond the occasional room.

> There are tricks to landing the perfect cohort in this venture. First, you need to be absolutely simpatico. Personality clashes won't serve you well. Second, you need to be honest about your budget but still totally aware that you will probably cruise right past it.

> Find someone who will work with what you have rather than start from scratch (which, I understand is most designers' preference). Our kitchen cabinets are okay so they stayed. The countertops and backsplash? In the process of being replaced. The living room sofa and chairs are in great shape. Chelsea and her talented assistant, Christopher Amburn, simply shifted everything around to make the room feel new and twice as big.

Personally, I am extremely fond of the "high-low" approach. If that's your inclination, you want to be sure it's your designer's too. We now have new lampshades from At Home, ornamented with finials from Brody's. The William Morris-designed wallpaper hangs on the walls while the breakfast room tulip table hails from Crate & Barrel, the chairs from Serena & Lily. A beautiful chest replete with inlays cost a couple of hundred bucks at an antique mall. Existing chairs were repaired and recovered; our comfy couch cushions restuffed; the walls and trim repainted; our artwork rehung and our treasures moved about.

The most important dicta of all: Trust in the professional and just say yes. Yes. YES. Regardless of how many times you've moved or how many times you've attempted this yourself, recognize that you are the amateur. The designer will (and should) run everything by you. My husband and I pored over her selections and pointed out our favorites. Every bid came itemized so we could pick and choose what we wanted now and what we wanted later.

But if you have the time, if your eye is on the bottom line and if the designer is willing, you can assist. I can shop. It's a talent I have perfected. Designers charge by the hour so you might want to volunteer on the errand side. Find out exactly what the designer has determined you need, get exact measurements and details and then hit the road. Those forays were my favorite. I worked the aisles of Warson Woods Antique Mall and M. Howald Antiques, among others. When I found a potential prize, I snapped it on my phone, zipped it over to Chelsea and patiently waited for the nod to proceed — or pass.

Over the last few months, I've also learned so much. I always thought that pictures were hung at eye level. Think again. Position those frames a bit higher and the ceiling seems to soar a tiny bit more. Put all your collections together so they make a bigger statement. Feature your best; ax the excess.

The interior of a house makes all the difference. As you will see as you peruse the pages of this year's SOPHI award winners and finalists, St. Louis is blessed with incredible designers, architects and craftsmen. Clever. Smart. Talented. People who know what they're doing and are happy to help.

And when you have the need?

Hire it done.

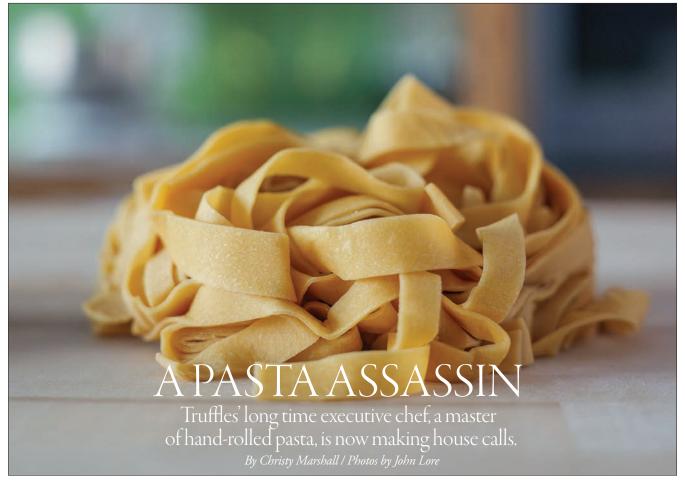
Christy Marshall, Editor in Chief
EditorSTL@slmag.net

VALERIE JAUDON



Valerie Jaudon, Fugue, 2023, 72 x 72 inches, oil on linen, 2023





Brandon Benack shows up to your house looking like he's about to commit a crime. He's got a gun case slung over his shoulder and a massive cutting board tucked under his arm.

Fear not.

That case holds his collection of antique pasta-making tools. That cutting board becomes the stage for the resurrection of centuries-old Italian pasta traditions that most people have never seen.

"I walk up looking like a pasta assassin," Benack laughs, describing his arrival at clients' homes for his increasingly popular pasta dinner experiences. It's a fitting description for a guy who's basically waging war against everything you thought you knew about fresh pasta.

After 13 years as the executive chef at Truffles — one of St. Louis's most beloved restaurants, Benack made the leap into entrepreneurship last year. But his path there was anything but traditional, much like the pasta he's now obsessed with making.

Growing up in Rochester, New York, Benack had his sights set on college basketball. That plan lasted until an injury derailed his hoop dreams at SUNY Morrisville. Sitting with his roommate, contemplating his next move, the friend made a suggestion: "Why don't you just switch to culinary? We make pancakes and hang out, it's fun and easy," Benack recalls.

What made the transition seamless was Benack's background. He comes from what he calls "the most stereotypical Italian American family" — Calabrese roots, his mother owned a beauty

salon, his grandparents helped raise him, his grandfather brought vines over from Italy to make wine. His grandmother started cooking on Wednesday for Sunday dinner for 50 to 60 people. "I got involved in that," Benack says.

"Every single stereotype you could think of, that's what we were. The big garden, my grandfather making wine — the whole nine yards."

His Uncle Angelo was an old-school butcher who walked around with an unlit cigar perpetually in his mouth.

"Uncle Angelo would take me to the wholesale markets when I was a kid," Benack remembers. "He'd pick up a piece of beef, smell it, touch it and tell me everything about the animal. He taught me that respecting your ingredients starts with understanding them."

That foundation served him well as he moved through the culinary world without ever having to write a resume. One job led to another, from an internship at a private golf resort on Daufuskie Island off Hilton Head to New Orleans working for Emeril and at Delmonico's.

Then one night a billionaire named Alan Stanford swept into the restaurant and offered the executive chef a deal that was too good to refuse. The chef then recruited Benack and Aleks Jovanovic and off they flew to Antigua, where Stanford was building a culinary empire complete with ultra-fine dining restaurants, cricket fields and helicopter arrivals with million-dollar cash prizes.







"We only opened the restaurant if you had a reservation," Benack recalls of their ultra-exclusive spot, The Pavilion. "I remember we had Eli Manning after the Super Bowl that year. Eli and two people." The restaurant was opened for a table of three.

The fairy tale ended when Stanford's empire crumbled. He's now in maximum security prison serving 110 years for running the second-largest Ponzi scheme in world history.

After bouncing through Miami and working with celebrity chefs like Norman Van Aken, Benack found himself at a career crossroads in 2011. He couldn't nail a job interview to save his life. After years of opportunities falling into his lap, he had no idea how to sell himself sitting across from strangers.

"I bombed every interview," he admits. "I think I went home and cried myself to sleep two days in a row. It was the most humbling thing that ever happened to me, but probably one of the best things because it really knocked me off this pedestal."

Salvation came through Jovanovic, who'd landed at Truffles in St. Louis. The pitch was simple: come to the Midwest, put the band back together and take the restaurant to the next level.

He moved to St. Louis on April 1, 2012 — April Fool's Day, he's quick to point out — and spent the next 13 years helping make Truffles a destination. Along the way, Benack and the restaurant's team developed Trufffles Butchery Market next door, inspired by his Uncle Angelo's old-school approach.

"People would come in for dinner and see this beautiful display of dry-aged steaks and house-made charcuterie and they'd ask if they could take some home," Benack explains. "Uncle Angelo always said a good butcher feeds the community, not just the restaurant. So we started feeding the community."

About eight years into his Truffles tenure, Benack started tinkering with cars as therapy. Working in restaurants means

dealing with "a hundred fires going on every day," but in the garage, he could focus on just one thing at a time.

What began as a hobby with business partner Harden Ervin evolved into Classic Motoring STL, a serious side business specializing in Alfa Romeo restorations. They're now the go-to Alfa specialists for the entire Midwest, drawing customers from Washington D.C. to Colorado. Benack bought property in Mehlville for the operation.

For the next eight years, Benack lived a punishing schedule: up at 6 a.m., in the shop by 7, work until 2, shower, get to the restaurant by 3, work until 10 or 11 p.m. Six days a week.

"I got to the point where I'm like, 'Man, I don't know if I can do this anymore'," he says.

The decision to leave Truffles wasn't easy. The Cellas, who own the restaurant, are "probably the best people I've ever worked for." But after 13 years, Benack needed a new challenge.

It was time for a change.

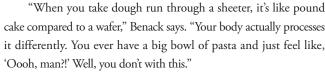
Over the years, Benack became obsessed with traditional pasta making — not just fresh pasta, but pasta made the way his grandmother did it, the way it's been done in Italian villages for centuries.

"I spent 30 years of my career working in all these high-end kitchens making fresh pasta, but we'd always use a sheeter [pasta machine]," he explains. "The problem is, you take this beautiful dough that you knead and incorporate all these beautiful air pockets and air bubbles, then you shove it in this machine and smash the living hell out of it. You kill everything you just worked for."

The traditional method uses a mattarello — a massive rolling pin anywhere from 35 to 42 inches long. Instead of destroying the air bubbles, hand-rolling disperses them into microscopic pockets throughout the dough, creating a completely different texture and making it easier to digest.







His timing was perfect. His mother had been researching their family history and connected with distant cousins still living in Calabrese. Meanwhile, Benack discovered Evan Funke, a chef in Los Angeles who's the only person in the country doing traditional pasta at restaurant level, with full pasta labs where everything is rolled out by hand.

Benack started collecting antique pasta-making tools, including a 200-year-old pettine for making different pasta shapes. He called his friend, local woodworker David Stine, who makes custom bar tables for restaurants around town, and asked him to craft a huge cutting board suitable for rolling out pasta.

When Benack announced he was leaving Truffles, his regular customers had one question: Where were they going to find him now? The answer evolved into his current pasta dinner venture, as well as in-house tasting dinners.

These aren't cooking classes in the traditional sense, though Benack originally called them that before realizing it confused people. They're intimate dinner experiences where he brings restaurant-quality food and old-world techniques directly into clients' homes.

"It's bringing the restaurant to the house," he explains. The experience is customizable. Some clients want to get hands-on, rolling out dough and shaping pasta alongside Benack. Others prefer to sit back with a glass of wine and watch the master at work.

Benack arrives with his rifle case of tools, his massive cutting board and pre-rested dough that's been developing for 24 hours. He'll make fresh dough on-site to demonstrate the technique, prepare multiple sauces, create salads and appetizers and craft several pasta courses depending on what clients want.



The price point — \$2,000 to \$2,500 for the pasta dinners — is significantly more accessible than his elaborate six-course tastings that start at \$3,500 (not including food). More importantly for the chef, the pasta nights are more fun and sustainable.

Benack has developed a core team for clients who want the full experience: sommeliers for wine pairings, servers, bartenders, even cleanup crews. He can accommodate up to 20 people, though 10 to 15 is the sweet spot for pasta dinners due to the labor-intensive nature of hand-rolling everything.

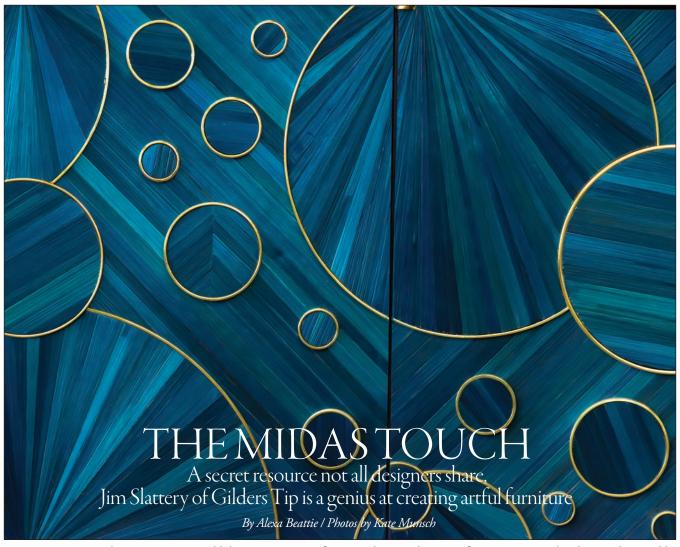
The consultation process starts with a phone conversation to discuss the client's vision and kitchen space ("I'm not coming into a loft apartment where the counter is this big" he says signaling a notvery-big area), followed by an in-person visit a week or two before the event to finalize details.

Word of mouth is driving demand. A recent event in Ladue led to a slew of referrals. Benack has partnered with Kitchen Conservatory for some classes and signed up to offer experiences through Airbnb, where he's one of only two private chefs listed for the entire St. Louis market.

The responses are consistent: guests are amazed by how much work goes into what they assumed was a simple bowl of pasta. "Every single person I've done this for says, 'Oh my God, I had no idea how much work it takes to make this one little bowl," Benack notes. "It makes it that much more special."

For someone who spent three decades climbing the ladder in professional kitchens, working in resort restaurants and celebrity chef empires, Benack has found something unexpected in these intimate home gatherings: pure joy in sharing traditions that connect us across centuries.

"People have never seen it done like this," he says. "That's where the challenge comes in. It's just challenging." st



Decorative artist Jim Slattery goes to some old drawer in a corner of his studio and pulls out a small 3-inch-square packet. Inside, between slips of apricot-colored tissue — and catching on a bar of early autumn sunlight — are leaves of 23 carat gold (95 percent pure).

"Look," he says. "One-hundred-thousandth of an inch thick." He picks at a leaf — thin as the finest membrane which disintegrates on his fingers. "I love this so much. There's just something about it." It is the goldest thing you ever saw. Although Slattery has had his own restoration, furniture design and fabrication business — called Gilders Tip — for almost 40 years, he was not much more than a boy when his great uncle — a master gilder and sign writer — taught him the art of gold leafing. It can be a 20 or so step process, Slattery says, which mostly consists of prep work for inlaying that impossibly gossamer, impossibly beautiful precious metal into frames, signage, tabletops and liturgical furnishings.

You find Slattery around the back of a tattoo shop on Hampton Avenue. You know you've arrived somewhere rather interesting: The garage doors are open, the fans are going full pelt and, in the distance, behind some fine pieces of mid-century furniture and a huge dusty-blue sanding machine, Cathy Roth is working on the veneer for a commissioned mahogany dining table. She explains that she is working in sections: the table will measure 5-feet by 10-feet — too big for the veneer press. It will be oval in shape and purchased by an undisclosed buyer for around \$17,000.

Roth is a graduate of the Art Institute of Chicago and has worked with Slattery for almost 20 years. The pair may be the only artisans in St. Louis dealing in the five "noble" materials of the Art Deco era which produced much of the furniture Slattery happens to like best. Those materials are shagreen (which is the term for various kinds of hide; primarily stingray, dogfish and certain types of shark), leather parchment, gypsum (a cloudy, glass-like mineral), straw (which Slattery sources from a farm outside Paris) and eggshells which he gets from Schnucks.

"When I'm working with those, I'm eating a lot of eggs," he says. Depending on size, a project may require the shells from hundreds of eggs and is a lengthy process of bleaching, painstakingly removing membranes and gently cracking the shells into tiny mosaics.

"Jim Slattery is an absolute magician," said St. Louis interior designer Dana Romeis. "He can repair and build. He can duplicate. He can turn metal hinges and hardware. Do you want eggshell or straw marquetry? Do you want white gold or yellow gold?"







Slattery points out (though it's pretty hard to miss) a "bubbled" peacock blue buffet. "I call it my Lawrence Welk cabinet," he says, referring to the bubbly effects at the end of "The Lawrence Welk [TV] Show", which he watched as a boy with his grandparents. Mid-century in style, the cabinet is a stunning example of marquetry, which is the art of applying pieces of veneer to a structure. In this particular instance, the veneer is blades of rye grass — dyed, steamed flat and ironed into ribbons which Slattery then meticulously laid within and around the decorative brass rings in various sizes. It took him months.

He goes off to another drawer, comes back and slaps down a small flap of shagreen with tail and eye holes: stingray hide, a biproduct of the Philippines fishing industry. It's the loveliest shade of cream, minutely patterned. Historically, stingray was used in bookbinding, but Slattery plans to ornament a tabletop. At around \$200 for a small piece, it is not the cheapest of materials, he said.

Meanwhile, Cathy works on her own marquetry. She pulls out a little side table, similarly applied with straw, but in this case, dyed to various sublime shades of sea green. The table has delicate legs made of spalted maple, which means the wood is finely and intriguingly veined by a dark fungus. The fungus, Slattery said, is encouraged by burying the wood in the ground for a year. A local company — Lumber Logs in North City — is his supplier.

He gives a little tour of his space where he's now been for 36 years: the sanding machine and its laundry line of spare belts, the spray room like a padded cell (which oddly smells of grapes), the pots and pots of varnish, the tangle of tubes and spray guns.

And then the pieces of furniture waiting in the wings to be brought back to life. (Cinderellas waiting on their fairy godfather?). Slattery points out a 1920s bench that originally came from a Chicago courthouse. It's a sad old thing, cracked and lusterless. You want to tell it it's in good hands, but it'll know soon enough. It's up next after his current, somewhat outré project, which is to refinish a 17-foot maple "booze slide" (not his words) belonging to a St. Louis club. "It was getting worn out; people were snagging their clothes," Slattery said.

And then there are the pieces he designs and builds from scratch: the insanely handsome "mid-mod" fluted credenza made of snowy cast resin and walnut which will be listed online for around \$10,000 and a similarly mid-century games table of cloud-patterned burled laurel. The table happens not to be from his own blueprint, he explained, but has New York's Parsons School of Design to thank for its origination.

"I really like the Paris style of Art Deco; anything from the 20th century," he says. "I studied the artists from that period and love their designs."

"There is no one else in St. Louis who does what he does." Romeis said. "Every client I've sent to him loves him and treasures his pieces. He should be selling things in New York for twice the price."

Slattery is a St. Louis boy. He grew up in the county and went to Pattonville High School. College was not for him, he said. And, clearly, it did not need to be. 🛂



From seamless business trips to unforgettable family getaways, SpiritJets delivers an unrivaled, tailored experience designed with you in mind. Upgrade your journey with our spacious 11-passenger Challenger, ensuring comfort and luxury at every step.



Interested in owning, chartering, or joining our exclusive Charter Shares Membership? Contact St. Louis' leading private jet company.

Your next adventure awaits!

PRESENTED BY

SOPHISTICATED CELEBRATIONS

Spirit*Jets*







November

Casino Royale Gala, Assistance League of St. Louis, alstl.org

Friends of Children with Cancer annual Luncheon and Fashion Show, friendsofkids.org

Gateway 180 Open Your Heart for the Homeless; gateway 180.org

Ubuntu Gala, International Institute, iistl.org

Best Buddies Champion of the Year 2025 Gala, bestbuddieschampion.org/stlouis

Toasting in Teal Survivors' Celebration Brunch, sloca.org

14 STAGES Applause Gala, stagestlouis.org

Big Muddy Dance Company's Movers and Shakers Ball, saintlouisdancetheatre.org 15

22-23 John Burroughs Unique Boutique, jbsuniqueboutique.com

Budweiser's Guns 'n Hoses for St. Louis BackStoppers, stlgunsnhoses.com 26

DECEMBER

Ladue Chapel Nursery School Holiday Mart, laduechapelnurseryschool.com

Stray Rescue's Hope for the Holidays Gala, strayrescue.org 5

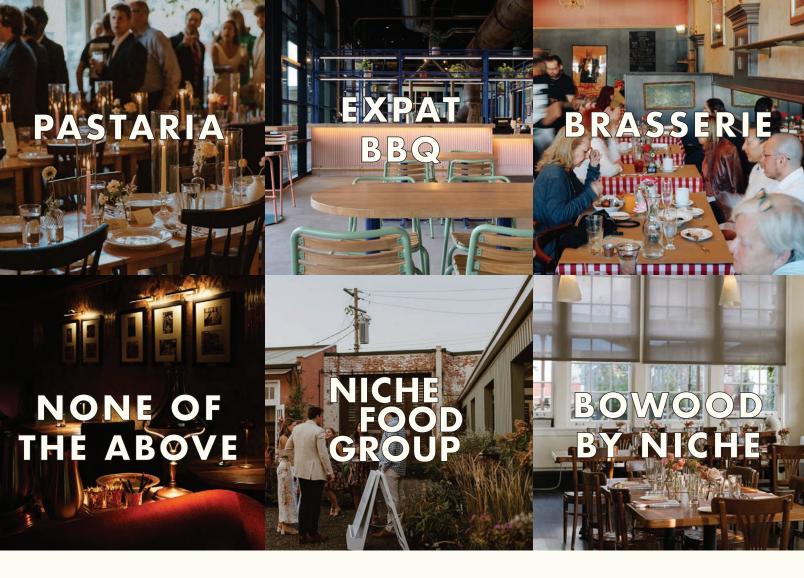
6 Cardinal Glennon Foundation Christmas House Tour, Glennon.org 8

Repertory Theatre of St. Louis's Holiday Benefit, repstl.org 12 YWCA Metro St. Louis Leader Lunch 44, ywcastl.org 20-23 Mercy Holiday Celebration with Kennedy Holmes, slso.org

23 A Magical Cirque Christmas, fabulousfox.com

27 Fleur de Lis Ball, Fleurdelisstl.org





[] EVENTS BY NICHE NOW BOOKING www.eventsbyniche.com

Why settle for ordinary when you can have exceptional? Create unforgettable memories by hosting your next event with you favorite Niche Food Group concept! Whether you're hosting at one of our venues or bring our chef-driven catering to your location. Events by Niche delivers impeccable services, bold flavors, and effortless execution.











POPPED FROM THE PAGE
The St. Louis County Library Foundation hosted a new
fundraising event called Popped from the Page on Saturday,
August 9 at the Clark Family branch. The event raised \$108,000 for the Foundation's literacy programs and community support initiatives. Popped from the Page featured an outdoor showing of "A Knight's Tale," along with food trucks, ice cream from Clementine's, signature cocktails and a chance to explore the new Clark Family branch with fun indoor activities like a punch wall with prizes, a photo booth, a VIP lounge and an epic snack bar.



















OPERATION FOOD SEARCH'S FEAST FOR CHANGE

The beautiful grounds of Piazza Messina provided the perfect setting for Operation Food Search's (OFS) 5th Annual Feast for Change gala. The evening welcomed 290 guests for cocktails, a pop-up farmers market and a locally sourced gourmet dinner followed by a lively auction. The event raised more than \$200,000 in support of OFS's mission. Emceed by Rene Knott, the program highlighted the presentation of the Champion of Change Award to Bayer in recognition of their decades-long partnership. Bayer has supported OFS since 1986, beginning with a \$67 gift and growing into more than \$2.5 million in contributions. Their commitment through financial support and volunteerism has helped fuel OFS's expansion of programs, facilities and community reach across the St. Louis region. Proceeds from the gala will advance OFS's mission to provide free food, nutrition education and innovative programs that reduce food insecurity. With a strategic focus on ending childhood hunger, OFS empowers families and expands access to affordable, healthy food. Each month, the organization provides food and services to 200,000 individuals — one-third of them children — through a network of 330 community partners spanning 25 counties in Missouri and Illinois.











1) Galen and Monique Bingham (Front), Carlton and Rhonda Adams, Viani Dickey, Alejandra Dickey 2) Dudley and Beth McCarter, Dr. Andrew White, Dr. Hilary Babcock 3) Greg and Christine Eilerman 4) Joe Sonderman and Chris Swank 5) Jackie and Tim Danis 6) Julie Alverson, Mike and Claire Todorovich, Matt Koster (Front); Lydia Bledsoe, Nina Engelsmann, Julia Ponciroli, Tim Danis, Steve Ponciroli, Pia Koster 7) Kevin Beckmann and Tami Ristow 8) Kelci and Dr. Bryan Whitlow (Front); Samar Omari and Dr. Ramis Gheith, John and Michelle Riney



ASH LEONARD DESIGN

Your life. Your space.







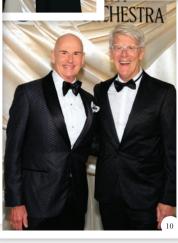






The St. Louis Symphony Orchestra reopened its renovated and expanded home with a Grand Reopening Gala celebrating the orchestra's mission of enriching lives through the power of music. The September 20 event raised \$1.6 million for the orchestra's operations. In addition to exploring the new and renovated spaces of the Jack C. Taylor Music Center, the more than 500 guests experienced the unmatched acoustics of the acclaimed space with a concert led by Music Director Stéphane Denève. Denève led the orchestra through a Roaring '20s-themed program that included popular numbers like George Gershwin's "Girl Crazy" venture, Jelly Roll Morton's "Black Bottom Stomp" and W.C. Handy's "St. Louis Blues." Denève and the orchestra were joined on stage by acclaimed trumpeter Byron Stripling and vocalist Cécile McLorin Salvant. Jim Berges and Elizabeth Mannen Berges co-chaired the gala.



















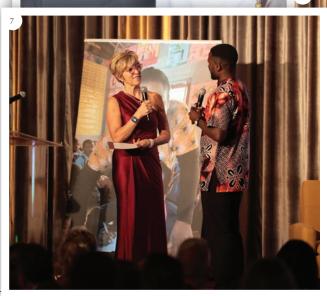






AFRICAN VISION OF HOPE'S GALA

African Vision of Hope hosted its annual gala at The Chase Park Plaza, bringing together supporters, volunteers and VIP guests. Guests celebrated the organization's 25 years of ministry and impact in Zambia, highlighting stories of transformed lives through education and the hope of the Gospel. The evening featured dinner, a Q&A session with actor Dennis Quaid and his wife Laura Quaid, and opportunities to invest in the future of children rising out of extreme poverty.





1) Bruno Nobre, Byron Hotson 2) Jeff Ross, Leah Ross, Linda Shre, Norman Shore 3) Dr. Kristen Pelster, Bob Bertels, Anna Davey 4) Greg Hammann, Sue Hammann, Jennifer Griesedieck, Dennis Quaid 5) Anna Davey, African Vision of Hope's executive director; Judi Bertels, and Master of Ceremonies Tara Loyd. 6) The organization's co-founders, Bob Bertels and Judi Bertles, Laura Quaid, Dennis Quaid, John Savoie, Laura Savoie, Aimee Savoie, Caleb Davey 7) Judi Bertels, Goodson Phiri 8) Tara Loyd, Dennis Quaid, Laura Quaid

Spirit*Jets*







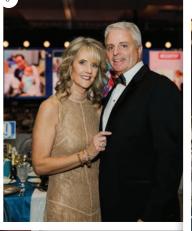




THE BEYOND GALA

Ranken Jordan Pediatric Hospital Foundation hosted its annual BEYOND Gala on September 27, 2025, at The Ritz-Carlton. Thanks to the generosity of our Partner in Play Presenting Sponsor and Gala Chair, Lesley Shekelton, and her father, Jim Shekelton, leading gifts were made to support families transitioning home from the hospital. During the evening, Kris and Brian Hogan were honored with the Mary Ranken Jordan Service to Children Award in recognition of their longtime dedication and service to Ranken Jordan. The event raised more than \$1.46 million to benefit the hospital's patients and families, a powerful testament to the compassion and generosity of our community.









If walls could talk, Bensberg Castle, a palace built in the early 1700s atop a knoll where its central axis is perfectly aligned with the spot where the foggy outlines of Cologne Cathedral's Gothic twin spires pierce the sky nearly ten miles away, would spin quite a yarn that encompasses the highs and lows of humanity. Acquired by Althoff Hotels in 2020, today Grandhotel Schloss Bensberg is regarded as one of the most prestigious hotels in Germany.

A tale as old as time, Kurfürst Johann Wilhelm (1658-1716), a cosmopolitan and art-loving prince who visited some of Europe's most regal residences, including Versailles and Palazzo Pitti in Florence (where his wife grew up), initiated construction of the palace with relatively modest intentions, only to revise the plans several times over the seven-year build. A fourth floor, crowned by five octagonal towers, was added to the central structure to emphasize the palace's prominence from all directions. In the ensuing years, the property underwent a phoenix-like cycle of ruin and rebirth, culminating in a comprehensive restoration preceding its opening in 2000 as the luxurious Grand Hotel Schloss Bensberg.

Surrounded by a hilly, upscale neighborhood that is ideal for a challenging walk or run, just inside the towering gates signifying the entrance to what is the second largest Baroque palace north of the Alps, the building's "arms" radiate from the central structure to envelop a lush lawn and gardens, whose initial plans were inspired by Versailles.

With just 110 rooms and 34 suites in the sprawling complex, guest accommodations are spacious and opulent with miles of marble in the bathrooms, sumptuous fabrics, and custom furnishings befitting a palace. An actual key to your room in the castle, affixed to an oversized tassel, is an endearing and welcoming touch.

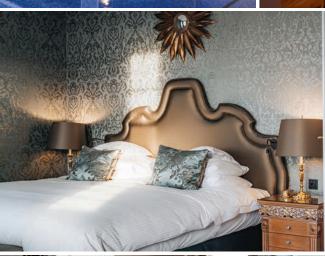
Elevated dining experiences have always been at the heart of the Althoff brand, founded by Thomas H. Althoff in 1984, and Grandhotel Schloss Bensberg has a dining program to match its five-star status. At the pinnacle is Vendôme, a two-Michelin-star restaurant where chef Joachim Wissler acts as a culinary artisan, creating exquisitely plated five-to-ten-course meals presented in an equally beautiful setting.



























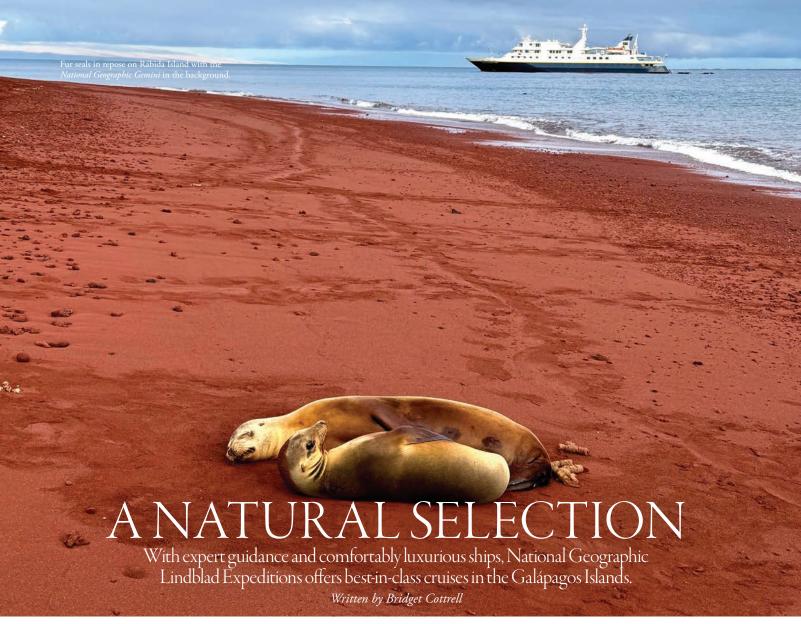
Known for its excellent wine list, Trattoria Enoteca serves Italian-inspired cuisine in a Mediterranean-style setting. A stunning setting for a nightcap, you can raise a chic "Casanova cocktail" at the Salvador Dalí Bar, where the walls pay homage to the Spanish surrealist artist with a display of 100 illustrations of his "Divine Comedy," created between 1950 and 1960. With its sprawling buffet, Castle Restaurant Jan Wellem is an indulgent way to start the day; on Sundays, the experience is further elevated with live chef's stations and carving trolleys.

Elke Diefenbach-Althoff, who co-founded Althoff Hotels with her husband, is credited with spearheading the brand's 4 elements spa program. You can take a dip in the heated indoor pool under a starry sky that calls to mind the headliner of a Rolls-Royce; chill out in "fire" and "salt" relaxation rooms or an outdoor sun terrace; steam and sauna; workout in the well-equipped Technogym; and choose from a complete menu of spa treatments including an exquisite and exclusive La Méthode Clarins facial.

The Christmas season at Grandhotel Schloss Bensberg is particularly festive, with "Goose Time" kicking off on November 11th and highlighted by a four-course goose menu accompanied by a moderated wine pairing in the Jan Wellem restaurant. In mid-December, a Christmas market is held on the green in front of the palace with local vendors selling their handicrafts from individual booths.

Should you wish to leave the princely surroundings, Cologne is 30 minutes by train or 20 minutes by car. The 2,000-year-old city nestled up to the Rhine River is ideal for exploring via foot, particularly the historic Old Town with Germany's oldest town hall and an assemblage of colorful and narrow steep-gabled houses that provide a glimpse into Middle Ages; the trendy Belgian Quarter for shopping independent boutiques, art galleries, and hip bars; and, the mixed-use Rheinauhafen area, which is home to the Cologne Chocolate Museum. 31

For more information visit www.althoffcollection.com/en/althoff-grandhotel-schloss-bensberg.



Even if you've never seen a whale in person, you undoubtedly know what it sounds like. The instant I heard the "pfft" of its powerful exhalation, I sprang to my feet, making it to the balcony of my cabin aboard the *National Geographic Gemini*—one of the two newest members of the National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions' fleet in the Galápagos Islands— just in time to take in the sight of a massive blue whale surfacing several times before descending back into the depths and taking with it any lingering doubts I had that the Galápagos Islands are a sight to behold.

It was my second time visiting the Galápagos, and I'd returned to see if a different perspective—traveling via water versus a landbased tour— would alter my somewhat underwhelmed first impression. It did. A paradigm shift would be wholly unnecessary if I considered myself an ornithophile, a rockhound, or a herpetophile; however, as someone who prefers flowery landscapes and fuzzy creatures, I leaned heavily on the expertise of the National Geographic onboard experts to broaden my horizons and deepen my appreciation for the Galápagos' exquisite tapestry of distinct habitat zones, some with creatures found nowhere else in the world.

Access to the more than 75,000 square miles of protected ocean in the Galápagos is strictly controlled. Though the *National*

Geographic Gemini was initially designed to host 100 guests, capacity is capped at 48 (with more crew on board than guests!). At any given time, about 100 ships are operating in the region (including four in the National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions fleet), all following pre-approved routes and stops and each accompanied at all times by an Ecuadorian naturalist, who is there to maintain the wildlife's ecological naivety as it relates to humans, and to provide a wealth of information along the way. Still, not all guides are created equal, as I learned on my first voyage with National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions to Antarctica, and rediscovered aboard the *National Geographic Gemini*.

Over the course of nine days, expeditions were split nearly 50-50 between land- and water-based activities, accommodating people of all ages (seven and up) and abilities. Early birds like me appreciated that some hikes departed at sunrise (with a RIB boat option frequently offered at the same time), lending a feeling of accomplishment even before breakfast. In between expeditions, while surveying the largely untouched, Jurassic Park-like landscape dotted with lava cones as we cruised along, I couldn't help but wonder if a Pleistocene epoch straggler was hiding out somewhere in there.

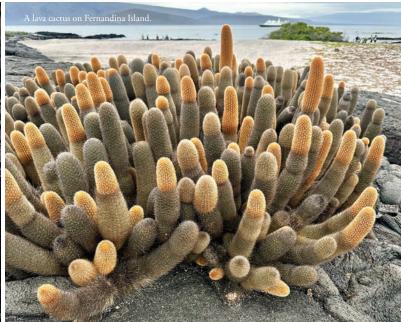












The vibrant marine ecosystem in the Galápagos is due in part to the intersection of five major ocean currents of varying temperatures. Our first outing, a RIB boat cruise in Caleta Tortuga Negra (Black Turtle Cove), was a proper introduction to the bounteous biodiversity. A crowd favorite— a congress of blue-footed boobies—were the first to make an appearance, followed by baby sharks (do do do do do do) who use the mangrove-lined lagoon as their nursery. In a single iPhone photo, I managed to capture the elegant nimbleness of a giant green turtle, an eagle ray, and a juvenile shark, harmoniously co-existing in a watery abode so quiet I could hear the mosquitoes coming for me.

Undersea adventures were more involved than hopping into a RIB boat or stepping into hiking boots. With summer water temperatures averaging between 72 and 74 degrees, wriggling into a short wetsuit was recommended before snorkeling. Unless you brought your own gear, each guest was fitted on the first day, and wetsuits were stored, along with fins, masks, and snorkels, according to cabin numbers on the expedition deck. Our underwater excursions brought us face-to-mask with the Galápagos penguin, marine iguana (the only swimming iguana species that's endemic to the Galápagos), sea lions, and white-tipped reef sharks.

On board, talks and presentations, including tips and tricks from a certified photo specialist, brought the pages of National Geographic to life. The handful of children on board engaged in National Geographic Explorers-in-Training activities, culminating in the opportunity to pilot a RIB boat and be named an honorary co-captain. During one hike across an expanse of ribbon-like rock formed by a pahoehoe lava flow, a very well-traveled fellow guest confided that her reptile-loving, teenage, autistic son was "living his best life" and had "blossomed" through the mix of supervised free exploration and expert guidance.

Not content to share the rich biodiversity with just guests, National Geographic Lindblad Expeditions is actively working to protect and preserve it. The Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic Fund (LEX-NG Fund) was a significant source of funding for Project Isabela.

This conservation effort eradicated invasive goats and pigs that were destroying the native ecosystem of Santiago Island. In recognition of the company's ongoing support, the moth *Undulambia linbladi* was named in honor of Sven Lindblad, the founder of Lindblad Expeditions.



During the naming ceremony for the *National Geographic Gemini*, helmed by Nathaly Alban, the first female captain in the Galápagos and the only woman captaining in Ecuador, Natalya Leahy, CEO of Lindblad Expeditions Holdings, Inc., said, "Naming the ship is a promise to always respect this very special place and carry forward the mission of responsible travel. I want to acknowledge a special feeling of responsibility in this fragile place in the world. If it doesn't awaken the child in you, I don't know what can."

As part of an excursion to the Charles Darwin Research Station on Santa Cruz, I learned way more about the lifecycle of the "vampire fly" in the Galápagos than I ever imagined I would. Why, you ask? I asked a naturalist what invasive species was currently wreaking havoc, imagining I would get a wild story about a primate that escaped from a cargo ship and was eluding capture in the highlands à la King Kong. Instead, I learned how this tiny larva is decimating the critically endangered mangrove finch hatchlings and other bird species. Support from the LEX-NG Fund and contributions from guests have underwritten National Geographic Explorer Dr. Charlotte Causton's work to eradicate the invasive fly. "We don't bring tourists, we attract

curious learners," said Leahy of the company's clients and their interest in leaving more than just footprints behind.

The gift shop on board the *National Geographic Gemini* sells a variety of jewelry, art, and home accessories, many created with upcycled and recycled materials and made by Galápagos artisans supported through the National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions' Artisan Fund, created in 2007 to connect local communities with travelers. The hyper focus also encompasses meals, spotlighting traditional Ecuadorian cuisine prepared with ingredients sourced as locally as possible.

During our final snorkel off the shore of Bartolomé, where lava, mangroves, and golden sands converged, I glided past a rock outcropping and noticed something large coming straight at me. By the time my brain registered that it was a shark, it deftly zigzagged past me, leaving my heart in my throat. Though I'd felt entirely alone in the entirety of the ocean at that split second, the naturalist had been just off to the side. "That was a good one," he said as he surfaced alongside me, echoing a sentiment applicable to the entirety of the trip.

For more information about National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions, visit expeditions.com.



Icons and outlaws of frontier history are among the threads comprising the tapestry that is Sheridan, Wyoming, nestled up to the foothills of the Bighorn Mountains. In the late 1800s, "Buffalo Bill" Cody auditioned acts for his Wild West show from the front porch of the Historic Sheridan Inn (sheridaninn.com) after the arrival of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad elevated the formerly rough and tumble town into a social hub and center of commerce. Other famous and infamous names who've cast their long shadows on Main Street in this quintessential cowboy town are Butch Cassidy, the Sundance Kid, and Jesse James.

Hardscrabble no more, today Sheridan County is among the areas affected by the "rich and ranches" trend. Fueled by a post-pandemic need for space, the zeitgeist effect of *Yellowstone* and its affiliated spinoffs, a desire for diversification, and the never-ending quest to be king (or queen) of the proverbial mountain, wealthy buyers are prompting a meteoric rise in land prices across the West. Media mogul Ted Turner, one of the largest landowners in North America, is quoted as saying, "Owning a ranch is undoubtedly a status symbol; it's like owning a castle in Europe."

Despite the influx of affluence and a general population surge, Sheridan genuinely displays a come-as-you-are attitude. It's refreshing that it's nearly impossible to discern a farmer from a financier among the Cattleman-crowned guys digging into a slice of homemade pie at the Cowboy Café (cowboycafewyo.com) or shooting Wyoming Whiskey at The Mint Bar (mintbarwyo.com), whose iconic neon façade and taxidermy-decorated bar have been a Sheridan staple since 1907. Queen and cowboys strode side-by-side when Queen Elizabeth II visited the city in 1984, and I am sure she was equally enamored of the artistry of the saddles in the King's Saddlery and Museum inside King's Ropes as the common caller.

However, last winter, I learned that even in a town where there's no shortage of tricked-out trucks boasting a \$100k+ price tag, when a fleet of Rolls-Royces shreds the snow-covered streets, everyone starts rubbernecking. *Sophisticated Living* was invited by Rolls-Royce to Sheridan to participate in a Rolls-Royce caravan, culminating at the WYO Winter Rodeo, an annual event at the Sheridan County Fairgrounds that attracts thousands (dressed in outerwear running the gamut from Carhartt to chinchilla), all interested in watching epic skijoring action.

For the uninitiated, skijoring is a high-speed competition pairing a horse and rider with a skier, linked by a 30-foot rope. The competitors navigate a snow-covered course that includes jumps, gates, and rings; the fastest time after adding penalties for missed rings, gates, or jumps determines the winner.

















Before the main event, our fleet, which included four Rolls-Royce Cullinans (two of which were Black Badge Series II) and a Spectre, all equipped with snow tires, visited a few local highlights. Heavy snow coincided with our visit, and I must admit to being a little nervous about piloting the stunning \$450,000 Spectre Black Badge, the most powerful in the Rolls-Royce lineup, through bouts of whiteout conditions. However, true to its name, the stealthy luxury 650hp EV seemed to silently float above the slippery roads, cradling its occupants in such elevated comfort that any premonition of peril was expeditiously banished. Custom-designed tires with a layer of acoustic foam on the inside created a cocoon-like quiet. It's absolutely the highest level of comfort I've ever experienced in a car. We joked during one pit stop about enjoying half-a-milliondollar donuts as we watched Gerry Spahn, Head of Corporate Communications for Rolls-Royce North America, demonstrate the drift maneuverability of the twin-turbo V12 Cullinan in a snowcovered parking lot.

Since its foundation, Rolls-Royce has been associated with the greatest names in contemporary art. Masters including Salvador Dalí, Andy Warhol, Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso, Christian' Bébé' Bérard, and Cecil Beaton all travelled by Rolls-Royce. Continuing the tradition, this trip brought the marque to notable artisans and creatives in the area. We visited the gallery of the Ucross Foundation (ucrossfoundation.org), a 20,000-acre ranch on which Raymond Plank started an all-expense-paid residency program in 1983 for visual artists, writers, composers, choreographers, interdisciplinary artists, performance artists, and collaborative teams. Alumni have

included Pulitzer Prize-winning authors, MacArthur "Genius" Grant awardees, and Tony, Academy, and Golden Globe Award winners.

At King's Saddlery on Main Street in Sheridan (kingropes.com), we descended to Ryan King's basement workshop, where he was tooling the most beautiful iPhone case I've seen for a family member, using implements made by his brother. Ryan has expanded outside the family's leatherworking legacy (begun by his father Don) by throwing pottery and using the same tools to emboss the pieces.

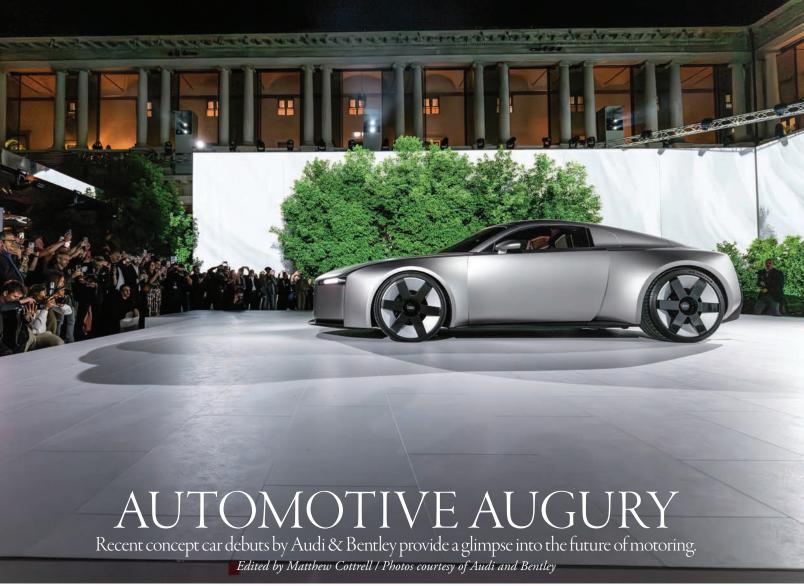
The late Don King gets credit for creating the Sheridan style of leather carving, known for its vine-like patterns and floral designs. Sheridan's most famous present-day leathercraft artisan is Jim Jackson, whose softspoken demeanor belies his outsized talent. Jim spent 30 years under the tutelage of Don King; today, he works from a studio and workspace at The Brinton Museum (thebrintonmuseum.org) on the historic 620-acre Quarter Circle A Ranch in Big Horn, Wyoming, where he applies his craft to vessels, sculptures, and intriguing pieces that combine his original expressionistic paintings with leatherwork. The Brinton Museum's 24,000-square-foot environmentally friendly building houses one of the most significant and extensive Western and American Indian Art collections in the Rocky Mountain West.

In Sheridan, we drove through some of the most rugged terrain you can imagine, before returning to the creature comforts of a modern Western city. Getting there in a Rolls-Royce meant that we didn't have to wait for the journey to end before experiencing elevated amenities. sl

The winter rodeo will return to Sheridan on February 8, 2026. For more information about Sheridan, Wyoming, visit sheridanwyoming.org.



Left antler, top to bottom: Veraggio Toi Et Moi ring. Available through Genesis Diamonds in Nashville and verragio.com. Rena emerald ring from Single Stone. Available through Reis-Nichols Jewelers in Indianapolis, Ylang Ylang Jewelers in St. Louis, and singlestone.com. VRAM Chrona I Ruby Ring (vramjewelry.com). Vhernier Aladino jade and rock crystal ring. Available through Elleard B. Heffern Jewelers in St. Louis and vhernier.com. Right antler, top to bottom: Roberto Coin Venetian Princess ring. Available through Reis-Nichols Jewelers in Indianapolis, Schiffman's Jewelers in Lexington, Davis Jewelers in Louisville, Diamond Cellar in Nashville, Simons Jewelers in St. Louis and robertocoin.com. Oscar Heyman platinum sapphire ring. Available through Moyer Fine Jewelers in Indianapolis and oscarheyman.com. Lagos men's Caviar beaded emerald ring. Available through Richter & Phillips Jewelers in Cincinnati, Moyer Fine Jewelers in Indianapolis, Diamond Cellar in Nashville, Clarkson Jewelers in St. Louis, and lagos.com. David Yurman men's ruby Hex stack ring. Available through Moyer Fine Jewelers and Reis-Nichols Jewelers in Indianapolis, Schiffman's Jewelers in Lexington, Davis Jewelers in Louisville, Diamond Cellar in Nashville, Clarkson Jewelers in St. Louis, and davidyurman.com. Ear and necklace: Marco Bicego Lunaria ring with red thulite. Available in Indianapolis from Reis-Nichols Jewelers, in Lexington from Schiffman's Jewelers, in Louisville from Davis Jewelers, in Nashville from Diamond Cellar, in St. Louis from Simon's Jewelers and Clarkson's Jewelers, and at us.marcobicego.com. Marlo Laz Alexandra necklace (marlolaz.com).



This past September in Milan, Audi unveiled its Concept C, an all-electric, athletic, and minimalist two-seat sports car intended to embody the brand's new design philosophy. Precise purity of form is expressed via a vertical frame that forms the center of the new front and from which the entire structural volume of the vehicle develops.

Discernible design cues borrowed from both the Auto Union Type C (1936) and the Audi A6 (2004) lend a feeling of familiarity and nod to legacy. With a central-battery layout, the cabin extends far back and sits firmly on the body. An electrically retractable hardtop—a first for an Audi roadster—is comprised of two elements that retain the concept's monolithic appearance. A new light signature is made of four horizontally arranged elements in each headlight and rear light, serving to define Audi's visual identity both day and night.

The interior continues the theme of architectural surfaces and clear geometric forms with physical controls manufactured from anodized aluminum, providing a tactile representation of their quality craftsmanship. The tone-on-tone color palette pulls from the "Titanium" exterior. At the same time, ambient lighting and natural materials create a refined and elevated cabin.

Technology is seamlessly integrated into the operating experience, most notably through a 10.4-inch foldable center display that provides users with relevant information in an intuitive and tailored way, adapting to every situation.

"Radical simplicity is at the heart of our approach. We achieve clarity by reducing everything to the essential," said Chief Creative Officer Massimo Frascella at the launch event. For Frascella, this approach is about what makes a car desirable beyond rational experience: "We want to shape a brand capable of inspiring desire and creating cultural impact."

By the end of this year, Audi will have introduced more than 20 new models within 24 months, making its portfolio the youngest in the premium segment. The presentation of their latest design philosophy in Milan represents a new beginning. Just a few weeks after the unveiling of the Concept C, Audi announced its foray into Formula 1, providing an opportunity to test new technologies, materials, and processes in the world's toughest technology laboratory.

"The phase of taking stock is over. Now is the time to look to the future and pick up speed. We are focusing on what really matters to set standards in design and quality," said Audi CEO Gernot Döllner.











In August, Bentley returned to California for this year's Monterey Car Week, showcasing an array of past, current, and future vehicles, including its design vision concept, EXP 15, which was presented to the public for the first time on the concept lawn at the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance.

"The beauty of a concept car is not just to position our new design language, but to test where the market's going," said Robin Page, Bentley Director of Design. "It's clear that SUVs are a growing segment, and we understand the GT market, but the trickiest segment is the sedan because it's changing. Some customers want a classic 'three-box' sedan shape, others a 'one-box' design, and others again something more elevated. So, this was a chance for us to talk to people and get a feeling."

Inspired by early 20th-century Grand Tourer heritage, the upright 'iconic' grill, long 'endless' bonnet, and rearward cabin of the sixteen-plus-foot concept harken back to the 1930 Bentley Speed Six Gurney Nutting Sportsman coupe. That historic vehicle came to be known as the "Blue Train," following a race in which Woolf Barnato, then company chairman, bested luxury express train Le Train Bleu, in a race from Cannes to Calais.

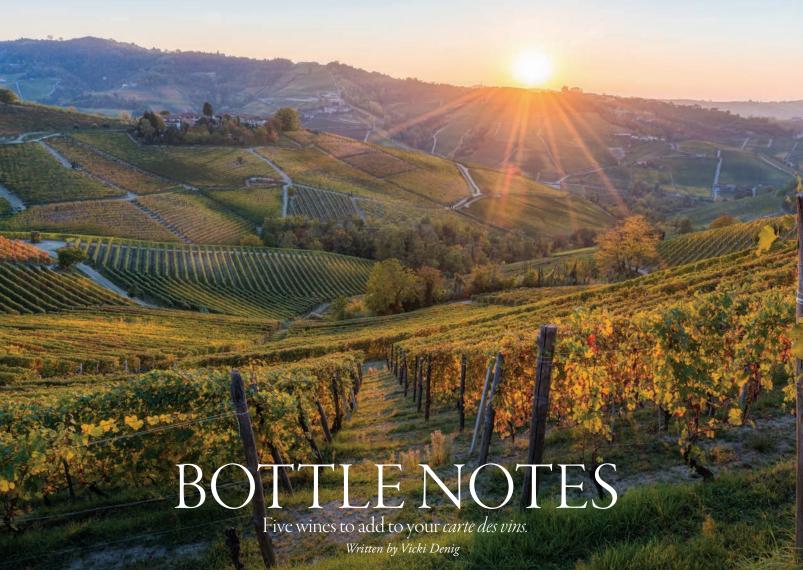
The concept's unique configuration of three seats and three doors, rather than four or five of both, is intended to afford greater luxury in transit for a privileged few and provide innovative in-cabin storage for pampered pets and/or hand luggage. When stationary, the boot offers deployable seats, a lamp, and a refrigerator for staging a posh picnic or luxury tailgating.

One door on the driver's side opens to the driver's seat plus a cocooning rear seat, while twin coach doors and part of the panoramic roof open upwards on the passenger side to allow smoother entry and exit via a passenger seat that can swivel forty-five degrees outwards. "The seat can rotate and you step out, totally unflustered, not trying to clamber out of the car like you see with some supercars," explained Darren Day, Bentley's Head of Interior Design. "If you look at the car we built for Her Majesty the Queen, it was always designed around the aperture of the door and 'the art of arrival'. It was really important for us to create that feeling here too."

The cabin, conceived using virtual reality software and a Bentley interior design principle dubbed 'Magical Fusion', combines familiar creature comforts for which Bentley is known with futuristic digital elements that can be brought to the fore or fade into the background as the driver's mood or functional need requires. EXP 15's full-width dashboard can act as a digital interface or switch off to reveal a veneered wood surface visible underneath the glass. "We think people are going to get fed up with a fully digital experience and are pining for physical mechanical elements too," commented Robin Page, Director of Design. "By combining the two, you can get the best of both worlds."

Material choices are a mélange of traditional, artisanal, sustainable, technical, and future-forward. For instance, a 100% wool textile by Fox Brothers, which boasts 250 years of tradition as a unique and iconic British textile manufacturer, is paired with lightweight 3D-printed titanium finishes.

While not intended for production or sale, the EXP 15, with its ultra-modern exterior surfacing, high-tech lighting details, and active aerodynamic elements, hints at both the design of future Bentleys, including the marque's forthcoming first fully electric vehicle.



As autumn brings cooler temperatures and peak *hygge*, we usher in rich, hearty meals filled with the satisfying aromas and flavors of seasonal produce and spices. While the falling leaves often evoke thoughts of bold red wines that pair well with these robust dishes, for this issue's bottle recommendations, I have included a few unexpected choices to celebrate the season.

Tiberio Trebbiano d'Abruzzo 2024 (Abruzzo, Italy – SRP: \$24.99)

Italy's Abruzzo region, located east of Rome, is renowned for its red wines produced from Montepulciano, but thoughtful expressions of Trebbiano, the region's signature white grape, are also not to be missed. Brother-sister duo Cristiana and Antonio Tiberio have been at the helm of their family estate for the past decade, and under their oversight, the winery has soared to new heights. Fruit for this wine hails from vines averaging 60 years in age and was fermented entirely with native yeasts in the cellar. A beautiful pale yellow in the glass, this clean, food-friendly white exudes flavors of yellow apple, pear, orange blossom, jasmine, and crushed stones. For those looking to switch up their usual Sauvignon Blanc or Pinot Grigio, this lively and refreshing white wine from one of Italy's top producers is just the ticket.

Clos Cibonne Côtes de Provence 'Cuvée Tradition' Rosé 2023 (Provence, France – SRP: \$39.99)

Although rosé is often associated with summer, its delights extend far beyond warm-weather sipping—especially when they're as structured and savory as this bottle from Clos Cibonne. Crafted mostly from organically farmed Tibouren, a grape variety native to the south of France, fruit for this wine is fermented with native yeasts in temperature-controlled tanks before aging for one year in 120+ year-old foudres under a thin veil of *fleurette* (similar to how sherry is made in Spain). This aging process creates an oxidative environment, imparting a distinct tangy-meets-nutty flavor profile onto the wine. Prominent notes of tangerine rind and salty melon lead to a long, smoky finish. I often refer to this wine as the non-rosé drinker's rosé, as it's truly one of the most unique expressions of the style out there.

Château Lagrange Saint-Julien 2018 (Bordeaux, France – SRP: \$69.99)

If I'm being honest, I probably don't drink as much Bordeaux as I should, so when a friend in Paris recently opened this bottle at an early evening apéro, I was delighted to revisit a region that I too often overlook. A 3ème Grand Cru Classé estate, Château Lagrange's 118 hectares of vines are rooted entirely in the village of Saint-Julien,











which is found on Bordeaux's Left Bank. As with most reds from this side of the Gironde, this bottle is made from a Cabernet Sauvignon-dominant blend rounded out with Merlot and a smidge of Petit Verdot. Luscious and dark-hued, this silky wine oozes with flavors of red and black fruits, cigar box, tobacco leaf, and cedar—in short, everything we tend to love most about the fall season.

Rivetto Barolo Briccolina 2017 (Piedmont, Italy – SRP: \$149.99) Although it's always subject to change, Nebbiolo has been my favorite grape for quite some time now. I continuously find myself drawn in by the high-toned aromatics, bright acidity, and signature red fruit flavors that wines made from it are known for, and exploring expressions from different producers has become one of my favorite pastimes. Lately, I've been pulling some higher-end bottles from my cellar and bringing them to the neighborhood Italian restaurant downstairs to enjoy them with warm, home-cooked meals. I recently grabbed this bottle from Rivetto, and it was absolutely singing. A fervent believer in organic and biodynamic farming in the region, Enrico Rivetto produces this wine from his Briccolina vineyard, which was the pioneering site where he began experimenting with biodynamics in 2015. In the cellar, the grapes macerate for 50-60 days before fermenting in wood vats and aging for 36 months in oak barrels, followed by 16 months of bottle

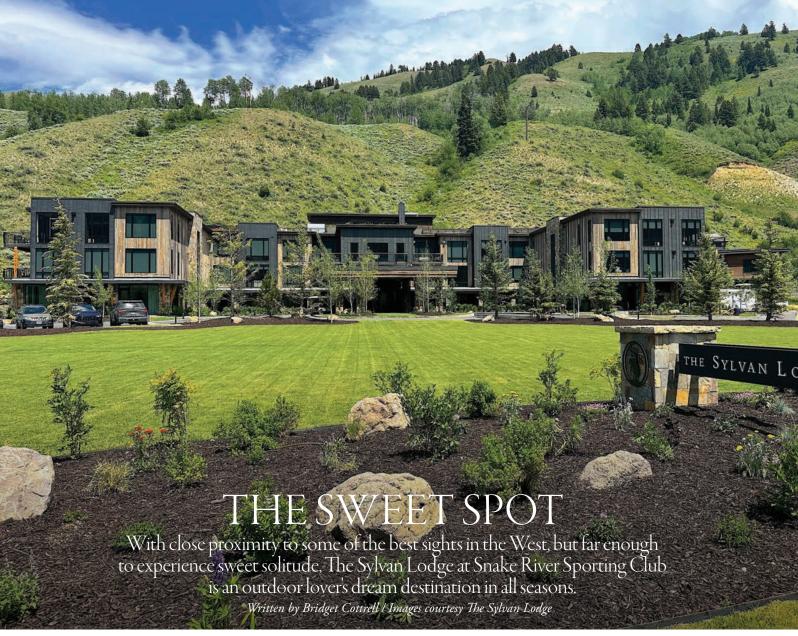
aging. The resulting wine is absolutely captivating, with notes of red cherry, cranberry, tobacco leaf, dried sage, and used leather. Drink slightly chilled with your favorite red sauce and thank me later.

Archery Summit Dundee Hills Pinot Noir 2023 (Oregon, USA – SRP: \$49.99)

Fans of Red Burgundy have found great delight in the wines of Oregon's Willamette Valley, and it's no surprise why. The area's cool, ocean-influenced climate is a perfect home for crafting ripeyet-restrained expressions of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, which have become the region's signature grape varieties. Archery Summit's founder, Gary Andrus, picked up on this decades ago and founded the estate in the Dundee Hills back in 1993. I love drinking Pinot Noir year-round, but this earthy, medium-bodied bottle is particularly enticing during early fall. Its flavors of red cherry, mushroom, rhubarb, black tea, and dried rose petal are delightful for pairing with seasonal fare and equally come to life when enjoyed with a slight chill.

Vicki Denig is a wine | travel journalist based between New York and Paris. Her work regularly appears in various industry publications, including Decanter, Food & Wine, and WineSearcher. In addition to journalism, Vicki also works with a handful of wine-focused clients, including Paris Wine Company, High Road Wine & Spirits, and more. When not writing, she enjoys running, indoor cycling classes, petting dogs, and popping bottles on her rooftop with friends.





For me, fly fishing is less about the fish and more about an opportunity to get knee-deep in nature. In the absence of distractions, you can give full attention to the rhythmic movement of the line, the *whizz-whap* sound as the fly kisses the water's rippling surface, and the whisper of the wind as it tickles the treetops. It's a moment of sweet serenity only interrupted by my squealing, "I caught one!" It was a feat recently made possible by dumb luck but mainly through the expert instruction of my guide at the newly opened Sylvan River Lodge at the Snake River Sporting Club, 25 minutes south of the teeming tourist hotspot that is Jackson, Wyoming.

Referring to it as the "final piece of the puzzle," The Sylvan Lodge, which took four years to build, is the realization of a longheld vision of developer Christopher Swann, an avid skier who has been visiting the area for two decades and acquired the Snake River Sporting Club 13 years ago. The hotel had been open for one week when I arrived, keen to soak in the region's immense natural beauty and typically cooler summer temperatures. My own ties to the area run deep, having fond memories of family camping trips as a child, and I knew that a stay at The Sylvan

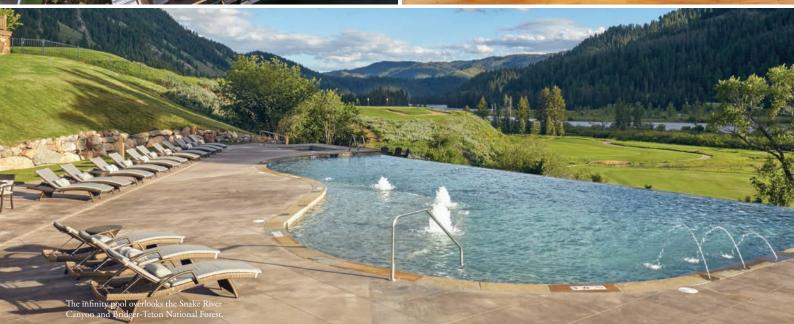
Lodge could deliver both new and nostalgic experiences, albeit in elevated environs afforded by its prime location within the members-only Snake River Sporting Club.

The word sylvan means "consisting of or associated with woods," and each of the 23 guest rooms and 15 suites at Sylvan Lodge is named after a tree. The rustic-modern architecture and interior design boast apropos and ample wood paneling, accentuated by black-framed windows and LED lighting. The rooms, designed by Kim Deetjen of Truex Cullins Interiors, perfectly balance refined minimalism with the thoughtful touches of a luxury boutique property, such as wool carpeting, heated floors in the bathroom, plush Matouk robes, a bespoke Pendleton blanket draped across the end of the bed, and a bottle of Wyoming Whiskey Outryder on the dresser. A pair of penthouses represents the pinnacle of luxury with bespoke RH furnishings, a fully outfitted kitchen, a private balcony, and a rooftop hot tub.

Adding a bit of drama, vertically paneled walls, painted black, along the corridors leading to guest rooms are punctuated by moody black and white landscape photographs that make the transition







from dark to light even more pronounced as one opens the door to their room. In my case, a picture window on the building's backside framed the view: a steep hill, covered in scrubby shrubs and bright yellow flowers, with a lone predator bird circling overhead. The 3,500,000 acres of the Bridger-Teton National Forest comprise the property's "backyard," and there are 27 different on-site trails that provide hikes of varying length and difficulty.

Common areas on all floors, as well as snack and beverage stations on floors two and three, encourage conviviality and provide ideal spaces for those who need to work while away. While working at the communal table on the third floor Creel Room, I was more fond of studying the fly-fishing paraphernalia artfully arrayed on the bookshelves than checking emails. Part of the Dark Sky Bar, a green roof with indigenous plantings surrounds hot tubs and firepits. Astrophiles will appreciate the pitch-black skies and telescopes scattered about the area for stargazing.

"We're geared to people who want to do it all in all seasons," said Swann, who pointed out that The Sylvan Lodge is one of three places in the lower 48 where you can heli-ski-trips

depart from The Hub, the hotel's dedicated outdoor pursuits staging area. Nearby lockers for each guest room can be used to store items such as waders, ski equipment, and the like, keeping in-room clutter and messes at bay.

Will Hobbs is the Director of Outdoor Pursuits, and his palpable passion and enthusiasm for the region's natural beauty trickles down to each of his team members. Most activities—from fly-fishing, scenic float trips, mountain biking, skeet shooting, hiking, and archery in the summer and fall to tubing, cross-country skiing, and ice skating in winter—depart from The Hub, which also offers a variety of gear for sale and rent. During the winter, the resort provides a free shuttle for guests to access nearby ski areas.

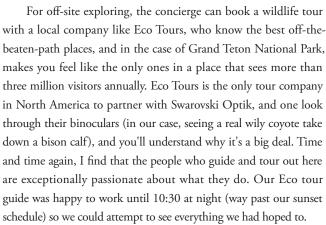
A short walk or shuttle ride away, the world-class equestrian center, The Ranch, caters to riders of all abilities, though I'd argue that their wine and cheese trail ride is an ideal way to spend a leisurely afternoon. A gurgling creek that sounds like a dog lapping up water meanders through the horse pasture, defined by a split wood fence, while huge stores of firewood piled up next to the barn hint at winter's harshness.











The Tom Weiskopf-designed golf course at the Snake River Sporting Club (ranked as Wyoming's #2 private golf experience) takes full advantage of its 13 miles of Snake River frontage (seven of which are utilized for fly fishing). A recent multi-milliondollar refurbishment has elevated playability and aesthetics, while remaining mindful of sustainability. PGA pro Greg Hoyt is a patient and affable instructor, and both of us stopped to marvel as an eagle soared overhead while I practiced my chipping.

A comprehensive on-site wellness program is housed within a 10,000 square foot light-filled facility awash in European white oak and a soothing color palette. The superbly equipped 24-hour fitness facility boasts two movement studios with aerial yoga capability and a regular schedule of guest programming. The multi-year closure of the nearby Amangani Resort for renovations has been a boon for other area high-end resorts, including



The Sylvan Lodge, which hired Abril Gruber, the former spa manager at Amangani, to spearhead its wellness program. Unique spa therapies include the GENEO facial rejuvenation device, TheraLight red light therapy, and an outdoor area with a resistance pool, a spa, and a heated tile floor for comfortable use year-round. I appreciated the indie singer/songwriter soundtrack during my Natura Bissé Vitamin C facial; the treatment table was so supremely comfortable that I was tempted to ask if I could spend the night.

Guests of The Sylvan Lodge are privy to multiple dining options, all overseen by Chef Eric Gruber, who is a master at sourcing the best of what's fresh locally. Part of numerous "design moments" celebrating local and locally inspired art, the interior of Engelmann's Bistro, the lodge's signature dining venue, pays homage to the Snake River with an artistic representation of its contours rendered in brass and accentuated by dried tumbleweed. Within the Snake River Sporting Club, hotel guests have access to the River Room and the Martin Creek Poolside Grill. If it's available at breakfast, don't second-guess ordering in-house pastry chef Kristen Young's gigantic cinnamon roll; it's worth every calorie.

In fly fishing, a "honey hole" refers to a prime location within a body of water where conditions are ideal for catching fish, often containing multiple fish in a concentrated area. I'd argue that The Sylvan Lodge is Jackson's resort equivalent, presenting perfect conditions for a multitude of exceptional guest experiences.

The Sylvan Lodge at Snake River Sporting Club is located at 14885 Sporting Club Road, Jackson, WY. For more information, visit snakeriversportingclub.com/stay/the-sylvan-lodge.



Clockwise from top left: Picchiotti Masterpiece brooch. Inquire through Moyer Fine Jewelers in Indianapolis, Clarkson Jewelers in St. Louis and picchiotti.it/en. Effy Jewelry peacock ring (effyjewelry.com). Alice Herald Light My Fire pinky ring (aliceherald.com). Castro Smith bespoke hand engraved ring (castrosmith.com). Seal & Scribe The Higher, The Tighter ring (sealandscribe. com). Renato Cipullo Uccello stud earrings (renatocipullo.com). Silvia Furmanvich's Quintessence collection earrings (silviafurmanovich.com). Jacquie Aiche Thunderbird agate slab cuff bracelet (jacquieaiche.com). Opposite page clockwise from top left: Porter Lyons Ma'at Feather lariat (porterlyons.com). Lionheart Seasons Swallow interchangable charm (lionheartjewelry.com). Sorellina Cigno pendant. Available through Reis-Nichols Jewelers in Indianapolis and sorellinanyc.com. Three Stories Jewelry Wise Owl double sided locket pendant. Available through Diamond Cellar in Nashville, Ylang Ylang Jewelry in St. Louis, and threestoriesjewelry.com. Francesca Villa Fantasia The Bird Take Flight ring (francescavilla.it). Renna opal and diamond feather Caspain ring (rennajewels.com). Ali Weiss feather diamond line earrings (aliweissjewelry.com).





With Halloween in the rearview, Christmas seemed to show up overnight! While we are all scrambling to get our holiday decor, shopping, and menus together, what is on our bar doesn't need to be an added stress. A few versatile spirits and mixers can transform your bar from a disorganized mess into a curated work of beverage art, allowing a few good bottles to effortlessly create multiple cocktails.

"Home Bars" can be anything from a solo signature cocktail and a few bottles of wine to a self-serve mecca of mixology. As the host/hostess, you get to decide what works for your event or holiday season. Budgets tend to dictate the extent of the liquor selections, but there are a few other factors to consider when planning your holiday bar.

How do you want the evening to flow? Not just the energy of an event, but the actual logistical traffic of guests moving in the space. Will your guests mix their own cocktails when they arrive, or will you have beverages pre-poured and ready for them, already garnished and waiting? I have found that having a cocktail ready for guests when they arrive is the easiest way to start the evening and keep traffic at the bar to a minimum.

Where will the bar be located? Can guests find it easily? If you have it in the kitchen, will it be in your way while you are trying to pull everything out of the oven at the last minute? Is it located behind the dining room chair of a guest so that they have to move every time someone goes to refresh their drink? Creating a bar in an unconventional area is a fun way to utilize some areas of your home that usually don't see much use. Bar carts are brilliant for this, as they

can move anywhere. Maybe the study is the best place for the bar since no one will be in there except to refresh their beverage? Or the family room with something fun playing on the TV on mute in the background? Or in the lonely corner of the kitchen that previously housed all of the big house plants?

Do you need to help monitor how much alcohol folks are consuming throughout the evening? If so, pre-batching cocktails so that you control the amount of alcohol in each pour is a great way to regulate the number of drinks folks are having. Self-serve bars are convenient, but as the evening progresses, the more drinks guests consume, the heavier those pours tend to be. We always want to make sure everyone makes it home safely.

Do you even want to mess with spirits for the event? It might just be a wine/beer night with bottles on ice and strategically placed on the table throughout the evening.

Setting a holiday bar is also a fantastic time to pull out favorite pieces that you might not have a use for at other times throughout the year. Family pieces that are not typically our taste or favorite random finds at consignment or antique shops can be right at home on the bar during the holidays. My great-grandmother's Depressionera red glass bowl doesn't match anything until Christmas, when it takes center stage holding all the citrus for the bar.

About the author: Jennifer Brian brings three decades of experience in the hospitality industry as a luxury caterer, events planner, and mixologist. The self-proclaimed Cocktail Evangelist is co-founder and sole owner of craft cocktail company, Make & Muddle. A decade in the making, her first book, Classic Cocktail Revival, published by the University Press of Kentucky, was released this past September. Photo by Jason Parmer.





The Basics

Good cocktails begin with good spirits. The following are suggestions and not hard-and-fast rules. Well-stocked bars should include the basic clear spirits of:

- Vodka
- Gin
- Blanco tequila
- Silver or light rum

Brown spirits should include:

- Rum
- Tequila
- Whiskey

Whiskey is a very broad category and can include bourbon, rye, Scotch, Canadian whisky, blended whiskies, Japanese whisky, Irish whiskey, or any other whiskey that strikes your fancy. Start with your favorite and add from there.

A couple of additional bottles that are helpful could also include:

- Dry (also called French) and Sweet (also called Italian) Vermouth for Manhattans and Martinis.
- Orange liqueur such as Cointreau or Triple Sec for margaritas and other mixed drinks.
- Cream liqueur such as Baileys or Rum Chata for sweeter cocktails or after-dinner coffee additions.

In addition to the spirits, the following items are considered essentials for a well-stocked and versatile bar:

- Mixers
- Tonic water
- Ginger beer
- Club soda
- Sodas such as cola/diet cola/ginger ale
- Simple syrup & Grenadine
- Fresh juices like lemon, lime, orange, grapefruit, and cranberry

(for Old Fashioneds, Manhattans, and any other cocktails)

- Aromatic bitters (these can be traditional Angostura bitters or another brand)
- Orange Bitters
- Any other variety of bitters. There are HUNDREDS to choose from

Setting up a bar for the first time can be intimidating, but it can also be a ton of fun. "Stock the Bar" parties are a great way to share favorite bottles with friends, fun holiday gifts, and a sure-fire way to make it to everyone's "Best Party Ever" list.

For no-stress three-ingredient cocktails, visit makeandmuddle.com for all of your cocktail needs! Cheers to less work and more gathering this season! 31



Although it's frequently attributed to Japanese tourists, during my first visit to Paris over a decade ago, I definitely came down with a mild case of "Paris Syndrome," a psychological condition where a person experiences acute disappointment (among other physical manifestations) due to the stark contrast between their idealized expectations of Paris and reality. Whereas I can now nearly cite verbatim the dialogue from Woody Allen's "Midnight In Paris," the last line of which is "Actually, Paris is the most beautiful in the rain," on my maiden voyage, the deluge that greeted us upon arrival in the City of Lights was but one in a series of letdowns.

In the ensuing years, I've had the good fortune to visit Paris several times in all seasons, gifting me with the chance to explore beyond the jam-packed tourist hotspots, and staying in all manner of accommodations, from a rental house in the Latin quarter to a posh suite in haute couture's "Golden Triangle." Somehow, I keep being drawn back to the 7th arrondissement, likely for the warm and fuzzy remembrance of a mother-daughter college-scouting trip where our home base was a tiny hotel slightly past its heyday, and where our sorely lacking grasp of the French language led to some hilariously memorable moments. While the posh neighborhood, located on the left bank of the Seine River, is home to significant landmarks including the Eiffel Tower, the Musée d'Orsay, the Musée Rodin, and

Les Invalides, I've always enjoyed its slightly slower pace and sleepiness, particularly after dark (stay in the 9th if you're keen on a lively local nightlife experience). So, when I heard LXR opened its first Parisian outpost in the 7th, I bumped it to the top of my must-visit list.

Situated on a tree-lined boulevard between the Eiffel Tower and Les Invalides, SAX Paris is located within a renovated 1899 neo-Gothic building, formerly the Ségur telephone exchange, where hundreds of operators manually connected calls. The 118-room hotel is a quietly chic addition to the neighborhood. Unmissable at night due to the red illumination of the façade, it's a bold statement hearkening to the surprises that await inside.

Just before reaching the cozy lobby, where a console table was covered with an assemblage of long-stem red and pink roses, my eye was drawn up a set of stairs leading to The Galerie, a long and narrow space outfitted with 200 mirrors and multiple Baccarat chandeliers (making it supremely popular with the selfie set). Just beyond the check-in desk is Arik Levy's glistening crystal sculpture 'Rockstone,' positioned in front of a treillage wall that marks the entrance to Jardin Le SAX, an alfresco all-day dining spot with an elevated heated swimming pool and jacuzzi. As many of the local restaurants were closed for the Parisian summer exodus during our visit, the urban oasis was buzzing long after the bees had called it a night.















Bespoke touches are part of SAX Paris' DNA. En route to the elevator bank, we looked up to the coved ceiling to note a mural by street artist Sto, designed to reference the building's historic République Française insignia. Boasting a unique twolevel floor plan, our King Deluxe Junior suite was unlike any other I've experienced in a luxury hotel. Spacious closets flanked the landing. A forged brass faux bois stair rail leading down to the bedroom is a recurring design element. A hybrid of Art Deco and Art Moderne is the style that sprang to mind while surveying the surroundings, defined by tactile, sculptural, bold, and bespoke touches. The bedroom level, bookended by bronze smoked frameless leaner mirrors (one of which concealed a television), made the room feel twice as large. Street-facing floorto-ceiling windows bathed the room in natural light; wood slat blinds and sumptuous, ecru-colored bouclé curtains provided ample privacy when desired.

A display ledge beneath a picture window behind the vanity in the bathroom "cube" held a varied collection of art, lending a residential feel to the room. In addition to the standard Nespresso setup, a unique rotating curio cabinet positioned next to a live-edge wood slab desk was stocked with Parisian favorites curated through a partnership with the iconic Le Bon Marché's La Grande Épicerie de Paris, which is just a short stroll from the hotel.

Executive Chef David Maroleau, who has previously led Michelin restaurants, presides over the dining program. The dramatically designed Restaurant Le SAX, boasting a distinctive chandelier designed by Venetian artist Christian Pellizzari and crafted in Murano, is an all-day bar and restaurant that Maroleau says showcases the best of 'all that we love.'

The eighth outpost of the celebrated Kinugawa restaurant brand commands the top two floors of the hotel. It offers showstopping views of the Eiffel Tower and seemingly endless sea of chimneypots topping the neighborhood's vaunted Haussmann buildings. The restaurant level is a feast for the eyes, with sunset hues of orange and rust complemented by patinated bronze, fluted wood, smoked glass, marble, wood paneling, and custom-made Zellige tiles on the central bar, which, during morning breakfast service, is laden with sweet and savory delights.

One of my favorite amenities was the Fitness & Spa SAX Le Club, open 24/7. Each day, I was thrilled to find that I had the sleek, subterranean space—outfitted with Technogym equipment and aesthetically pleasing NOHRD swing weights, a sauna, and a hammam—all to myself. Two serene treatment rooms are available for providing body and facial treatments.

SAX Hotel's contribution to LXR's Pursuit of Adventure Program (covered in our Sept/Oct issue), encourages guests to uncover the soul of the Rive Gauche through a series of refined experiences, such as a gourmet picnic with a breathtaking view of Les Invalides; an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of the Eiffel Tower; or a private pontoon cruise on the Seine to name a few. With its primo location, artful aesthetic, and outsized amenities, Sax Paris is undoubtedly an antidote for warding off Paris Syndrome.

SAX Paris, LXR Hotels & Resorts is located at 55 Avenue Saxe, Paris, 75007, France, close to the Sèvres-Lecourbe and Duroc metro stations. For more information, visit Hilton.com





PAIRFECT

The ultimate go-together gift guide.

Compiled by Bridget Cottrell



snow far, snow good

The Ski & Stay package at The Little Nell (thelittlenell.com), Aspen's only Five-Star, Five-Diamond, ski-in/ski-out hotel makes an Aspen escape effortless. Book two or more nights and receive up to two adult lift tickets per full ski day, daily breakfast at Element 47 or in-room, and transportation to all four Aspen Snowmass mountains. The Nell's Ski Concierge unlocks experiences few will ever access, from First Tracks at sunrise on untouched runs to Last Tracks with Ski Patrol at sunset. Bogner Sport Maja down ski jacket (\$2,300; bogner.com).









SOPHISTICATED The Design Issue





Chesterfield _______ Jewelers

17037 Baxter Road Chesterfield, Missouri 63005 636-537-5590 www.chesterfieldjewelers.com



As we bring this year to a close, I can't help but feel an enormous sense of gratitude as we prepare to celebrate the 2nd Annual SOPHI Awards. What began last year as an idea to showcase the best of St. Louis architecture, design and building has grown into an inspiring tradition — one that brings together the creative spirit and craftsmanship that make our region extraordinary.

This year, dozens of architects, interior designers, landscape designers, furniture designers and builders have entrusted us with their best work, submitting projects that reflect both innovation and artistry. These submissions were carefully reviewed by 11 distinguished judges from around the country, each lending their expertise to ensure the awards represent the highest level of excellence. To all who shared their work, we thank you for allowing us to shine a spotlight on your talent.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the generosity of our sponsors — Dielmann Sotheby's, the Interior Design Center, Immerse, Virginia Tile, True Residential and AUTCO — and the loyal advertisers who support Sophisticated Living and help us tell the stories of beauty, creativity and accomplishment in St. Louis. We are equally grateful to The Novel Neighbor for managing book sales of Marshall Watson's new release Defining Elegance.

This year's celebration is even more special with Marshall Watson — a design luminary whose work has graced the world's most prestigious homes — serving as our Master of Ceremonies. We will also have the honor of presenting the first Icon Award to Alise O'Brien, whose career as an architectural photographer has literally defined the way we see beauty in design. Marshall Watson called Alise "St. Louis's national treasure." Guests will also have the opportunity to take home a signed copy of Marshall's new book, Defining Elegance, thanks to our collaboration with The Novel Neighbor. And for dessert, Clementine's will serve their award-winning ice cream — a sweet ending to a night devoted to celebrating excellence.

I would be remiss if I did not give a shoutout to Kevin Kenney, who recently sold KDR Designer Showrooms, to his friends, the Gilberts, and for encouraging us to undertake the SOPHIs last year. Your encouragement and support mean the world to us. Thank you also to 21c Museum Hotel for yet again hosting this great event.

And of course, a special thanks to Cynthia Prost, Christy Marshall, Grayling Holmes, Jon Feagain and John Lore for their dedication to putting on the best awards program in St. Louis. We know, inevitably, something will not go as perfectly as we have planned, but hope you know this is a marathon, not a sprint, and that you will continue to help us grow the SOPHIs and Sophisticated Living in the years to come.

The SOPHI Awards are about more than trophies or recognition. They are about honoring the people who dedicate themselves to creating spaces that elevate our lives — people who see not just buildings, but possibility. I'm proud to celebrate them with you and grateful for everyone who has made this year's awards possible.

With gratitude,

Craig M. Kaminer, Publisher craig@slmag.net

The Judges for the 2025 SOPHI Awards















Trish Bonney

TAB Interior Design, Denver, Colorado

Driven by a lifelong passion for art and design, Bonney pursued her dream of becoming an interior designer after a long career in the military and as a teacher. She returned to school for interior design in 2014 and launched TAB Interior Designs in 2016. Within a few months, the demand for her services grew so quickly that she was able to expand her business. She has been featured in *Colorado's Best Kitchens, Home and Garden Colorado* and the *Denver Post*.

George Brazil

SagreraBrazil Design, San Francisco, California

With over 30 years of experience as a practicing interior designer, George Brazil ASID, CID, is principal and co-owner of his eponymous firm, SagreraBrazil Design. He co-founded SagreraBrazil Design with business partner Cecilia Sagrera-Hill 21 years ago. Their firm has since completed projects across the Bay Area, throughout the United States and internationally. According to Brazil, "SagreraBrazil Design is a luxury interior design studio singularly dedicated to enriching the lives of our clients." Brazil is a professional member of ASID and a past president of its California North chapter. He is also a certified interior designer in the state of California.

Daniel Joseph Chenin

Daniel Joseph Chenin Ltd., Las Vegas, Nevada

Daniel Joseph Chenin FAIA, is the founding principal of Daniel Joseph Chenin, Ltd., an internationally recognized architecture and interiors studio based in Las Vegas. As a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects (FAIA), Chenin is celebrated for his ability to create deeply experiential environments that seamlessly integrate architecture, interiors and landscape into a cohesive, emotionally resonant whole. Under his leadership, the firm has garnered over 50 national and international design awards, including accolades from the American Institute of Architects (AIA), Architizer, the Architecture MasterPrize and the Society of British and International Interior Design (SBID). In 2022, Chenin received the AIA Silver Medal for Nevada, the chapter's highest individual honor, and in 2021, Daniel Joseph Chenin, Ltd. was named AIA Firm of the Year for Nevada. The studio's projects have been featured in more than 30 global

publications such as Architectural Digest, Robb Report, Elle Decor, Galerie, Interior Design Magazine, Vogue Living Australia, AD Italia, Elle Decor Middle East and Arts & Architecture.

Carol Way Cisco

Signature Design + Studio, Kansas City, Missouri

As an award-winning international interior designer, Cisco has over 40 years of professional design experience utilizing her skills to improve the human condition on a global level. She has done extensive work in residential, commercial and hospitality. Her latest work received the American Society of Interior Designers Focus Award for Wellness Design from the national organization and she recently has been honored by the International Association of Top Professionals as Top Interior Designer - 2024.

Carrie Collins-Barron

Carrie Barron Interiors, Dallas, Texas

Carrie Collins-Barron, founder of Carrie Barron Interiors, leads a Dallas-based firm celebrated for crafting soulful, personalized spaces by blending modern, vintage and artful elements. As the founder and principal designer, Collins-Barron is passionate about pushing the boundaries of design while maintaining a thoughtful and evocative approach to her work. Collins-Barron's design philosophy is all about finding the perfect balance between contrasting elements. Collins-Barron has been recognized for her exceptional design work with the *DHome* Dallas Best Designer Award for seven consecutive years. As an Allied member of ASID, she was honored with the Legacy of Design Award in 2018 and most recently received the Celebrating Texas Design Award in 2024.

Diane Durocher

Diane Durocher Interiors, Ramsay, New Jersey

A well-respected designer for more than 25 years, Diane Durocher believes that the foundation of successful design is built on trust and confidence. Durocher is an award-winning designer whose talent has been recognized throughout her career. She has received numerous Design of Excellence awards from the New Jersey Chapter of ASID. She has also been selected to showcase her work in many prominent designer showhouses in New Jersey and is often featured in prestigious design publications.









Yvonne Harty

Harty Interiors, Sacramento, California

As a certified kitchen and bath designer, Harty's mission is to create homes that are not only beautiful but also warm, comfortable and functional. Her design journey began in Germany, where she developed an eye for precision while working in the aviation industry. After moving to Sacramento, Harty discovered her true passion for interior design while building her own home. She went on to graduate with honors from a formal design program and she now brings that expertise to every project. She believes that each design is like a puzzle and she is committed to finding the perfect solution for her clients. Harty also is an active member of the National Kitchen and Bath Association and the Distinctive Design Group in Sacramento.

Dawn Henderson

G4 Architectural Services LLC, Jacksonville, Florida

Henderson currently serves as Senior Interior Designer and Operations Manager for G4 Architectural Services LLC in Jacksonville, Florida. With a Bachelor of Science in Construction from Seminole State College and an Associate Degree in Interior Design from Florida State College at Jacksonville, Florida, her listed superpower is "translating vision into action."

Kailee Klevan

Beyond Kitchens, Rochester, Minnesota

As Rochester's only Certified Master Kitchen and Bath Designer (CMKBD) through the National Kitchen and Bath Association, Kleven's goal is to guide clients through the design process in a way that will put them at ease in knowing she will take care of all the nitty-gritty details and their project will be everything they've dreamt it to be. Since starting her interior design career in 2015, Klevan has been fortunate to have her work published in regional and national magazines, be named to NKBA's Thirty Under 30 Class of 2018 and most recently, be recognized as a Kitchen and Bath Design News 2024 Innovator.

Bonnie J. Lewis

Bonnie J. Lewis Design, Scottsdale, Arizona

Bonnie Lewis is the principal of Bonnie J. Lewis Design, a full service residential and commercial interior design serving the aging

luxury population in the area. Lewis's distinctive work has earned her 50 national and regional design and remodel excellence awards from esteemed organizations such as HGTV, the American Society of Interior Designers, the National Association of Home Builders, the National Kitchen & Bath Association, Qualified Remodeler, Kitchen & Bath Design Awards and Chrysalis. Her projects have also been widely featured in numerous publications, including Phoenix Home & Garden, Modern Luxury Scottsdale Interiors, Iconic Life and Taunton's New Bathroom Idea book.

Shannon Miller-Rice

Payte Miller Interiors, San Diego, California

As a design professional, Miller-Rice prioritizes relationship building and tailoring each project to its specific needs, always striving to exceed the expectations of both the client and the entire team. She believes great design isn't exclusive to large budgets. Her success at Payte Miller Interiors comes from the extra effort they put into researching and hunting for perfect finds and collaborating with skilled trades to achieve desired results.

Eve Robinson

Eve Robinson Associates, New York City, New York

After studying art history at Vassar College, Eve Robinson brought her talent and innate sense of style to Polo/Ralph Lauren. She completed the interior design program at Parsons School of Design and in 1990 founded Eve Robinson Associates, Inc. (ERA), in New York City. Since that time, works from ERA have appeared in Architectural Digest, House Beautiful, Elle Décor, Metropolitan Home, House & Garden, Interior Design, The New York Times, GQ, New York Spaces and in the interior design books "Interior Design Masterclass", "Designers Here and There", "Room for Children", numerous House Beautiful design books and "Waterworks: Inventing Bath Style". Robinson has been featured on HGTV's "Interiors by Design" program. The firm has been an active participant in the Kips Bay Boys & Girls Club Show Houses as well as the *House & Garden* Hampton Show House. ERA has been included in House Beautiful's, New York Magazine's and New York Space's list of top designers. Robinson is a recipient of the 2017 Alpha Award by Alpha Workshops. She serves on the Kips Bay Boys & Girls Club Designer Committee.







The winner of the SOPHI's first Icon Award; this local photographer is considered a national treasure. Alise O'Brien didn't set out to become St. Louis's most sought-after architectural photographer. Like many compelling career stories, hers began with a series of serendipitous "of courses" those pivotal moments when opportunity knocked and she confidently answered, even when she wasn't entirely sure what lay behind the door.

Her first job after college was on the staff of the South Bend Tribune, a publication that, she quips, devoted 90 percent of their coverage to Notre Dame football. She was put on the remaining news beats and "They asked me if I could take pictures as well," she says. "And I said, 'Of course,' even though I knew nothing, but I learned on the job." That willingness to leap before looking, coupled with an innate artistic sensibility, would become the cornerstone of a career spanning nearly four decades.

O'Brien's path to photography began in the hallways of John Burroughs School, where art teacher Joanna Collins planted seeds that would later bloom into a lifelong passion. "She really let you take your own path in drawing or painting," O'Brien remembers. "We never had a subject matter to represent. We were supposed to go from our own passion."

After majoring in art history and French at Duke University (where she became a devoted Blue Devils basketball fan), O'Brien returned to St. Louis with a teaching certificate. The Parkway School District needed an art teacher, and when they discovered they also needed someone to teach photography, O'Brien once again said "of course." The pattern was becoming clear: when presented with creative challenges, she embraced them wholeheartedly, learning alongside her students.

Her ascent accelerated when Webster University called in the early 1980s, offering her a position as assistant chair of their media studies program. Despite lacking a master's degree in photography, the university's response was reassuring: "You're in the right place. We can help you get that." O'Brien earned her graduate degree while teaching, immersing herself in both the theoretical and practical aspects of the medium.

The pivotal moment came in 1987 when O'Brien discovered architectural and interior photography. Her first assignment —

THE ICONIC

ALISE O'BRIEN

documenting St. Louis Children's Hospital for the Hoffman Partnership - revealed her true calling. "That all came together for me in architectural photography," she explains, describing how her background in art history, teaching and studio work converged into perfect professional harmony.

Working exclusively with 4 x 5-inch transparency film in those early years, O'Brien developed a methodical approach that emphasized precision and planning. "I really liked the detail of the 4 x 5 transparency film," she notes, though she eventually embraced digital technology around 2008. Her philosophy about change is telling: "I love change. One year, many years ago, I made all my children change their rooms to get a different outlook on life." Only two of her three actually did.

What sets O'Brien apart isn't just her technical proficiency and attention to detail. It's her collaborative spirit and deep respect for the architectural process. "I think you want to bring out the design intent of the creator of the space," she explains. "I always feel like my work is a conversation between me and my client." This approach has earned her relationships with both emerging designers and established architects, allowing her to witness and document the evolution of St. Louis's built environment.

Her adventures have taken her to remarkable vantages, including standing on the roof of the Cass Gilbert building at the Saint Louis Art Museum to photograph the foundation of Sir David Chipperfield's east expansion. "That is something I'll never forget," she says of capturing both the project's inception and completion. Working with worldrenowned artists to publish cocktail table-sized books of their creations at the Pulitzer Arts Foundation has further refined her already keen eye for color and composition.

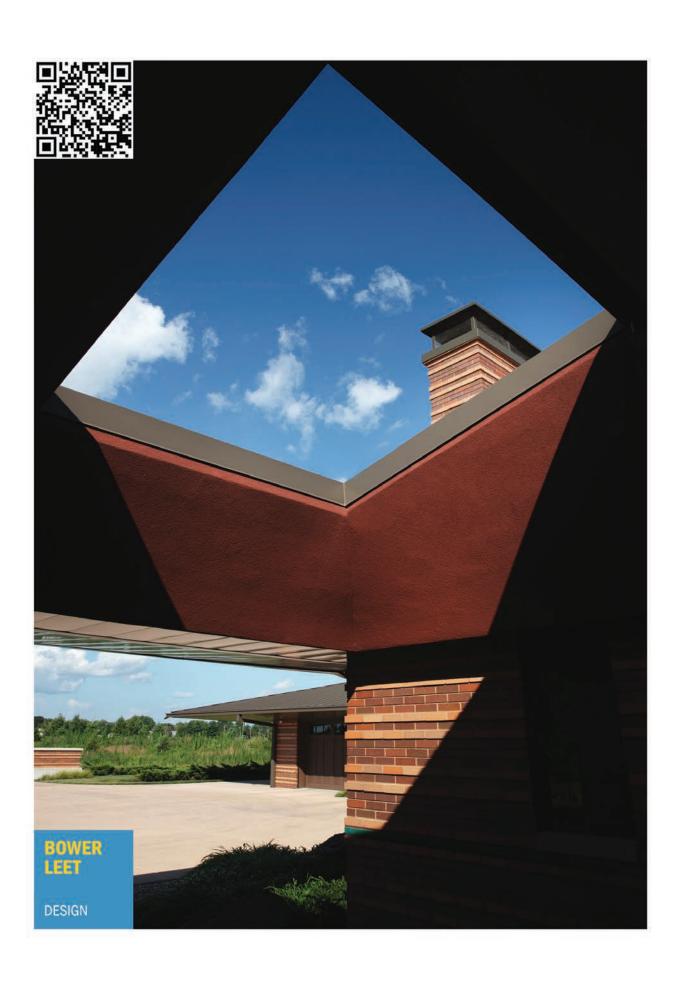
Perhaps most striking about O'Brien is her genuine enthusiasm for her work after nearly 40 years behind the camera. "I feel extremely lucky to have found this passion that I have," she says. "I get the opportunity to work with energetic young designers and watch them develop their innate sophistication and style. I've worked with some incredibly experienced architects and learned how profoundly considered their design is."

Her satisfaction runs deeper than professional success. "My world is a bigger place because of my adventures every day," she says. "And at the end of the day, I know what I did. And how many people can say that?"

In an era when architectural photography often prioritizes dramatic angles over authentic representation, O'Brien maintains her commitment to honest storytelling. She approaches each project as a careful collaboration, bringing spaces to life while respecting their creators' visions. It's a philosophy rooted in that early lesson from Joanna Collins – following one's passion while honoring the subject at hand.

For O'Brien, architectural photography isn't just about capturing buildings; it's about preserving the conversations between space and inhabitant, designer and user, past and future. In her capable hands, every structure tells its story.

And her photography has made her an icon. — Christy Marshall







When Marshall Watson walks into a room, he does more than take in the colors, textures and architecture. He imagines how the space can tell a story.

Over the course of his career, Watson's name has become synonymous with interiors that balance timeless beauty with soulful detail. His projects — whether an Upper East Side apartment, a Mediterranean villa, a Nantucket retreat or a Ladue estate — are never just designed. They are orchestrated. Each space is imbued with grace, proportion and a quiet confidence that feels both classic and contemporary.

Watson's work has graced the covers of Architectural Digest and Veranda and he has been entrusted with homes owned by some of the world's most storied families, including the Vanderbilts and the Whitneys. Yet despite his elite clientele and international recognition, Watson remains disarmingly approachable. He speaks less about design as decoration and more about design as a human endeavor: about comfort, harmony and the ability of interiors to elevate how people live every day.

Originally trained in the performing arts, Watson, a native of Kansas City, began his career as a Broadway actor before turning to interior design. This background in theater is more than an interesting biographical footnote; it informed his approach to interiors. Just as a stage must support a narrative, so too must a home.

"I think of every project as a production," Watson has said. "You need structure, drama, pacing and above all, authenticity."

He studied design formally at Stanford University and apprenticed under professionals who demanded rigorous attention to proportion and detail. Over time, he developed a signature style rooted in European tradition yet infused with an American sense of warmth and openness. He is as comfortable layering fine antiques with contemporary art as he is orchestrating custom millwork or working with artisans to achieve perfect finishes.

MARSHALL WATSON

In 2017, Watson distilled his philosophy into The Art of Elegance: Classic Interiors, a book that has become a touchstone for designers and design lovers alike. Its pages showcase not only his own projects but also his belief that elegance is not about extravagance, but about restraint, harmony and intention.

Elegance, for Watson, is about understanding when to whisper and when to crescendo. A Venetian chandelier may crown a room, but the success of the space often depends on subtle gestures: the placement of a chair to capture morning light, the hand of a woven textile that invites touch, the balance of architectural lines that calms the eye.

This fall, Watson released his much-anticipated follow-up, Defining *Elegance*. Where his first book introduced readers to his philosophy, this volume offers a deeper exploration of his most recent projects including those in St. Louis, weaving together lessons in scale, proportion and mood with personal reflections on the design journey.

Defining Elegance takes readers inside a diverse range of homes — from coastal retreats to urban sanctuaries — each presented as a meditation on what it means to live beautifully today. The book underscores Watson's gift for creating interiors that are not only aesthetically stunning but also deeply resonant with the lives of their inhabitants. For Watson, elegance is not a formula; it is a dialogue between architecture, history and the people who call a space home.

One hallmark of his work is contextual sensitivity. A beach house designed by Watson doesn't try to import a Park Avenue aesthetic. Instead it reflects the rhythms, colors and traditions of the coast. A mountain retreat, meanwhile, embraces rustic textures while maintaining the refinement of proportion and detail.

Watson's generosity of spirit extends beyond his clients. He is a mentor to young designers, an advocate for the craft of all artisans and an engaged speaker at design forums and garden clubs across the country. His presence in St. Louis as Master of Ceremonies at the SOPHI Awards is not only a coup for the design community but also a natural extension of his role as a thought leader in the field.

As Marshall Watson continues to shape interiors around the world, his influence is increasingly measured not only in the spaces he creates but also in the ethos he champions. In an age where design can veer toward the fleeting or the ostentatious, Watson's commitment to elegance as timelessness feels more relevant than ever.

His projects endure because they are not about fashion; they are about people. They are designed to support families, host friends and create memories. They embody the belief that beauty matters, not as a luxury, but as a vital part of a life well lived. — Craig Kaminer











WINNER C&M Interiors

This full-home renovation was designed with luxury, elegance and sophistication at its core, tailored to reflect the client's strong sense of style and fashion-forward taste. A dramatic blend of classic materials — like marble and brass — paired with bold modern art and eclectic furnishings brought striking contrast and personality throughout the home. The team collaborated closely with the architect, general contractor and trades to reimagine the layout and elevate every detail. Challenges included transforming the original 1960s floor plan to better suit modern living while preserving a sense of timelessness. The project was completed in 2023, resulting in a home that feels both refined and unapologetically expressive. Photography by Alise O'Brien





FINALIST Dolan Co., Rachael Dolan

The house had great bones from the 1990s but the new owners wanted to update and reorganize it based on today's needs. The kitchen and supplementary spaces were opened to create a connection to the outdoors and living spaces. Thickened quartzite counters with beautiful edge details and a full slab hood above the range complement the installation of the range knobs placed through a slab face. Living spaces show off a revamped two-story fireplace with stone edging and completed with simple beams allowing new extra-large chandeliers to bring down the height for a more intimate feel. The entry and office were revamped to create a grander feel that was warm yet stately. The challenges of mixed large and segmented spaces were balanced with the shaping and soft detailing of the interiors.



FINALIST Studio KTW, Kim West

Our challenge was designing an exquisitely comfortable home for a family of seven. We focused on subtle forms, textures and the colors of nature. Relaxing and soft fabrics were contrasted with distressed pine beams and stone fireplaces. Cozy rooms were enhanced with painted wood paneling, high ceilings and large windows with black frames. Daily life was enhanced for everyone by the large double island kitchen, oversized scullery and laundry rooms on all three floors. The primary suite includes a private balcony, stone fireplace, view of the woods and a spa-inspired bath. We worked with a local wood artisan to hand make the large dining table and vintage-inspired walnut island. Warm color tones, a mix of metal finishes and a variety of wood tones created an understated timelessness. The outdoor living room, dining room and pool were the final touches.







WINNER Greenauer Design Group, Inc., Melissa Greenauer

The goal of this design project was to improve the flow and functionality of the home by creating an open-concept layout that integrated the kitchen and dining areas. We also updated finishes and fixtures throughout the main level. Opening up the floor plan presented challenges, such as balancing ceiling heights, optimizing lighting and ensuring the correct allocation of square footage between functional zones and decorative areas. The design style maintains the home's original aesthetic, with a clean update that avoids being too modern. Ultimately, we wanted to create spaces that felt both inviting for hosting guests and comfortable for a couple entering the next phase of life as empty nesters. Photography by Alise O'Brien







FINALIST Bower Leet Design, Susan Bower

The challenge of this project was to unite the existing house to the new addition. The mid-century wood interior with low ceilings in the main house is contrasted with a 21st century gallery addition featuring white walls and high ceilings. Abstract art and architectural furniture flow through the spaces with natural light and accents of color and sculpture. The interiors are spare so that each design element can be considered and the owners can live an uncluttered life. The collection includes primitive furniture from Kentucky mixed with European furniture. All float above the floor allowing the space to expand and be easily cleaned. A mudroom was added as part of the addition. The built-ins are made of particle board and the warm hue contrasts with the grey walls and low ceiling. An arrangement of 20th century Italian lighting by Sarfatti and Munari balances the niche with the mini-split air conditioner. The bedroom floor is tiled blue in a nod to Scandinavian designer Bruno Mathsson and the tile reflects light, casting a light blue hue in the space which adds color and texture to this room at the end of the passage. *Photography by Carmen Troesser*



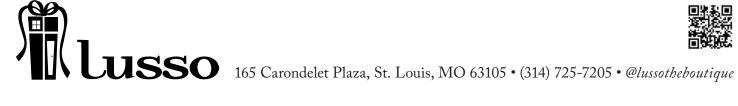


FINALIST JG Design Studio, Jenny Gossow; McMillan Construction Group; Okaw Valley Woodworking, Amena Zamora

The homeowners were seeking home improvement in any form. The house was an atypical Webster home in that it was newly constructed and had an open (too open) kitchen/eat-in dining space. The homeowners, one an author and cook, the other a curator of Art Nouveau art and décor, were frustrated by the large open kitchen with inadequate counterspace and storage. The kitchen was long on space, short on functionality. The plan was to enclose the kitchen to create more useful, delineated space. All the arched walls in the project enclosing the space are new. These created more usable space for the adjacent rooms. The project included improving the kitchen layout and functionality, repurposing the existing eat-in dining and living room spaces, connecting views from an existing sitting room, adding a bar area for family gatherings. New windows at the sink and the new patio doors onto the deck introduced meaningful site lines across the space. The owners wanted texture and a unique blend of colors. The wallpaper, green custom cabinetry, warm stained hues of the island and bar areas, textured backsplash and expertly curated lighting combine to create a wonderfully layered, unique kitchen. The hallway connecting the kitchen and sitting room includes a walk-in pantry opposite a bar with glass-front cabinetry and mirrored tile. The custom hood pulls in the warm tones from the burled legs of the island. Well-placed and highly functional built-ins house books above and drawers for silver and crystal below at the dining space. *Photography by documodern llc*.



OUR SIGNATURE GLASS EVERGREEN TREES COME IN MANY FORMS. SAPLING-SIZED SMALL GLASS TREES. STUNNINGLY STATELY TALL EVERGREENS. SHAPELY SPRUCE TREES. BRILLIANTLY CLEAR, BUBBLE GLASS OR SNOWY TREES. OUR GLASS HOLIDAY TREES ARE A JOY TO COLLECT, GIVE AND PUT ON DISPLAY, ALL YEAR ROUND. HAND BLOWN GLASS TREES HAVE BECOME A SIGNATURE OF OUR BRAND, AND A SYMBOL OF VERMONT.







Your #1 Source for: Tile, Natural Stone, Quartz Countertops, Ceramic, Glass, 2CM, Large Porcelain Panels, and Installation Products

Schedule Your Appointment Today



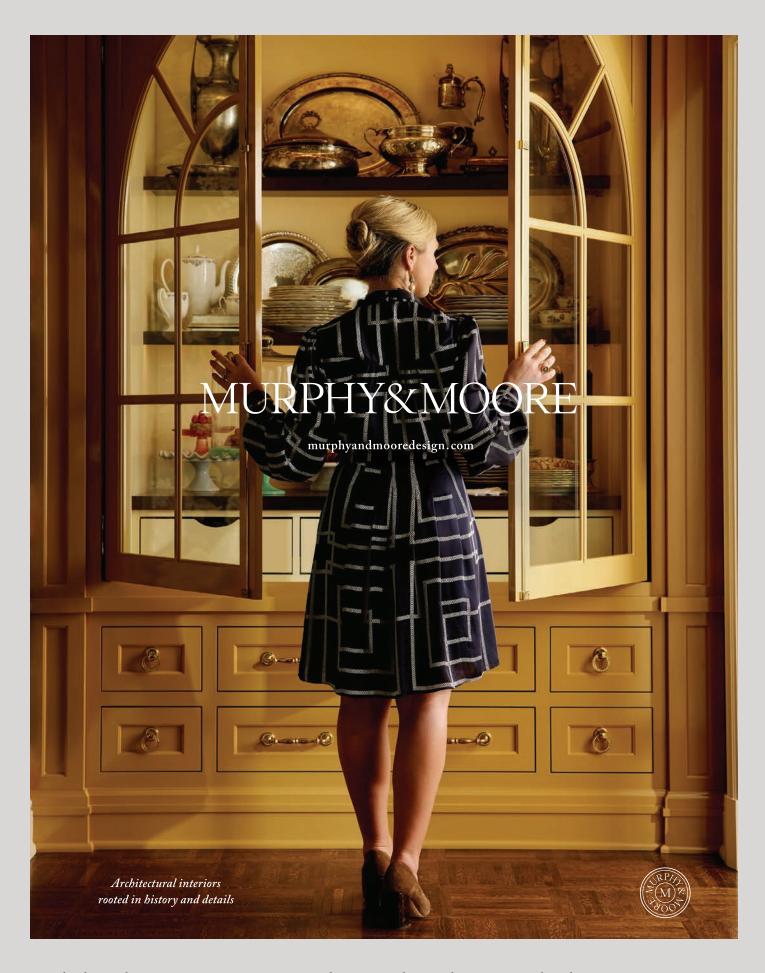


St Louis' iconic destination for the creation of beautiful interiors.



11660 Page Service Drive | Saint Louis, MO 63146 | 314.993.5020 | kdrshowrooms.com

Spotlighting St. Louis' most influential design professionals



and the showroom partner that makes their work shine.





WINNER Mitchell Wall Architecture and Design, Tom Wall

Nestled deep within a wooded site, this contemporary retreat was conceived as a serene weekend escape that seamlessly blends comfort with a strong architectural presence. The client envisioned a modern yet warm environment that encouraged relaxation while fully engaging with the surrounding landscape. The initial request was clear: a weekend getaway that would feel connected to nature without sacrificing modern comforts. An open plan defines the primary living areas, where a cantilevered dining space projects outward, creating the sensation of dining among the trees. Circulation flows effortlessly between living, kitchen and outdoor areas, while private spaces remain secluded yet accessible. A sculptural floating stair becomes a focal point, enhancing the sense of openness while maintaining light penetration between levels. Natural light was prioritized through expansive glazing, framing dynamic views and allowing daylight to animate the interiors throughout the day. Strategic window placement minimizes glare while ensuring privacy. At night, integrated lighting accentuates textures and architectural details, providing a warm counterpoint to the home's crisp geometry. Interior photography by Alise O'Brien; exterior shot by Tom Wall









FINALIST Mitchell Wall Architecture and Design, Tom Wall

The design of this residence began with a clear directive: create a home that blends timeless architectural character with modern functionality, tailored for a family that values connection, entertaining and daily comfort. The clients envisioned spaces that would feel equally suited for large gatherings and quiet family moments, with a strong indoor—outdoor relationship. The exterior composition pairs classic gables and stonework with expansive windows with black frames, delivering both curb appeal and ample daylight to the interior. A priority was maximizing backyard enjoyment, which led to the integration of a resort-style pool, cascading water feature, fire elements and multiple seating areas that visually and physically connect to the main living zones. The design embraces vertical space and volume to create drama and openness. In the living room, soaring ceilings frame a full wall of glass, drawing the eye to treetop views and extending the living space to a covered balcony. The kitchen balances clean, modern lines with traditional millwork details and conceals functional zones — such as a butler's pantry — behind a bold pop of color, providing both visual interest and high utility. *Photography by Alise O'Brien*



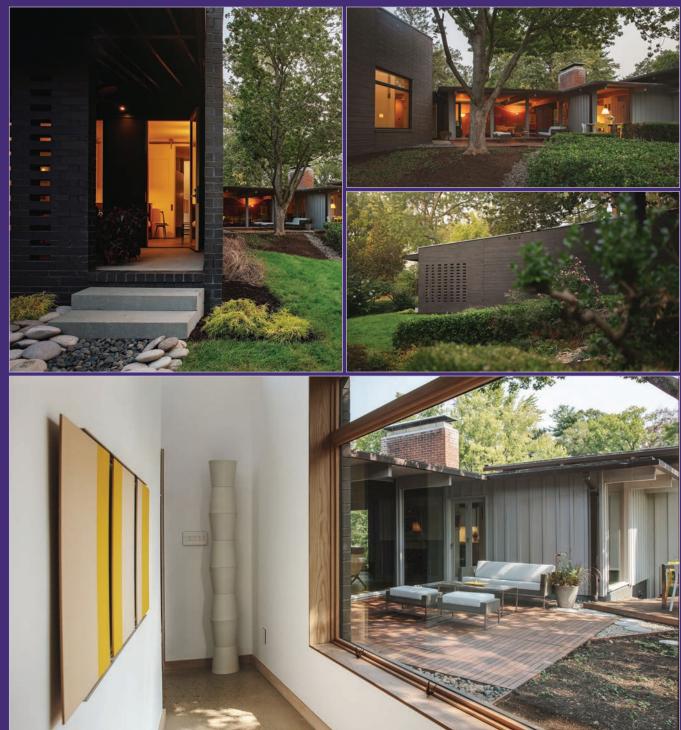




FINALIST Bower Leet Design, Susan Bower

A courtyard, hidden entrance and Frank Lloyd Wright-style brick pattern were the clients' three wishes. Their site was a corner of Illinois farmland that had been converted back to an historic ecosystem. The house was encapsulated by a zone of prairie grasses and then surrounded by woodlands. The site was designed for well-being with walking paths for health and a courtyard garden for delight and connection with nature. A scupper between the chimneys allows rainwater to be guided over boulders as a reminder of the connection between earth and sky and a rain chain at the entry oculus guides water into a rock garden for delight. Views of the changing sky are framed by the chimney window, the oculus and the courtyard. The house interior is designed for change as the residents age in place including accessible bathrooms and an elevator. The main entry and the garage entry are ramped. High efficiency HVAC equipment was installed and is supported by a freestanding bank of solar panels. Roof overhangs help shield the sun and decorative wood screens in the clerestories provide sun breaks and delightful patterns. Excellent craftsmanship was provided by a local mason who diligently alternated courses of brick following Wright's Heurtley house pattern. Local Amish cabinetmakers provided cabinetry and trim that was expertly installed by local finish carpenters. *Photography by Carmen Troesser*





WINNER Bower Leet Design, Susan Bower

In this project, an elegant modern addition to a mid-century house forms an outdoor courtyard. In the dialog between old and new, the addition provides everything the original house was lacking including a mudroom, powder room, owners' suite and good insulation. The addition is black brick while the original is painted wood siding with accents of red brick. The original has low ceilings and opens out onto the landscape. The addition has tall sloping walls and is punctuated by a shade porch with brick screen walls for privacy. The powder room tree was planted by one of the owner's fathers and reaches up to the tall sloping ceiling. Sliding panel doors close off smaller rooms and when opened, they close off hallways. The roof is a monopitch and drains toward the back of the lot. There is one gutter with two funnels that direct the rainwater into a rock bed with landscape drains. From the interior, the free-falling ropes of water can be viewed when it rains. Extra insulation was used including spray foam for the ceilings and thicker zip panels on the exterior. Underground water storage was installed as a Flo-well to capture run off and slowly release it into the soil. Rain barrels are used to capture water from the roof. The existing house was considered a teardown. Photography by Carmen Troesser



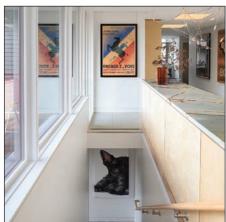






FINALIST Studio Lark, Jessica Senne; Builder, PK Construction

The main objective for this residential addition and renovation to an existing 1940s ranch residence was to add gracious living and garage space while optimizing the kitchen and adjacent ground floor areas. Design constraints included working within the confines of the existing prominent corner lot. The resulting architectural solution — inspired by folded origami forms — proposes a generously-scaled addition that houses new living, mudroom, powder room and garage spaces and an equally transformative renovation to the existing kitchen and adjacent areas. The addition's irregular form provides generous living area that seamlessly flows into the adjacent kitchen and wraps the outdoor living space. Sloped ceilings on the interior follow the tall addition's folded roofline. Conceptually, a floor-to-ceiling band of windows opened the existing north kitchen facade and cohesively connects these two facades to provides ample natural light to the interior spaces The architectural rhythm is emphasized at the window wall with deep walnut frames that transition to a rust-hued finish at the exterior. The walnut finish is carried through to the custom cabinetry, doors, wall panels and screen wall throughout the residence, contrasting the soft maple that serves as the floor finish. A strong indoor-outdoor connection is reinforced throughout the architecture with visual proximities, material selections, lighting and furniture all intentionally considered to enuse a cohesive aesthetic. *Photography by Ashley Gieseking*





FINALIST Studio Lark, Jessica Senne; Builder, Barron Construction

The programmatic objective for this contemporary residential addition is to provide autonomous living space for clients who desire to live adjacent to their daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren. The residence's spaces are efficiently designed for cooking, dining, living and resting and organized to capitalize on the idyllic views of the expansive site. Architecturally, the design concept proposes two geometrically pure "light boxes" situated atop a grounded base. The asymmetrical cubes house the owners' bedroom and bathroom suite in the larger light box, with library and studio space enclosed in the smaller volume. The residence's entry foyer, stair, kitchen, dining and laundry areas are organized in a slim bar that connects the two cubes, with floor-to-ceiling glass and skylights providing ample natural light within these spaces. The cube forms are designed with large-glazed openings and high ceilings, creating spaces that are generous and airy, with strong connections to the landscape. The residence's interior is rendered in soft, warm materials that include birch casework, dramatic quartzite, neutral porcelain tile and maple hardwood flooring. The restrained palette is deployed consistently throughout the residence, creating aesthetic continuity throughout each of the individual spaces. Likewise, the interior palette is conceived as a neutral backdrop for displaying the owners' eclectic collection of artwork, vintage posters, colorful objects and books. The entry gallery skylights are detailed with birch lining their interiors, offering warm, glowing illumination for the collections. *Photography by Serhi Chruckey*









WINNER Murphy & Moore Design, Rebekah Moore

The client's primary bedroom was designed to capture a sense of escape, something transportive and elegant, like stepping into a Parisian hotel suite tucked along the Left Bank. The homeowner wanted the space to feel bold, luxurious and entirely her own. We started by listening closely to her inspirations: rich colors, French ornament, velvet textures and classical silhouettes. The centerpiece is a dramatic teal velvet headboard that stretches across the back wall, setting the mood for the entire space. Jewel-toned accents, curated lighting and soft metallic touches layer in sophistication without feeling overly formal. One of the biggest challenges was achieving that balance, making the room feel special and styled without tipping into something that felt staged or impersonal. We adorned the ceiling with gold leaf wallpaper which helps the vintage light fixture sing. We thought carefully about each fabric pattern. The carpet flooring is a neutral with a geometric print that sets the tone for luxury, though quietly, like clouds or snow. The fringe on the conversational chairs envelops those who get to sit in them. The satin drapes have a velvet tape border. The chair pillows and the bed skirt share a velvet Greek key tape. The bedroom doors are painted a high-gloss brown with eggplant undertones and the door handles are an unexpected brass invitation to luxury. Every detail in this room is thought through, refined, elevated and perfectly executed. Photography by Peter Larson





FINALIST Designer Marshall Watson & Reid Deane Ganes Interiors; Builder Chouteau Building Group; Architect Mainline Group Architects

This primary bedroom is a serene yet opulent retreat, where every element layers into an atmosphere of immersive tranquility. Hand-painted wallpaper enshrouds the space in the cascading illusion of a waterfall, creating a sense of motion and calm, drawing the eye upward to a softly domed ceiling. Beneath, a plush deep-pile carpet offers indulgence with every step. At the heart of the room, a custom bed anchors the design — crafted in cerused oak with its upper panels lacquered in a luminous crème. Flanked by reeded, gilded night tables, the bed is framed in a palette of hushed violet, aubergine and milky whites, all accented with lustrous silver, platinum and the soft sheen of patinated white gold. Touches of shagreen add refined texture, while every finish speaks to both craftsmanship and artistry. The fireplace, anchored in complementary tones, promises moments of quiet reflection and warmth. Beyond, the adjoining dressing room continues the visual narrative, carrying the palette and textures into a space of functional luxury, where storage and display are elevated to a true art form. This suite is both an escape and a statement; a composition of color, style and form that offers a daily practice of beauty, well-being and peace. *Photography by Luke White*





FINALIST Stückenschneider Decoration & Design, Ken Stückenschneider

When the client fell in love with an archival documentary French silk fabric originally designed for Marie Antoinette at the famed Prelle showroom, the designer didn't quite know what to do with all the exuberant colors and patterns in the fabric including peacock feathers, lilac blossoms, meandering ribbons, yellow sunflowers, pink roses and pansies. However, a restrained English approach to French exuberance gave way to a beautifully detailed baldachin treatment showcasing the amazing floral pattern above a simpler embroidered headboard. Bed skirts in green and gold are complemented by the same tones in the classically paneled wall scheme. Walnut floors anchor the delicate colors and even finer embroidered Italian bedlinens complete the traditional fantasy. An Irish Waterford chandelier sparkles above the dentil crown moldings. An adjacent luxurious primary bath detailed in the same cabinetry colors and complemented by a highly unusual lavender marble slabs for the walk in shower completes the exquisite suite. Of course, an entirely mirror-clad dressing room closet is secretly hidden behind a paneled door. *Photography by Alise O'Brien*











Book Your Consultation Today

(636) 898-9086 contact@johnlore.com johnlore.com





JOHN LORE PHOTO & VIDEO ST. LOUIS MO

Inspired by You. Defined by Light. Trusted by Brands.











In November 2024, we broke ground on our new home in Ladue. For years, my husband and I have been fearless renovators—adding second stories, reconfiguring driveways, even doubling square footage with a three-story addition. But nothing could quite prepare us for the adventure of building from the ground up.

One of the first—and most agonizing—decisions was timing the sale of our previous home. Do you sell before construction begins? Just before completion? Or after moving into your new space? Each path has its perks and pitfalls: early sellers avoid the stress of juggling two mortgages but face the challenge of temporary living; late sellers transition seamlessly but risk carrying two homes longer than planned.

We chose to sell before breaking ground. While apartment living can feel cramped compared to the space, yard, and holidays we once enjoyed, the relief of having the sale behind us has been priceless. It has allowed us to focus fully on our daughters, our careers, and, of course, the countless details that come with custom construction.

This process has been both daunting and exhilarating. St. Louis is blessed with incredible design resources, from the stone selections at Two Rivers Boutique to the showrooms at Wilson Lighting and Crescent Plumbing, not to mention the creative guidance of Carolyn Peterson Design. Each step reminds us how lucky we are to be building in a city with such depth of talent.

Now, at the drywall stage, we can finally glimpse the finish line. It's not just a house taking shape—it's the culmination of years of dreaming, planning, and learning to choose the "hard" that best fits our family. With any luck, by the time the last light fixture is installed, we'll look back on this chapter not with exhaustion, but with gratitude.





WINNER Studio Lark, Jessica Senne; Builder Barron Construction

The primary objective for this kitchen renovation was to provide functionally optimized spaces for cooking and dining and to create openness and connectivity between the kitchen and adjacent areas. The existing residence — originally completed in 1960 and designed by noted St. Louis architect Isadore Shank — provides a mid-century modern architectural envelope, compelling a contextually appropriate renovation design. The residence's expansive site and ample green space provide opportunity to orient kitchen views toward the landscape and maximize natural light. Renovations focused on the ground-floor kitchen, living and dining areas endeavor to expand and connect these formerly separate, compartmentalized spaces. Interior walls were surgically removed and beams were inserted into the original latticed structure to achieve cohesiveness and flow. A generous island grounds the kitchen design and provides ample surface for preparing, cooking and serving food while a full-height grouping of cabinetry elegantly consolidates storage and appliances. Interior finishes appropriate to the era of the residence include a custom, neutral-toned terrazzo floor, fresh white walls and walnut custom casework. A thickened island countertop in a bold pattern is contrasted with a thin countertop of same finish at the perimeter, while chrome plumbing fixtures and integrated directional lighting punctuate the space. Classic Modern feature lighting and furniture complete the residence and contribute to an overall feel that is both timeless and current. Photography by Ashley Gieseking







FINALIST Studio Lark, Jessica Senne; Builder PK Construction

The design objective for this transformative kitchen renovation was to provide open and optimized space for cooking, dining and entertaining at an existing 1940s-era residence. The kitchen and dining areas were conceived as part of a high-impact, comprehensive project throughout the residence, including an extensive ground floor renovation and large family room/mudroom/powder room and garage addition. Challenging site constraints including a trapezoidal-shaped building lot revealed an architectural opportunity for a softly angled addition inspired by folded origami form. The enlarged kitchen and adjacent family room wrap a contemporary outdoor living area, with a ribbon of windows that cohesively connects these two facades and provides ample natural light to the interior spaces. Connectivity is further emphasized in the interior of the kitchen with an "archipelago" of gently curving kitchen islands. The sinuous forms are reinforced with a perimeter-lit dropped ceiling plane that encompasses a whimsical collection of copper-embedded hand-blown glass pendants. Copper details are subtly echoed throughout the residence, including the finish for light fixtures of adjacent spaces and copper-hued veining threads of the Cristalita quartzite countertops. Rich, warm walnut-veneered cabinetry with integrated pulls provides a seamless aesthetic and contrasting counterpoint to the light maple floors. Champagne gold plumbing fixtures and furniture complete the space, including dining chairs in a copper-hued boucle textile and counter stools wrapped in a complementary green leather. *Photography by Ashley Gieseking*





FINALIST Faith Berger Art Consultants, Faith Berger

The clients, empty nesters, wanted a visually striking kitchen that honored the home's traditional architecture while introducing sleek, contemporary design. The challenge was integrating modern functionality and storage within a classically styled space that hadn't been updated in 30 years. Structural changes, refined materials and layered lighting transformed the footprint into a warm, welcoming and highly functional centerpiece. The goal was to combine two underused rooms into a single, cohesive kitchen suitable for large gatherings and everyday comfort. The clients requested more storage, integrated seating and seamless flow, while preserving the architectural integrity of their villa-style home. They envisioned a peaceful, sophisticated setting that could host up to 25 guests. The south wall was moved back by 3 feet and the dividing wall was removed to create an open, elongated layout. Euro-style cabinetry was paired with traditional crown molding to respect the home's heritage while introducing a fresh, clean-lined aesthetic. Hidden features — including a two-drawer refrigerator and custom storage — maintained visual simplicity while boosting function. Hardwood replaced outdated linoleum and was refinished in a Country White stain throughout, visually expanding the space and tying both rooms together. The cabinetry design and layout support dedicated areas for prepping, dining and relaxing — comfortably accommodating both small and large gatherings.











WINNER Studio Catherine Rose, Cate Randazzo

Tucked into the pastoral folds of a 500-acre horse farm, this kitchen was designed as the soul of a newly built home for a farm manager and his family. Though the residence was built from the ground up, the vision was clear: to create a space that felt storied and grounded with the quiet dignity of something long beloved. The heart of the space is a substantial kitchen island. Its stacked ogee-edged quartzite countertop and sculptural legs lend to the look of an heirloom. The cabinetry, a thoughtful mix of painted and hickory wood finishes, deepens the sense of history and permanence. Every surface and silhouette were chosen to cultivate warmth and welcome. The kitchen opens fluidly into the dining area, echoing the family's natural rhythm of gathering and everyday connection. Above the sink, artisan-crafted Zellige tiles frame a pass-through window that opens wide to the outdoor kitchen. Quartzite countertops extend in a continuous plane, blurring the line between inside and out. This detail invites effortless connection when entertaining. Antique brass, bronze and champagne bronze finishes unfold across the fixtures, hardware and lighting, adding a gentle contrast and richness to the room's overall composition. Underfoot, custom hickory floors anchor the space with grain and character. Complimenting double doors extend the invitation outdoors, connecting kitchen to patio in one effortless motion. In the adjacent living room, a coffered ceiling and soft stone archway continue the home's architectural language, layering in depth and refinement.









FINALIST Murphy & Moore Design, Rebekah Murphy

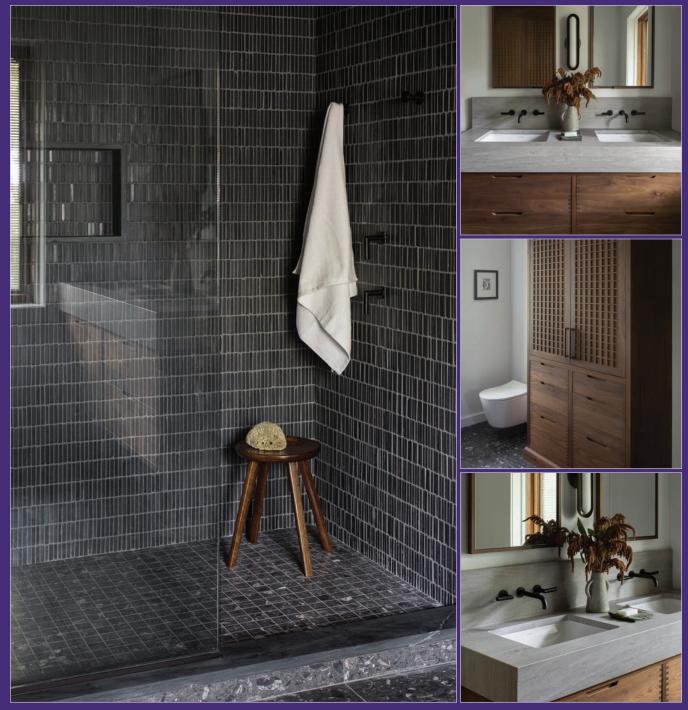
Set within a 1930s Georgian home, this kitchen redesign is a masterclass in balancing historical reverence with contemporary living. Every inch of this galley-style kitchen was thoughtfully planned to enhance both function and form while honoring the architecture's original rhythm and material sensibility. The design centers on a commanding refrigeration wall: two 30-inch Sub-Zero appliance columns were built into a custom cabinet composition that reads like a freestanding furniture piece. With antique mirror mullions, vintage wooden knobs and slightly proud refrigeration towers flanked by recessed touch-latch pantries, this sculptural element conceals a powerhouse of storage. Spices, oils and dry goods are tucked neatly behind the face frame, proving that practicality can be poetic. Underfoot, large-scale black-and-white marble tiles ground the room, evoking permanence and architectural gravity. The original windows, preserved with hand-built moldings, overlook what was once a stable — now a family herb garden. These views inform a kitchen that lives not just for aesthetics but for the rituals of everyday life. Architectural continuity is a guiding principle. The arched mullion design repeats the geometry of the home's original transoms and front door, while unexpected elements — like using exterior hardware on the refrigeration columns — offer tactile moments of delight. Custom brass hood brackets mirror the weight and craftsmanship of the fridge hardware, reinforcing a cohesive language of form and material. *Photography by Peter Larson*



FINALIST C&M Interiors

This project involved the renovation of a historic home's kitchen, butler's pantry, sunroom and powder room, designed to reflect the client's French heritage and love for warm, European-inspired interiors. The intent was to blend natural materials — like white oak cabinetry and unlacquered brass — with refined, old-world details to create a space that feels both timeless and inviting. The historic renovation brought its share of challenges, from preserving character to navigating structural surprises. The result is a serene, soulful home that honors its past while feeling effortlessly lived-in and beautifully layered. Completed in 2025, the design feels personal, elegant and enduring. *Photography by Alise O'Brien*





WINNER Studio Sweet-Schuler, Lauren Sweet-Schuler

Built in 1950, this mid-century modern home has been carefully preserved for over 70 years. The primary bathroom was completely original. The task to remodel the bath came with great responsibility to ensure that the new bathroom maintained the integrity of the home while meeting the current homeowner's needs. Throughout the home are slate floors, teak ceilings and beams, long linear brick floating fireplaces and expansive windows overlooking the curated lawn. The homeowner's collection of Asian and African artifacts fills shelves and furnishes rooms with a focus on celebrating art of all forms. The footprint of the bathroom could not be modified in order to minimize disruption to the layout of the house. The scheme for this modern bath was natural materials in various scales, all dark in tone, to create a subdued retreat fitting to the home's Asian influences. Charcoal gray terrazzo floors by Ann Sacks were used in large format in the main bath and cut to 2-feet by 2-feet in the shower floor. For the shower walls, we used a tumbled Nero marble mosaic, also from Ann Sacks, and Newport Brass plumbing fixtures. The custom walnut floating vanity features exposed dovetail joinery and integrated pulls. The medicine cabinets are custom walnut frames. Across from the vanity is a custom-made linen cabinet with a grid design, individually hand applied by the local cabinet maker. The drawers repeat the exposed dovetail joinery and reflect the styling throughout the home, bringing this space into the modern era, with references to the principles of the original design. Photography by Megan Lorenz

A

FINALIST Srote & Co., Kathleen Grim

As part of a whole-house new construction project completed this year, this pool bathroom was a special moment. Because it services the pool, it was an opportunity to have a little fun but still have it feel like it belonged with the rest of the house. As always, new construction brings challenges to add character. In this space we did that by incorporating shiplap on the walls, brick herringbone tile floors and inset cabinetry. We softened the space with custom roman shades, bench cushion and pillow. These components added color and pattern to provide dimension to the space. We opted for a frosted glass door to the exterior so that lighting would not be inhibited in an attempt to provide privacy for anyone utilizing the space for changing clothes. Using a natural stone — Taj Mahal quartzite — countertop allowed the bathroom to both be current and timeless. Natural materials added patina and history. The edge profile adds a traditional take while the plumbing fixtures remain simple and clean to have a mix of contemporary to balance the look. We wanted this space to look like it was in a Hamptons beach house. Photography by Megan Lorenz

FINALIST Murphy & Moore Design, Rebekah Murphy

Set within a historic Art Deco building, the goal was to deliver a bathroom that felt elevated and Parisian in spirit, while working within significant constraints, including existing flooring, original electrical placements and a defined footprint. From the beginning, we knew the cabinetry had to set the tone. We initially considered a high-gloss black lacquer but found it too visually heavy alongside the warm, gold-brown hues of the original floor tile, which had to remain due to budget. The breakthrough came in the form of a rich, moody brown with an eggplant undertone — a color that reads like brown/black but carries more depth and warmth, bridging the heritage of the floor with the forward-looking feel of the updated space. The cabinetry's minimal profile is balanced by statement-making round polished brass hardware, which catches the light and anchors the palette with sculptural precision. To enhance the architectural bones of the space, we selected a Waterworks faucet with reeded black detailing and a polished brass finish. The vertical sconces were one of the most challenging elements to source. Because we had to work with the existing wiring locations, we needed a fixture that could mount cleanly yet still feel elegant and impactful. The final choice — marble column sconces with polished brass accents — brought the entire scheme together with their modern silhouette and timeless materials. With brown gold Calacatta veining, the custom stone countertop surface plays off the cabinetry color and brass details without becoming too ornate. Above, we repainted the client's existing mirrors in a warm gold tone to complement the adjacent shell-inspired backsplash tile, allowing the old and new to blend seamlessly. Photograhy by Peter Larson















NINE PARLORS IN ST. LOUIS TO CHOOSE FROM

LAFAYETTE SQUARE 1637 S 18TH ST. ST. LOUIS, MO 63104

CLAYTON 730 DE MUN AVE. ST. LOUIS, MO 63105 CENTRAL WEST END 308 N. EUCLID AVE. ST. LOUIS, MO 63108

ToWN & @UNTRY 13426 CLAYTON ROAD **TOWN AND COUNTRY, MO 63131**

LAKE ST. LOUIS 20 MEADOW CIR DR STE 208 LAKE ST. LOUIS, MO 63367

SOUTHAMPTON 4715 MACKLIND AVE. ST. LOUIS, MO 63109

EDWARD\$VILLE 6185 BENNETT DR, STE A EDWARDSVILLE, IL 62025

KIRKWOOD 140 W. ARGONNE DR. KIRKWOOD, MO 63122

& IN ST. CHARLES @ CHICKEN N PICKLE: 1500 S MAIN ST. SAINT CHARLES, MO 63303

CLEMENTINESCREAMERY.COM -

Henry, meet Chronos.

















WINNER Chelsea Design Company, Chelsea Smith

Our long-time client shared she was pregnant with just a few short months to design a gender-neutral nursery. They were not finding out the sex for this pregnancy and wanted to allow this room to serve a possible second child, then become a guest bedroom after that. At our first meeting, she laid out a Hermes scarf she had purchased in New York City and wanted to use it as the main source of inspiration. It now hangs above the changing dresser, in an antique brass frame. Below the scarf is a vintage mahogany dresser we found for storage and as a temporary changing table. We wanted to give the room a warm chocolate hug — so we wrapped the room in a bronze moire vinyl wallpaper from Philip Jeffries. We wanted something striking and unique, but also wipeable and low maintenance. We opted to cover the room's shag carpet with an easy to care for Afghan rug, which grounded the room in a subtle salmon and navy color palette. Our client had already purchased a white oak crib and had sat in a few different gliders and determined the one that she wanted. However, the lead time to receive it was months after her delivery date so we decided to search on Facebook Marketplace for the exact glider. We were able to find one with a matching ottoman for a quarter of the cost. It came in a fun pin stripe that we decided to keep. We recovered the ottoman in a classic navy fabric and added a box pleated skirt with buttons to pair with the pin striped glider. A comfortable lumbar pillow finished the rocker in the same fabric as the crib bolsters and contrasted in a striped silk. Not shown in the overall, but significant to the design, is the white chandelier we installed, which gave the 8-foot room so much height. We then customized the lamp shades with pleats in the same striped fabric. To continue our sophisticated yet playful aesthetic, we made blackout drapery panels out of a unique fabric with painted and embroidered fan or leaf details, which we layered in front of white sheers to keep the room filled with a soft glow. *Photog*

WINNER Baur Interiors, Julie Baur

This project was a complete renovation for a couple who wanted to downsize. They were spending the majority of their time away from St. Louis, so a big house no longer made sense, but they still wanted a place in St. Louis that they would always call home. The goal was to create a warm and inviting spot that had many elements of their previous grand home, with some new fresh elements and features like an area for future grandkids. The house had a bland and rather narrow upstairs hall and two bedrooms and baths. We took the hall and creatively made it into a grandkid space with built-in sleeping nooks that have individual reading lights and curtains and a coordinating bath across the hall. What was once a plain and nondescript second floor hall has now become a third special children's bedroom! *Photography by Alise O'Brien*

FINALIST Castle Design, Laurie LeBoeuf

On a quaint tree-lined street in Ladue, this grand home underwent a massive renovation to turn the previously updated and outdated interiors into the client's dream home. Inspired by sophistication, light and luxury, the designer sought to marry function and beauty as they transformed the space. Formerly a tiny guest room with an oversized cedar closet, the goal of this project was to maximize the space and transform the room into a playful yet sophisticated bunkbed-filled guest room. The designer reworked the layout, knocking down the closet walls and replacing the space with two sets of built-in bunk beds. Impressive millwork helps bring the space to life; playful but tasteful X-shaped railings run along the beds mimicking the railing above the home's front door. A classic color palette of blues and whites creates a calming atmosphere. A navy grass cloth dresser anchors the space and ties in the blues from around the room. Brass sconces from Generation Lighting are a handsome element that help unify the brass detailing. And the bedding, rug and art exhibit peaceful pattern play. Photography by Alise O'Brien







WINNER Stückenschneider Decoration & Design, Ken Stückenschneider

This lovely dining room, one of the first rooms seen upon entering the newly built home, looks like it might have been in existence for a century or more. However, layers upon layers of traditional details such as cabochon studded marble floors and dentil crown moldings bring old world charm to the new. A hand painted mural of American trees and meadows by the artist Susan Harter was selected to adorn the walls and connect the interior to the views of the beautiful hunt country outside. An 18th century Irish candle-lit hand-cut crystal chandelier was sourced to complement the antique English mahogany furniture and make the owners' extensive collection of Flora Danica china sparkle. Not wanting any drapery to overpower the exquisite details of the room, the designer custom designed curving unlacquered brass rods with special hidden stops for the large arched windows to assure the Loro Piana linen draperies would fall just so, thus not interrupting the views to the countryside, trees and fields beyond. Underneath it all, an exquisitely detailed modern floral silk and wool carpet continue to scatter the natural motifs around the room creating a perfect place for elegant entertaining. Photography: Alise O'Brien







FINALIST Castle Design, Laurie LeBoeuf

Nestled on a quiet street in St. Louis, this serene home boasts front row seats to the surrounding nature and plenty of space to entertain its outdoorsy family of four. The goal of this project was to transform the dining room into a refined place for entertaining that seamlessly incorporates the family's love of the outdoors by bringing it in. The designer used a sweeping green Thibaut mural with hues of muted greys and earthy greens as a jumping-off point for the rest of the space's color palette while echoing elements from the neighboring living room for a cohesive design. From here, pieces with rich and warm tones were selected to add classic sophistication. A Century dining table with handsome gold-leaf detailing sits at the heart of the room, surrounded by elegant French grey and gold chairs. A Modern History buffet, in a deep walnut hue, anchors and elevates the space, while a Made Goods grass cloth and leather-trimmed console table under the windows is a fresh take on a classic piece. The clean lines in the green checkered wool rug add a polished contrast to the organic movement in the wallcovering and provide a durable element for daily family use. The lighting, a handsome gold and leather chandelier and a pair of sleek gold candle scones, infuses a sense of heritage and tailored sophistication. Blending classic tradition with rustic charm, this dining room is layered, inviting and tightly tailored — a nod to nature's beauty and gracious entertaining. *Photography by Alise O'Brien*

FINALIST Castle Design, Liz Basler; Stone Hall Cabinetry and Period Restoration, Caroline Kerckhoff

What started as a dining room facelift for this stately home quickly evolved, room by room, to a first-floor renovation. For the homeowners, who love to entertain their large family and many friends, having a home that would refresh the layout for modern life while keeping in tune with its classic tradition was essential. The project was guided by a primary objective: to reimagine the layout as tailored, well-appointed, light-filled and equipped for hosting. Formerly the living room, this space was transformed into a grand dining room that boasts exquisite craftsmanship and polished taste. The clients needed a space that could fit their large family for Sunday dinners and simultaneously enhance the home with its color story and splendid grandeur. Drawing inspiration from English manors and collected libraries, the design team thoughtfully created a space that was as functional as it was timeless and distinguished. Soaring ceilings are anchored by magnificent, locally constructed beams that ground the space in tandem with a pair of graceful chandeliers. A floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace by a local fabricator establishes itself as a refined focal point. Built-in cabinets flank the fireplace to add an element of visual interest and a functional place for storage and display. At the heart of the space, a 12-foot-long colored table from Chaddock adds a sense of scale and pairs perfectly with the classic silhouettes of the velvet dining chairs. Photography by Alise O'Brien













WINNER Greenauer Design, Melissa Greenauer

The goal of this design project was to improve the flow and functionality of the home by combining the kitchen and dining areas and creating an open-concept layout to the great room. The updates to the great room included new finishes, fixtures, lighting and furniture. Opening up the floor plan presented challenges, such as aligning ceiling heights, optimizing lighting and ensuring the correct allocation of square footage between functional zones and decorative areas. The design style maintains many of the interior architectural elements of the home's original aesthetic. A new furniture layout and furnishings with tailor-made seating around a large-scale coffee table centered under the two-tier iron chandelier were added to ground the volume of the great room, creating a main space conducive to entertaining, conversations or stretching out to watch TV. The room has a modern spin within the traditional framework; clean and contemporary and still rooted in tradition. Bold textural handmade elements, the area rug and throws, bring interesting details that blend into the calm color palette of the space. Making this open floor plan space inviting for hosting guests to gather and still comfortable for a couple entering the next phase of life as empty nesters. Photography by Alise O'Brien







FINALIST JG Design Studio, Jenny Gossow; Builder, McMillan Construction Group, Lisa Davis; Okaw Valley Woodworking

If there is one word that describes the design intent for this new space it would be sanctuary. The homeowner was craving a personal space all her own. After experiencing loss and illness during COVID, this newly retired mother of two adult daughters had lost "her" space. The goal was to repurpose a loosely finished basement area into a cozy den where she could put her feet up, read a book, watch a movie or work on her personal projects. The existing space was a near blank slate. The challenge presented — how do we create a study in a basement space that feels like it is part of the décor of the main house. Using custom millwork, casing and cabinetry, we provided ample storage for keepsakes and books. Scanners and printers tucked into cabinetry, classic wainscoting, perfectly curated lighting, grass cloth wallpaper, new wood-toned flooring and the owner's artwork and refurbished furniture combined to make this a very special space. The existing windows with ample drawer space for files below nicely frame the views out to the small garden and outdoor patio which also contribute to the healing nature of the space. *Not captured in the images is the new hallway with access to the patio that also includes custom cabinetry. *Photography by documodern llc*.





FINALIST Srote & Co., Kathleen Grim

The client owned many sports memorabilia pieces that we wanted to incorporate and give the overall space a cozy, lived-in yet club-y vibe. We incorporated darker moodier colors. The doors and trim all match the profiles of the rest of the house, but for this lower level, we opted for stained alder as the material instead of a painted finish. We mixed textures and masculine elements (wood timbers, tin ceiling, leather, etc.) with some softer fabrics on the pillows and swivel chairs, as well as some brighter fabric choices to create balance and harmony from the space being too heavy on masculine energy. We wanted to lean into the game functions (poker table, pool table, golf simulator) in the space but also make it inviting for hanging out and having conversations. We designed a stained cabinetry piece to highlight the client's collection of unique glassware with an arch feature along with antique glass backsplash and glass shelving. Lighting played a huge role in this space, having a warm vibe without feeling like a dark hole. Accent lighting in the cabinetry, under the wood top overhang and decorative fixtures, partners with the recessed can lighting to build a multi-layered lighting experience. *Photography by Megan Lorenz*





The powder room has a surprise. It's weird, other worldly, out of place. The scale is off. It's heavy but floats. Rough wood contrasts the smooth porcelain. How did it get here?

The powder room has a surprise. Her brother gave her a log. Their father planted the pin oak tree 60 years past. It grew large. The gall wasp did the tree in. The tiny insect killed the massive tree.

The powder room has a surprise. It's unnecessary. It supports only the sink and mirror. It is necessary. Expression is the function of a detail.

Sustainability: Existing damaged wood was recycled and kept out of the waste stream. Photography by Carmen Troesser

WINNER C&M Interiors

This home office was designed as a warm, moody retreat tailored specifically for the client — a space that balances functionality with refined, masculine style. Rich materials like a wood-clad ceiling, custom built-ins, and grass cloth walls set a cozy yet elevated tone. Thoughtfully selected furnishings offer both comfort and sophistication, while personal touches, including the client's own taxidermy, bring character and individuality to the space. The challenge was to create a room that felt personal and grounded while maintaining a cohesive flow with the rest of the home. Completed in 2025, the result is a tailored and timeless environment made for focus, relaxation and style. Photography by Corey Hogrefe Photography



FINALIST Stückenschneider Decoration and Design,

Ken Stückenschneider

This little jewel of a powder room is full of natural light with two corner windows, allowing the countryside views of the meadows to infiltrate the small room. An antique English mahogany and gilt mirror was suspended by brass decorative chain above the open marble-topped brass-legged console sink to add old world country charm to a new world convenience room. A hand painted landscape mural by artist Susan Harter wraps the room and is reflected back into the mirror. Lilac paint below the chair rail often reflects the color of the sky views and colors beyond, completing the enchanting space. *Photography by Alise O'Brien*







FINALIST JML Interior Design, Jeanne Lashmett; Builder Bull Dog Remodeling, Brian Looney

The assignment was to create a laundry room that was much more user friendly and functional than the current one, which had many issues. Those included an ironing board that was not functional, a washing machine and dryer that were separated from each other and a sink whose layout made it very difficult for the homeowner to wash her dog. It also was not aesthetically pleasing and very outdated as far as the finishes go. Challenges included relocating the plumbing so that the new washer and dryer could be placed side by side to allow for an area to fold and sort clothes. The bar used for drying clothes was also located in an area that did not make sense so a new area had to be created to allow for additional folding, storage and hanging of clothes. The ironing board location was inefficient and a new area had to be created so that ironing could be done with ease. Another important challenge was incorporating the homeowner's desire for a jazzy vibrant feel in the room with a Great Gatsby-era vibe instead of the current simple craftsman style.







WINNER Srote & Co., Architect Robert Srote and Heather Helms; Builder, Triumph Construction

A stunning 845-square-foot pool house was designed to create a complementary structure of the main residence to expand living space and functionality. The pool house addition provides an area for the whole family to enjoy while relaxing at the pool or simply spending time outside watching the game or hosting a gathering. The retractable screens on three sides allow for the luxury of creating your own atmosphere. Adjusting from wide open when enjoying the daytime pool activities and down in the evening while watching the game and keeping the bugs out. One of the most notable design elements of this pool house is the beautiful wood ceiling that runs the length of the structure, providing warmth against the white board and batten, natural stone fireplace and flagstone flooring. Considering the smaller living space, we visually expanded it by using the same elements throughout, allowing one to view the structure as a single environment versus smaller, compartmentalized spaces. Interior design of the pool house included all cabinetry designs, material selections including paint and stain, cabinetry, countertops, flooring, lighting, plumbing, art and accessories, furnishings and area rugs and all hardware. Photography by Ashley Gieseking







FINALIST Kelly Johnson Designs, Kelly Johnson; Builder, Sitelines; Architect, Mademan Design

The goal for the outdoor living areas of this glass house was to create a seamless, integrated flow from indoor to outdoor living. Large format tile flooring, which begins at the front walk, runs throughout the first floor and continues through the zero threshold doors onto the pool deck, outdoor kitchen, bedroom porch and pavilion, fusing the indoor-outdoor spaces. The home's accordion doors and retractable screens at all covered porches further enable the blurring of lines between the interior and exterior living experiences of this home. The architecture's clean lines are softened by the organic shapes and textures of the furnishings, which include a blend of wicker, stone and wood elements that provide a textural contrast while maintaining a cohesive aesthetic. The use of neutral tones, soft blues, creams and natural wood hues creates a serene environment, allowing the vibrant greenery, bold architecture and the blue of the pool to stand out as natural focal points. All of the pleasure points are included in this outdoor experience.....gathering sofas by the pool, cozy firepit seating after dark, sunrise coffee off the primary bedroom porch, sunbathing lounges and a full kitchen and bar to service covered dining by the house or in the pavilion, where hanging porch swings offer a seat in front of the fireplace. *Photography by Alise O'Brien*





FINALIST Architextures, SP, Mia Maddock

Set high above the banks of the Mississippi River, this 2,000-square-foot pool pavilion redefines luxurious outdoor living. Designed to celebrate the natural landscape while connecting seamlessly to the existing home, the pavilion blends bold entertaining elements with cozy retreat spaces — all positioned to frame breathtaking panoramic views and eagle watching. The design was driven by a client who entertains year-round, from relaxed poolside gatherings to football nights under the stars. At its heart is an open-air sunken living room anchored by a 98-inch TV and flanked by two sculptural laser cut metal fire columns — custom-designed to glow without blocking views, creating a dramatic focal point day or night. Adjacent to this vibrant hub is a quieter sitting room, perched a few steps higher, around a full-height stone fireplace, offering a cozy hideaway that remains visually connected to the landscape and larger gathering space. One of the pavilion's defining architectural features is its movable glass wall system in the upper sitting area. A resort-style 35,000-gallon pool with a sun shelf invites lounging and conversation, while a custom whirlpool spa cascades elegantly into the main pool, offering a waterfall sound and movement. Three fire-and-water bowls punctuate the scene with flickering drama and balance. The true showstopper, however, is the fully integrated swim-up bar. Equipped with two draft beer taps, a kegerator, undercounter refrigerator drawers, ice machine and generous granite counter space and stainless-steel cabinets, the two-sided bar serves both swimmers and guests lounging poolside — making it the centerpiece of summertime entertaining.



The Goto Place For GATHER. Holiday Shopping SHOP.



TOFFEE TO GO CHOCOLATE ALMOND TOFFEE

A classic toffee upgraded with high quality dark chocolate and almonds that give you an irresistible savory sweet, leaving everyone wanting more.









ZOFIA DAY JEWELRY

Designed by Lisette Polnys in Los Angeles, Zofia Day jewelry is designed for those unwilling to let the magic of life pass by unnoticed.

BALSAM & CEDAR CANDLE TRIO GIFT SET

Three frosted glass candles sit inside a beautiful box with hand painted art and pops of gold foil. Grounded in rich oak moss with a heart of fir needle kissed with warm cinnamon.





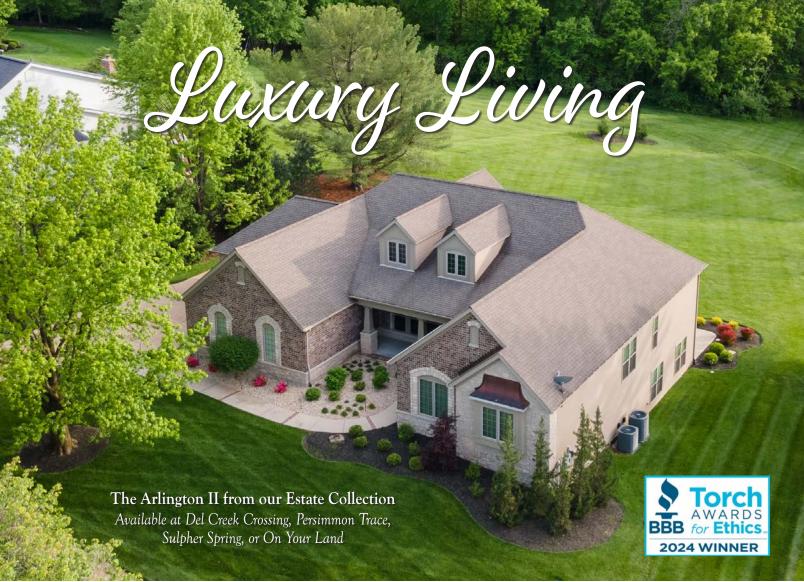
SCAN TO KEEP UP WITH **OUR HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS**



SPECIALTY PROVISION BOX

Perfect for grazing, gifting, or elevating any gathering. This box is designed for those who savor the art of hosting.

HOLIDAY HOURS NOV. 29 - DEC. 23 | MON.- FRI. 10-7PM, SAT. 10-6PM & SUN. 12-5PM | DEC. 24 10-3PM 9640 Clayton Rd. | 314.567.SOUL | @shophearthandsoul | Hearthandsoul.com









Fischer & Frichtel is a local, family owned company, founded in St. Louis in 1945. We build stunning new homes and detached villas in master-planned communities, intimate enclaves or On Your Land. We are known for our legendary quality, on-staff carpentry team, outstanding customer service, and wide range of new home designs and options. If you don't have time to build, take a look at our Move-In Ready homes! Call or visit us today. You will love the Fischer & Frichtel experience.

FandFHomes.com



314-283-6510

FOPE

ALL IN ME OLIVIA COOKE PHOTOGRAPHED BY CAMILLA ÅKRANS



Chesterfield ______
Jewelers



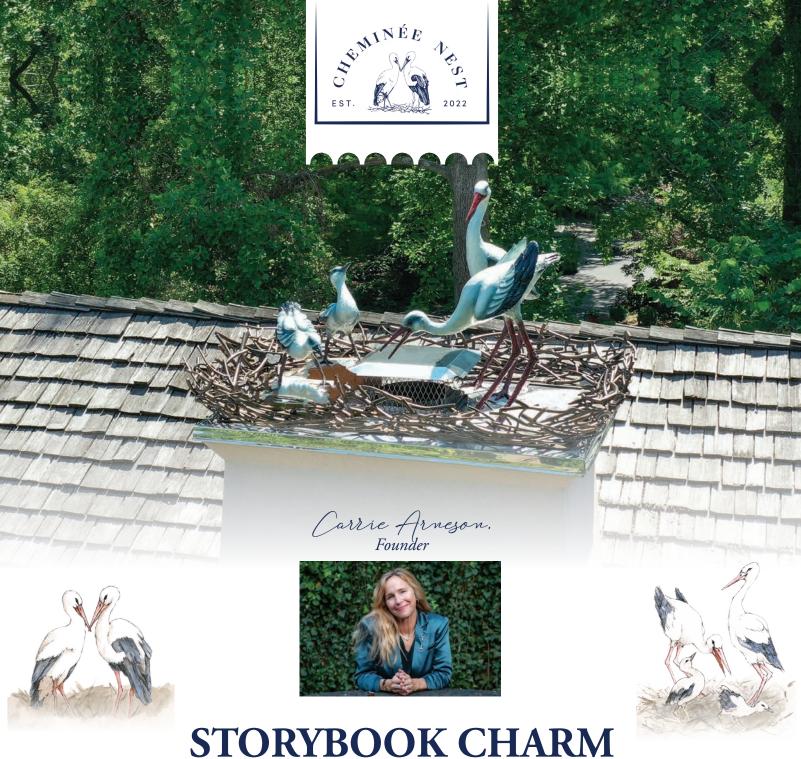






WINNER Lawrence Group

Our team recently completed design work for renovations to public areas at the St. Louis Airport Hilton Inn, delivered as part of a strategic new dual-branding concept for operator Lodging Hospitality Management and coordinated to seamlessly integrate with a newly constructed Hampton Inn expansion on the property. As the Architect of Record as part of the property's overall repositioning, our team provided design guidance and facilitated construction documents, planning/zoning, permitting and construction administration. Key goals of the renovation included improving sight lines and natural lighting throughout the common spaces, as well as accentuating the guest arrival experience in the hotel. Low-height partitions were removed towards the entrance to increase daylight and visibility into the lobby, while a former elevated planter was replaced with functional upholstered banquette seating. Faced with the unique challenge of ensuring the newly renovated public areas would be suitable for two distinct hotel concepts, the design team identified consistent design materials in format porcelain panels with variegated veining and medium-stained walnut, which thread together the reception/lobby, restaurant/buffet, market and bar areas. Stained wood screen walls also provided visual appeal and functional separation between the public areas. Further site improvements included improved pedestrian circulation, reinvigorated landscape architecture and ADA accessibility provisions.



STORYBOOK CHARM from the far-off lands of Northern Europe

Cheminee Nest brings your home to life with these beautiful bronze sculptures. Inspired by the Alsace region of France where the beautiful Storks reside on chimney tops. Scattered about, throughout the towns, they are known to bring prosperity and good fortune to the homes of which they choose to live.

> 5 different set design's available. All hand-casted bronze

STIFEL

WHERE SUCCESS MEETS SUCCESS

MISSOURI

Chesterfield | Clayton | Festus Frontenac | O'Fallon | St. Louis

ILLINOIS

Alton | Edwardsville | O'Fallon | Waterloo

(314) 342-2000 | www.stifel.com







WINNER SPACE Design + Construction, Shelley Niemeier

Our assignment was taking a restaurant into a gray-box space in an existing mid-rise building with a challenging column grid and ensuring it would run like a Swiss watch; with seamlessly arranged seating for over 200 diners and incorporating an expansive kitchen and the complicated mechanical system that went along with it. The resulting restaurant is a beautiful, comfortable place for guests and staff. The finished floorplan delivered a space to please any diner: a cozy dining room just off the reception area; a vibrant bar; a semicircular "patio" room that can be closed off from the bar via a NanaWall system; a large secondary dining room; and a wine room for small private parties. Our client wanted an approachable yet elevated dining experience to suit both regulars and guests celebrating special occasions. The design naturally flowed from the triangular-shaped floorplate. We landed on a palette of walnut, blue and stone with organic-patterned carpet and Italian large-format floor tiles in a stylized wood pattern for the bar and circulation paths. All of the dining areas were planned with acoustical treatments, both seen and unseen: the wood slat panels are acoustic, as are the black-clad beams in the patio. There is also a hefty layer of mineral wool on top of the ceiling clouds in the bar. The wine room features a wall of Nero Marquina marble and the client opted to leave the fissures unfilled for character. Flanking the doors of the wine room are custom-made glass wine storage walls: the left side has been conditioned for white wine and the right side for red wine. The kitchen features a 36-foot-long hood and perhaps the nicest space we've designed for kitchen staff. The client insisted on stainless steel wall cladding. The flooring is a self-coving heat-welded product that offers staff a slightly cushioned feel and no pesky grout lines for easy cleanup at the end of the night. Overhead lighting is 90 CRI, so the food will look amazing when it is served in the dining room. Much of the mechanical equipment is on the roof or in a remote equipment crib behind the restaurant.









FINALIST Lawrence Group, Dana Peck

Basso on the Plaza is the second location for the Basso restaurant concept, adapting the original subterranean location at the Cheshire Inn for a new street-level setting at Westport Plaza. From the outset, the design team knew that the fundamental differences between the two sites would require a truly thoughtful approach to retain Basso's unique character. The new Basso embraces more open space and abundance of natural light compared to the original location. Diverse seating options were introduced, such as around a custom indoor fireplace, generous lounge area and flexible private dining for larger groups. The updated design palette retains the core Basso mood while embracing lighter, more neutral tones. This offers a more consistent feeling throughout the day as the space is affected by changing daylight. Extensively curated artwork and finishes provide an old-world ambiance within the modern build. Strategic lighting in the airy space highlights unique design vignettes, inviting guests to further take in the details over the course of a meal. At Basso on the Plaza, Lawrence Group honored the tone and warmth of the original location while tuning the concept for its new street-level footprint. Updated finishes, revamped layout and a softer sense of lighting are thoughtfully balanced to retain the core Basso experience; an intimate meal with an authentic sense of atmosphere.

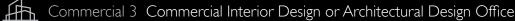






FINALIST Architextures SP, Mia Maddock

This interior renovation transformed an aging country club into a contemporary destination by thoughtfully blending modern aesthetics with budget conscious materials and solutions. The project aimed to refresh the club's overall ambiance, enhance lighting and acoustics and optimize spatial layouts to support casual, bar and fine dining experiences to attract younger members. Key focus areas included the main lobby, Grille, ballroom, private event spaces and the women's locker rooms. The reimagined bar and lounge now open to show off breathtaking views of the 18th hole. Fit with updated finishes and custom laser cut metal lighting, the space now offers enhanced flexibility and visual impact. Adjacent library spaces were also revitalized to better accommodate private functions and intimate gatherings. In the Grille, spatial planning played a pivotal role. To clearly define zones for casual dining, bar activities and formal dining, the bar was relocated from the entryway to the center of the room, significantly expanding its footprint and establishing it as the social heart of the space. Acoustic upgrades including sound resistant folding glass partitions, acoustically backed wood slat ceiling treatments and upholstered wall panels ensure an elevated auditory experience without compromising the aesthetic. Custom lighting was used as a key design element over the bar to create a wow" factor using laser cut metal to shape mood and define space. In the main lobby, a suspended installation of metallic and glass rods accented by precise spotlighting creates a striking, cost effective, yet sculptural, focal point. Layered lighting schemes were implemented across all areas to support both atmosphere and function.













WINNER HOK, Molly Mastin

This new corporate headquarters marks a shift in the company's workplace strategy, moving from a dedicated suburban campus to a dynamic, multi-tenant urban setting in the heart of Clayton. Spanning 50,000 square feet across three floors — including two at the top and one at the ground level flanking the building's central lobby — the new space is designed for an inclusive office experience in a hybrid work world. The design goals were centered around attracting employees and visitors back to the office through an inspiring physical environment rather than policy mandates. The new headquarters prioritizes openness, flexibility and hospitality — creating an inviting atmosphere that supports collaboration, focused work and social engagement. These goals informed every aspect of the design, from space planning and lighting to finishes and layout. Creative use of the multi-floor footprint transformed the challenge of non-contiguous levels into an asset. Each floor serves a different but connected function, contributing to a dynamic experience throughout the office. The design embraces the building's context, activating the ground level to connect with the central lobby while leveraging the top floors for expansive views and daylight. Space planning was intentionally people centered. All enclosed rooms, aside from two executive offices, are shared and placed inboard, ensuring that natural light and tree-canopy views are preserved for all employees. A range of seating options and workplace "neighborhoods" allow staff the autonomy to choose how and where they work. These areas support both formal meetings and informal interactions, reinforcing a sense of connection among employees and elevating the visitor experience.







WINNER Architextures SP, Mia Maddock

The interior renovations of this newly completed bank branch redefine the traditional banking experience with a design that is equal parts refined and welcoming. The client sought to carry forward the elevated aesthetic of its recently renovated headquarters into a new environment, one that could confidently reflect the sophistication of its surroundings while supporting both everyday transactions and high-touch client engagement. The result is a space that blends hospitality and function, wrapped in a palette of rich textures and timeless materiality. At the core of the design is a soaring two-story atrium that greets clients with natural light and visual clarity. Anchoring the space is a gracefully curved teller pod, strategically positioned to align with dual entry points for ease of access and visibility. Above, custom circular soffits with integrated lighting create a sense of hierarchy and intention. A sculptural wood slat wall wraps the teller zone, concealing a discreet entertainment area behind —perfectly suited for private events and client hosting. The public-facing banking zone at the front transitions smoothly into more intimate areas. Glass-front offices provide a balance of transparency and discretion, supporting focused conversations without sacrificing daylight. Toward the back of the suite, a large, fully equipped conference room and a residentially inspired breakout area offer space for longer meetings or informal gatherings. An employee breakroom tucked in the rear corner serves as a quiet retreat, with direct access to the parking garage.









FINALIST Oculus, Inc.

This project transformed two floors of mixed-use space, formerly housing a restaurant and bar, into an immersive retail destination for a global sporting goods brand. The flagship extends beyond the sale of merchandise, celebrating the brand's deep connection to baseball and its visibility as a St. Louis-based company since 1887. Solutions to merge two tenant spaces into a cohesive, stadium-like atmosphere included extending the storefront 20 feet, adjusting patio elevations and creating a 26-foot-by-26-foot vertical opening between floors, anchored by a grand staircase that unifies the space and serves as a visual focal point. The design concept focused on stadium-inspired design elements – open, exposed levels, polished concrete, black fencing, woodgrain textures and a dynamic LED scorecard ribbon between floors – transporting visitors to a nighttime baseball game. Red and white accents capture the leather and stitching of the classic baseball and glove, tying in the brand's iconic visual identity as you move throughout. Custom display cases filled with artifacts, an interactive timeline of milestones and moments in baseball history and wall graphics celebrating the company's craftsmanship build excitement and a sense of discovery. Two floors of merchandise fully immerse shoppers in the brand, including nearly 200 baseball gloves displayed across two walls and illuminated with custom lighting and the Bat Zone lounge, offering hundreds of bats for shoppers of every age and skill level. Adding a batting cage in a mixed-use facility introduced acoustic concerns. Soundproofing solutions included insulated wall cavities, isolated drywall framing, acoustic panels, high-STC ceiling tiles and coverings over penetrations. Astroturf and carpeting further reduced sound transmission while enhancing the look and feel of a ballfield. *Photography by Karen Palmer Photography*







FINALIST CORE10 Architecture

This project included renovating an existing three-story building, a below-grade garage level expansion, facade upgrades and extensive site improvements. The design concept was to transform this mid-century delight into a jewel in a garden. The former surrounding parking lot was removed to expand the below-grade garage and present a new brick paver plaza for the street on its roof. The brick patio wall holds the edge and ties the three adjacent buildings, also owned by the client, into a cohesive campus. The building's presence is enhanced by shifting the plane of the curtain wall out to the edge of the roof line. The clear glazing provides an atrium space that unites and surrounds each floor's perimeter. The interior is composed of custom metalwork detailing, terrazzo floors and walnut doors and trims.



Experience personal service and explore our distinctive collection of semi-precious, onyx, quartzite, marble, granite and other stones from around the world.

TWORIVERSSTONE.COM

Mon - Fri 8:30 to 4:30 Sat 9-noon or by appointment John Howell, President 314.369.1788 john@tworiversstone.com 9215 Dielman Industrial St. Louis, MO 63132







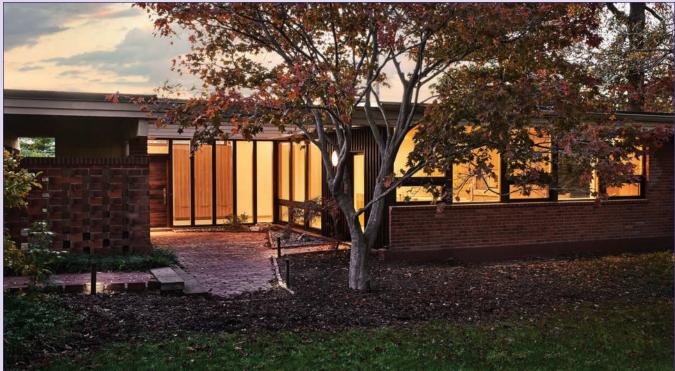




WINNER Lawrence Group, Designer Dana Peck, Architect Greg Trost

One Foundry Way marks the latest chapter for City Foundry STL, bringing the first market-rate, high-rise apartment to Midtown St. Louis in nearly half a century. The mixed-use development, which serves as a gateway entry to City Foundry along South Vandeventer Avenue, features eight levels of luxury apartments anchored by two outdoor amenity decks, six floors of structured parking and 12,500 square feet of street-level retail. Incorporating high-end design was central to the project goals, with the feeling of "luxury" defined by the experience upon entering the building. Staff welcome guests and residents from the striking reception desk, while the vibrant lounge area invites visitors to gather and unwind, incorporating biophilic design elements such as a preserved moss wall throughout the space. Hospitality was key in defining luxury, informing many of our final design decisions. The robust onsite amenities (including features like an elevated outdoor pool, gym, chef's kitchen and dog run) provide multiple opportunities for residents to engage with neighbors and guests while furnishing variety from typical residential settings. The highly designed apartment units maximize the efficiency of the spaces and include conveniences such as in-unit washer/dryers and an access control key fob entry system for added security. One Foundry Way serves as a design showpiece while reflecting the vibrant style displayed throughout City Foundry. Residential units are located in two offset glass masses, creating a playful relationship between the amenity decks and building structure at large. The floor-to-ceiling glass exterior affords 360-degree views to the surrounding metro area, placing residents in the thriving heart of St. Louis.











WINNER Studio Lark, Jessica Senne; Builder, Barron Construction

This mid-century modern residence — originally completed in 1960 by esteemed St. Louis architect Isadore Shank — underwent an extensive renovation to update the existing, tired interior. The design concept endeavored to preserve Shank's signature architectural vocabulary while appropriately upgrading the residence for contemporary living. The completed residence expresses contextually appropriate, optimized interiors while simultaneously preserving the architectural character of the original residence. Renovations were concentrated on the ground floor kitchen/living/dining areas and aimed to bring openness and connectivity to these previously compartmentalized spaces. Interior walls were surgically removed with beams that seamlessly integrate into the original latticed structure, providing spaces that are generous and airy. Several exterior walls were entirely rebuilt with Douglas fir glazing systems to bring added natural light to the interior and restore the entry facade in rich, stained wood. Neutral terrazzo floors were installed throughout the kitchen and dining areas, further enhancing the feel of flow and connectivity and offering a nod to materials appropriate to the residence's era. Rich walnut cabinetry, bright white walls and classic modern lighting complete the aesthetic, contributing to the inviting and cozy atmosphere of the home. Designs for the renovation preserved the most celebrated Isadore Shank details, including the living room's colorful window wall — evocative of Mondrian-inspired graphic compositions — as well as the durable and textural Tectum ceiling panels. The masonry fireplace that grounds the living area was reclad in black granite, providing a fresh aesthetic that quietly pays deference to the expansive red brick wall. The completed effect is a sensitively renovated residence where lines between old and new are blurred. *Photography by Ashley Gieseking*







FINALIST Nistenhaus Design, Michael Wyrock

Updating a World's Fair home to accommodate the needs of a modern family posed a unique challenge to respect the original architecture and period touches while providing spaces that would allow personal reflections of the clients' personalities — or client's personality. A total reconfiguration of the back of the house resulted in several small rooms becoming a spacious and light-filled kitchen that would look perfectly at home being viewed from the original wood floor foyer. Converting an underutilized second floor parlor into a primary bathroom with an adjoining bedroom allowed for more privacy from the rest of the house. Thoughtful consideration was given to the lighting scheme throughout all levels, creating better opportunities for displaying the homeowner's again — plural homeowners' or singular art collection and better highlighting the home's original woodwork. Saturating the home with color and pattern paid homage to the original exuberance the space was created for, allowing each room to have its own identity. A restoration of the stone facade and complete rebuild of the white terracotta roof gave the exterior the opportunity to shine and protect the structure for another hundred years.







FINALIST C+M Interiors, Maria Hogrefe, Channing Krichevsky

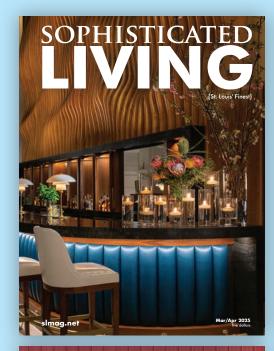
This project involved the renovation of a historic home's kitchen, butler's pantry, sunroom and powder room, designed to reflect the client's French heritage and love for warm, European-inspired interiors. The intent was to blend natural materials — like white oak cabinetry and unlacquered brass — with refined, old-world details to create a space that feels both timeless and inviting. Historic renovation brought its share of challenges, from preserving character to navigating structural surprises. The result is a serene, soulful home that honors its past while feeling effortlessly lived-in and beautifully layered. Completed in 2025, the design feels personal, elegant and enduring. *Photography by Alise O'Brien*

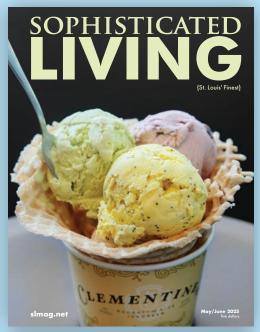


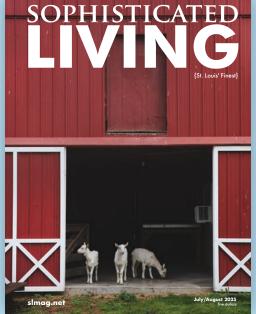
Fine Catering · Curated Service · Wow-Worthy Details

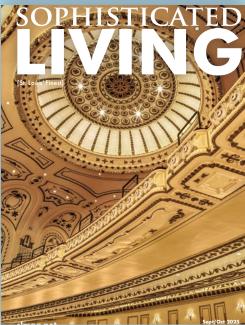


{St. Louis' Finest}











Dielmann | Sotheby's TED WIGHT 40 Upper Ladue Road 314.607.5555 tedwightrealestate.com 2.38 Acres. Designed by Carl Safe. © 2025 Sotheby's International Realty. All Rights trademark and used with permission. Each Sotheb operated, except those operated by Sotheby's Intomissions, changes including price or withdrawal served. Sotheby's International Realty® is a registered International Realty office is independently owned and national Realty, Inc. All offerings are subject to errors, nout notice. Equal Housing Opportunity. Dielmann Sotheby's International Realty dielmannsothebysrealty.com | 314.725.0009











WINNER Mariposa llc, Joanne Larimore

The homeowners' intention was to complement the interior renovation they had just completed with an equally stunning landscape, forging a beautiful and peaceful sanctuary for their future together. They presented several issues and challenges for us to resolve. The most intensive being that much of the property had been shut off to them, both visually and physically, by the original landscape design. Initially their main priority was focusing on creating a beautiful landscape to surround their much used and loved veranda and patio. We expanded on that idea, offering a solution that opened up and reclaimed all of their land, creating glorious gardens that flowed throughout, connecting all spaces to each other and celebrating the reawakening of the entire property. Another challenge was that the side entry approach was disconcerting. We reimagined the space as a courtyard with a European flare, including a designated crushed limestone parking area away from the sideentry porch. The last major issue was that poor drainage conditions had eliminated their backyard from being useable in any meaningful way. Conscientious and precise re-grading developed the entire area into a beautiful sweeping lawn and calming green space that now sheds water naturally. *Photography by Suzy Gorman*





WINNER CORE10 Architecture

To enhance our architectural and interior design work, we created custom furniture pieces for M1 Bank that reflected the project's themes. Bank vault items and visuals were used, such as locks, gears and levers. The boardroom table recalls the visual of solar panels, which is in reference to one of the bank's biggest investment clients. The palette of materials, colors and textures has been refined over three projects for M1, allowing us to further develop the design language we established for their brand.



WINNER Saint Louis Tables, Phil Kellermann

This table was designed to serve two purposes - everyday dining for a family of four and to host large gatherings seating up to 16. In its smallest form, it's a 56-inch round table with four turned legs. To fully extend, it receives five 22.5-inch leaves bringing it to 168.5 inches about 14 feet. When extended, an extra turned leg is installed in the middle for support. One of the main challenges of this design was placing the four legs so that everyone could sit comfortably when the table was completely condensed.





FINALIST Goebel & Company Furniture, Martin Goebel

The Pershing Oval is a reorganization of Art Nouveau and Queen Ann styling merged with a desire to use a center oculus as a portal to the unused space at the center of tables, especially beneath them. This focal point location negates the use of the volumetric space beneath the table. The Pershing Oval oculus reclaims that space for light penetration illuminating the base as well as creating opportunity for vessels to hang from the surfaces, contrary to stand table/centerpiece termination at the surface of the tabletop. Matching directional lighting pendant and blown glass vessels are the start of the complimentary product offerings.

FINALIST Murphy & Moore Design, Katherine Moore

This custom hutch is painted in a high-gloss golden yellow lacquer that brings a vibrant, joyful energy to the space. Its formality is balanced by playfulness in color and softened by a paler yellow interior that adds dimensionality and depth. Arched dividedlight doors — with curved mullions reminiscent of Georgian transom windows — set the tone for the piece's architectural influence. Brass Cremone bolts and ring pulls were hand -selected and positioned with precision, adding jewelry-like detail that feels simultaneously historic and fresh. Inside, walnut-stained shelves provide rich contrast and support a thoughtfully curated blend of heirloom silver, crystal, china and everyday tableware. The hutch's counter height ensures functionality as a buffet or bar, while deep drawers below add ample storage without overwhelming the space. Every line and proportion of the hutch was calibrated to feel permanent, as though it was always meant to live here. Panel detailing wraps the flanking walls, while thick crown and base moldings tie into the architecture of the home. The piece enhances the room's scale, acting as both a visual anchor and a passageway feature that brings warmth and structure to what was once a transitional zone.





Antisemitism is on the rise. It is not just an attack on Jewish life, but an assault on the values we all hold dear. Hate does not stop at one door. When it threatens one community, it endangers us all.

Through the Jewish Federation of St. Louis' Community Security Initiative, we work tirelessly to keep our region safe. Security has never been more urgent or more costly. Every dollar invested in safety means fewer resources available for education, for the vulnerable, for a vibrant future.

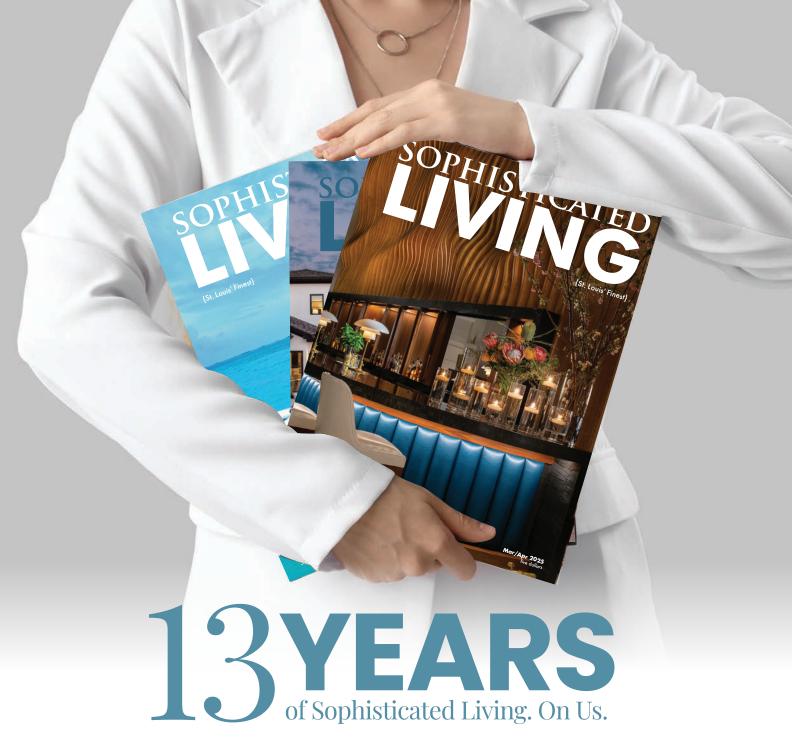
Your support makes the difference.

By giving to the Federation's Annual Campaign, you are not only protecting Jewish life—you are standing as an ally against hate. You are ensuring that children, families, and neighbors can gather, learn, and thrive without fear.

Stand with us. Stand against hate. Protect what matters most.







For over a decade, Sophisticated Living has landed in your mailbox—elegant, inspiring, and **free**.

Now, we're asking you to support the magazine you love.

If our stories, photography, and celebration of life well-lived have meant something to you, **become a subscriber today**. It's just \$25 a year—and it keeps independent publishing alive in St. Louis.

Subscribe now. Stay Sophisticated.

Or visit: Sophisticatedstlouis.com/subscribe



EVERYTHING

Closets

Wardrobes

Pantries

Laundry Rooms Murphy Beds

Bars



INITSPLACE

Coat Closets Garages & Mudrooms Home Offices

Commercial & Bookshelves













WINNER Arcturis, Amy Edwards

A beloved neighborhood institution, this independent community library recognized the need to expand its footprint and offerings to better serve both local residents and the surrounding region. Extensive engagement with the board, staff and patrons informed a design vision rooted in the library's mission: to provide a place for the community to connect, learn and grow; to foster a love of reading and lifelong learning; to ensure free and open access; and to celebrate knowledge, history and culture. The 16,000-square-foot project included the renovation of an existing 10,000-square-foot two-story building and a 6,000-square-foot addition. Serving as a dynamic new entry, the addition floods the interior with natural light and introduces welcoming spaces for public gatherings, teens and children. An outdoor courtyard extends the reading areas, offering a flexible venue for everything from play and dining to book clubs and community events. By retaining the existing structure, a former office space and parking garage, the design reduced demolition waste while honoring the building's history. The existing façade was maintained, with previous openings repurposed as circulation links between old and new. The primary architectural intervention is a central circulation spine, where portions of the second floor were removed to create a light-filled atrium connecting both levels. Strategically placed roof monitors draw daylight deep into the building, creating a bright and welcoming atmosphere. A cohesive material palette of concrete floors, white walls and warm white oak ties the spaces together. Each age group's zone retains its own identity through distinct furnishings and color accents, while cozy alcoves carved into the walls provide calm moments for reading and reflection. Flexible, movable furniture accommodates the diverse needs of the community and layered lighting solutions offer both aesthetic highlights and functional control. Acoustic treatments integrated into ceilings, alcoves and wall features ensure comfort for visitors of all ages.







FINALIST Mitchell Wall Architecture & Design, Michael Poetz

This residence is a thoughtful fusion of contemporary design and rural vernacular, situated in a landscape defined by water, stone and field. Though it is entirely new construction, the home is designed to appear as if it has evolved over time, adapting an original 19th-century stone barn — echoing the agrarian heritage of the surrounding region. This home is not just a shelter — it's a meditation on memory, material and the enduring beauty of the landscape. Rural forms are expressed through heavy masses of locally sourced fieldstone, grounding the home in its historical context. These elements are juxtaposed against crisp contemporary volumes clad in smooth zinc panels, creating a compelling dialogue between past and present. The composition is both familiar and new — respecting the memory of place while embracing a modern lifestyle. The nearby lake serves as a major design influence, inspiring a series of integrated water features that stitch the architecture back to the shoreline. Landscaping plays a critical role in the home's identity. Natural grasses are organized into regimented beds — offering a controlled, contemporary counterpoint to the wildness of the site and reinforcing the architectural tension between structure and nature. A hidden garden, accessed from the primary suite, provides a moment of quiet discovery. Bounded by a stacked-stone wall designed to appear aged and partially collapsed, it evokes the feeling of a long-lost ruin reclaimed by its owners as a private sanctuary.





FINALIST Mitchell Wall Architecture & Design, Tom Wall

Our Place is both an act of architecture and an act of resistance. Conceived by artist Ndume Olatushani — who spent 28 years in prison, including 20 on death row for a crime he did not commit — the project transforms a derelict structure in a red-lined St. Louis neighborhood into a space of return, reentry and renewal. The new architecture does not erase what stood before. Instead, it listens. The existing building's worn brick, patched walls and exposed scars are preserved as material testimony, anchoring the intervention in historical continuity rather than aesthetic erasure. Our Place is not a prototype or a monument. It is a living framework for spatial justice: a site where dignity, beauty and shared purpose reshape the architecture of reentry. Programmatically, the space is a hybrid: part community center, part educational studio, part transitional housing. Flexible interiors support workshops in cooking and art making, while also accommodating public events and community outreach. Above, modest residential units offer returning citizens a safe place to live and reorient. Instead of fences and fluorescent sterility, the building offers openness, warmth and texture. Transparency between uses fosters interaction without surveillance. Materials are local and tactile — salvaged brick, reclaimed wood and handmade tile created in collaboration with neighborhood artists. The facade is clad in custom metal panels derived from one of Ndume's paintings, transforming personal expression into architectural identity. This gesture is not symbolic — it is foundational. The building, like the man who imagined it, reclaims authorship and offers it to others. A mural representing prominent Black St. Louisans wraps the corner, serving as a reminder that this is a place to be proud of.

SOPHISTICATED TRAVELER

The Renaissance Revisited

Join me on a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for readers of Sophisticated Living St. Louis.

Even if you have been to Florence before, this is a 7- night/ 8-day deep dive into the lives and lifestyles of the most influential patrons of the arts in history.

Experience the best hotels, restaurants, gelato, private chefs, unique itineraries, guides, scholars, and shopping. Everything is curated by multi-generation Florentines.

With plenty of options, flexibility, free-time, walking and exercise, this trip will exceed every expectation. Our professional photographers will take amazing photos for you to remember the best trip of your life.

Please contact me if you have questions or to reserve your spot for the week of:

October 16th-23rd 2026

5-star accommodations: €12,000 per week per person 4-star accommodations: €10,000 per week per person

Does not include airfare. Everything else is included.

314-363-3333

craig@slmag.net



Photo credit: Matthew McFarland, mstudio west









WINNER Schaub Projects Architecture + Design, Andrew Schaub, Maggie Jewell

Situated on a 3-acre lot in Huntleigh, Missouri, this mountain home takes full advantage of its natural setting. Our design team carefully studied the property's existing features — including a serene pond and gently sloping hill — to determine the optimal orientation. This thoughtful positioning not only ensures privacy from neighboring properties but also creates carefully framed views of the surrounding landscape. One of our primary challenges was maintaining the authentic character of mountain homes while incorporating abundant natural light. The solution? Strategic window placement and architectural details that respect the rustic home's interior aesthetic while transforming its interior spaces. By incorporating elevated ceilings throughout, we were able to install dormer windows high on the walls, allowing natural light to cascade down into the living spaces below. The home's design radiates from a central core comprising the kitchen, dining area and family room — spaces that foster connection and daily living. Guests are welcomed by a dramatic entry foyer featuring a large masonry see-through fireplace and an elegant groin vaulted ceiling, setting the tone for the sophisticated yet warm atmosphere that pervades this mountain rustic house. Throughout the 7,000 square feet of living space, our team incorporated numerous distinctive features that elevate the home beyond the ordinary. Five bedrooms and six full bathrooms, plus three half baths, ensure ample space for family and guests. The music room, complete with its own fireplace, provides an intimate setting for entertainment while a dedicated wine room adds a touch of sophistication to the home's interior. This mountain rustic home stands as proof that natural beauty and modern comfort can coexist in perfect harmony.







FINALIST Designer C&M Interiors, Maria Hogrefe, Channing Krichevsky

This full-home renovation was designed with luxury, elegance and sophistication at its core, tailored to reflect the client's strong sense of style and fashion-forward taste. A dramatic blend of classic materials — like marble and brass — paired with bold modern art and eclectic furnishings brought striking contrast and personality throughout the home. The team collaborated closely with the architect, general contractor and trades to reimagine the layout and elevate every detail. Challenges included transforming the original 1960s floor plan to better suit modern living while preserving a sense of timelessness. The project was completed in 2023, resulting in a home that feels both refined and unapologetically expressive. *Photography by Alise O'Brien*





FINALIST Stückenschneider Decoration & Design, Ken Stückenschneider

A new English-style brick manor house with an attached stable carriage house sits right in the middle of old Saint Louis fox hunting and polo fields, allowing views of the countryside, hills and meadows out each window. Horses, American foxhounds and the owners feel right at home amidst the cabochon studded limestone floors, limed oak paneling and hand painted murals referencing the landscape outside. Candle-lit Georgian Irish crystal chandeliers, antique gilt mirrors and English mahogany furniture bounce the daylight off the bespoke silk and wool carpets incorporating the owners' pets in the intricate patterns. A large elegant great room spanning the entire length of the house allows for easy and relaxed gatherings; with its open floor plan incorporating an expansive bar niche and working kitchen with views to the stable yard right outside. Wrought iron balustrades lead upstairs to a luxurious primary suite anchored by a fantastical bed which is surmounted by a baldachin of French silk fabric originally commissioned by Marie Antoinette. English and Italian embroidered bedlinens assure a blissful night of sleep over this enchantingly designed realm. *Photography by Alise O'Brien*

AVALON PLACE Fantastic business/lifestyle opportunity! Ripe with potential for a new caretaker. The charm and grandeur of this property offer a canvas for conferences, retreats, weddings/receptions or other hospitality events. As you enter the hall through the large custom wood doors and walk thru the main floor, notice the exceptional woodwork and stained glass. The large stone fireplace at one end fills the hall with warmth. A second level mezzanine offers a second bar and additional seating. Six sets of east facing french doors lead to multiple levels of outdoor entertainment spaces overlooking the MS. River Valley. Set on 14+ acres of walking gardens, quaint paths and water features. An outdoor pizza kitchen is in addition the commercial kitchen attached to the hall. In addition to the hall, the property includes a 4 bed house with spectacular views of the valley and an "overlook" With an alter/stage for outdoor weddings or music. The possibilities are endless! Your vision can become reality!

LISTING PRICE

\$2,100,000



CEDAR CREST MANOR The amazing Cedarcrest Manor sits on 2.5 acres on the bluffs of Clarksville and overlooks the Mississippi River. Built in 1842 by Captain Benjamin Clifford, a prominent riverboat captain, Cedarcrest began its life as a plantation home and guickly became the archetype for a number of houses

> built in the Mississippi River Valley. This is a fantastic opportunity as a family home, corporate retreat location, or just your home away from home. The home is complete with 7 bedrooms, each with it's own full bath. The home has a commercial kitchen and an owners suite with it's own kitchen in the lower level. The private grounds feature Victorian gardens, a pool and pool house with changing rooms, a bathroom, and a fireplace. The property has an abundance of entertaining areas including upper and lower level patio areas. The home has most recently been used as a bed and breakfast and is

still configured as one or it's easily used as a residence. This is a must-see property.

LISTING PRICE

\$1,200,000

RACKHEATH HOUSE This is Rackheath! This wonderful home sits on the bluffs of the Mississippi River on 4+ acres with incredible views of the river valley. The home was built in 1860 and has been updated and re-sized

to accommodate todays lifestyle. The first floor has an amply sized living/dining combination, a green house w/hot tub and kitchen with center island. Additionally the first floor has a bedroom with it's own full luxury bath and a common sitting area. The second level has 2 more bedrooms each with it's own bath and a common area/sitting/tv room with incredible views on 3 sides. The large outdoor patio area has views of the grounds and are of an English garden, landscaped and manicured shrubs, pathways and statuary. Can you find the secret garden with the oversized chess set? This is a must-see property!

LISTING PRICE

\$775,000

Specific amenities apply to specific inns and rooms. If you ever have any questions or inquiries, don't hesitate to contact us or call us at 573.242.3838 Note: both 1NW at Cedarcrest Manor and Chauncey Room at The Rackheath House are ADA Compliant rooms.



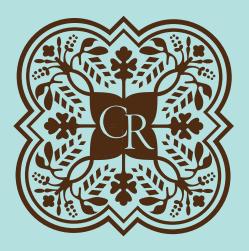




SINCE 2015, WE HAVE HELPED RAISE MORE THAN \$5-MILLION AND GARNERED MUCH NEEDED AWARENESS FOR ST. LOUIS NONPROFITS.

ON-LINE DONATIONS | MATCHES WITH CORPORATE DONORS
REPORTS ON GIVING TRENDS IN ST. LOUIS | ADVICE FROM DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS

SOPHISTICATED GIVING



There are more than 19,000 nonprofits in St. Louis. Sophisticated Giving helps them stand out.

IN THESE DIVISIVE AND UNPREDICTABLE TIMES, IT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER THAT WE SUPPORT ST. LOUIS' NONPROFITS TO ENSURE THEY BOTH SURVIVE AND THRIVE. BY STATING THE ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY, PURPOSE, GOALS, AND NEEDS, ORGANIZATIONS — FROM THE ARTS TO EDUCATION, PUBLIC WELFARE AND FAR BEYOND, YOU CAN LEARN MORE ABOUT THOSE GROUPS WHO ARE HELPING OUR CITY HELP OTHERS. THE STORIES THEY TELL EDUCATE US ON WHAT IS BEING DONE AND WHAT IS STILL NEEDED.

HELP US WRITE ANOTHER STORY

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAVORITE NON-PROFITS SO WE CAN FEATURE THEM
IN THE 2025 - 2026 SOPHISTICATED GIVING CHARITY REGISTER. AND PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING
SO WE CAN PROFILE AS MANY NONPROFITS AS POSSIBLE AT NO COST TO THE NONPROFITS.

THANK YOU













WINNER Schaub Projects Architecture + Design, Architect Dave Schaub; Designer Amy McCoy, McCoy Design Studio; Builder G. Terbrock

Our client came to us after acquiring a rural property that bordered a private lake. The idea quickly formed to build a long, shallow house across the width of a peninsula so that all of the interior spaces would have views of the lake. Knowing the client wished to blur the line between the interior and exterior, floor to ceiling glass was planned for each of the lake-facing walls. From the exterior, you can visibly identify the three main functions of the house as they are represented by the primary masses of the structural form, each capped with a mono-pitched, low-sloped roof structure. At the center of the main floor, a family room/kitchen greets you as you enter the front door. This space is flanked by the primary bedroom suite and home office. On the lower level, an entertainment space is centered between the workout studio and guest bedrooms. The lower-level entertainment space has a walk-out exit to the end of the peninsula where you can find the lake-side swimming pool and sunken firepit. As you stand at the end of the peninsula, surrounded by water on three sides and listening to the water splashing on the granite bank, you can't help but look back to the glass house on the lake and feel an overwhelming sense of tranquility. *Photography by Megan Lorenz*









FINALIST Marshall Watson & Reid Deane Ganes, Chouteau Building Group; Gunn + Smith Architects; Mainline Group Architects

Built in 1994, this residence was in need of a renovation that reflected the homeowner's personality and style. The original interior was heavy with dark colors and out-of-proportion rooms. This renovation softened the entire space with shades of off-white, lavender, pale blue and silver. Dark rooms were opened up with French doors and pale wood floors. The entry's double-height space needed a gentler touch, so the design included undulating carpets in plush grays and a honed limestone floor. The center table was commissioned by a sculpture artist to anchor the room. It is designed with a soft matte finish and an abstract spiral base that complements the curve of the sweeping stair. The entry is finished with contemporary wing chairs, Alex Katz portraits and an expressionistic chandelier. The kitchen was brightened with polished nickel bands framing the custom cabinetry and high-gloss gray cerused oak floors. The bar in the butler's pantry beautifully reflects the light with translucent quartzite countertops and a rippled, mirrored backsplash. Silvers and blues continue in the family room that showcases all custom furniture with the exception of the chairs. The walls are finished with handcrafted panels which conceal an inset TV and dimpled paper that create a feeling of comfortable glamour. The primary suite incorporates violets, aubergine, milky whites and silver to create continuity with the rest of the home. The custom bed is surrounded by layers of calming deep color tones with soft stone textures, accents of shagreen, polished nickel and brass. A custom open fireplace and coordinating inset TV frame are set into a central column of stone cladding. Invisible speakers and automated shades complete the calming features of the space. Other renovated spaces include a bar off the dining room, a lower level with guest suite and exercise room, three family bedroom suites, a boot room and powder room. *Photography by Luke White*

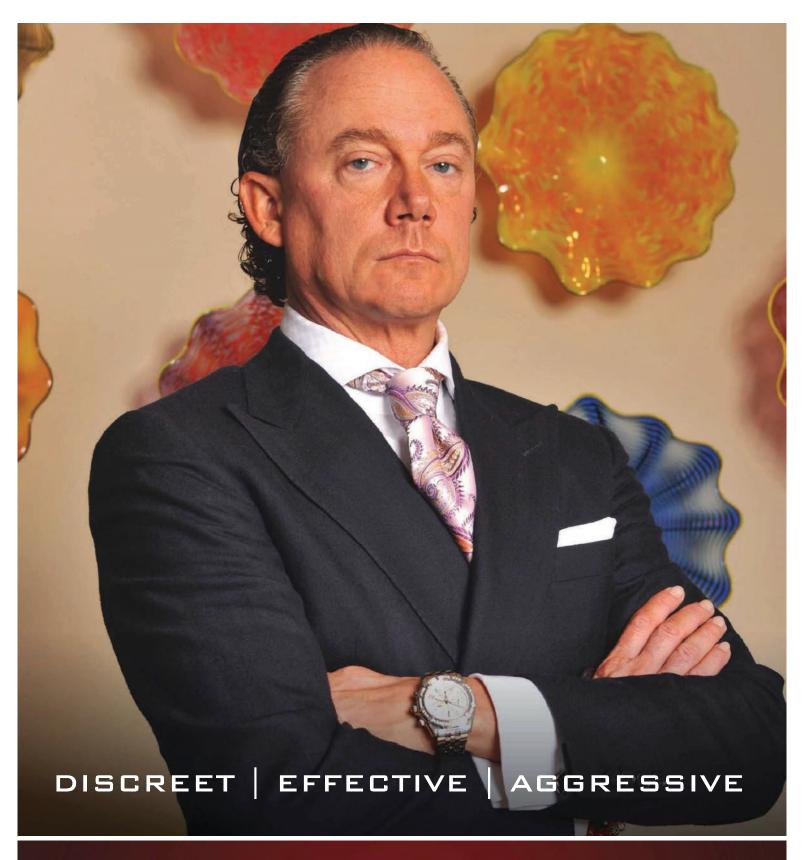






FINALIST Greenauer Design Group, Inc., Melissa Greenauer

The goal of the design project was to improve the flow and functionality of the home by combining the kitchen and dining areas, deleting the closed off traditional dining room from the floor plan and creating an open-concept floor plan to the great room, making this open floor plan home inviting for hosting guests to gather and still comfortable for a couple entering the next phase of life as empty nesters. The updates to the home included new flooring, finishes, fixtures, appliances, lighting, cabinetry and furniture. Opening up the floor plan presented challenges, such as aligning ceiling heights, optimizing lighting and ensuring the correct allocation of square footage between functional zones and decorative areas. The design style maintains many of the interior architectural elements of the home's original aesthetic. This was accomplished by adding a new furniture layout and furnishings to the main spaces, with tailor-made seating around a large-scale coffee table centered under a two-tier iron chandelier, which grounded the volume of the great room. This created a main space in the home conducive for gathering many people or stretching out to watch TV. The far side the main level is the living room, now arranged for entertaining conversations or putting your feet up to read. From the master suite to all corners of the main level there is a seamless flow of design elements. The home has a modern spin within the traditional framework, clean and contemporary and still rooted in tradition. Bold textural handmade elements throughout the spaces, from area rugs to throws and upholstery, bring interesting details that blend into the calm color palate. With pops of wow in the small space, the powder room stays balanced with a harmonious connection to the sophisticated overall design of the home, which meant every choice needed to be intentional. *Photography by Alise O'Brien*



TRAVIS NOBLE

SPECIALIZING IN DWI

314-721-6040 | WWW.TRAVISNOBLE.COM



CROGHAN HOME

Every detail carries the mark of old-world skill, meticulous joinery, enduring materials, and finishes that last. Paired with modern design and advanced techniques, we create spaces that feel both classic and current.

(314) 254-3484



314.629.3931 www.FinestHomesSTL.com

OVER \$500,000,000 IN CAREER SALES
CALL FOR OFF MARKET LISTING INFORMATION













SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2025 SOPHI AWARDS SPONSORS

The 2025 SOPHI Awards would not be possible without the vision and generosity of our sponsors who help us celebrate design excellence in St. Louis.

Your support shines a light on the architects, designers, builders, and artisans who elevate our community through beauty and innovation.





INTERIOR DESIGN CENTER

ST LOUIS











IN-KIND SPONSORS







PREMIER PLUMBING STUDIO





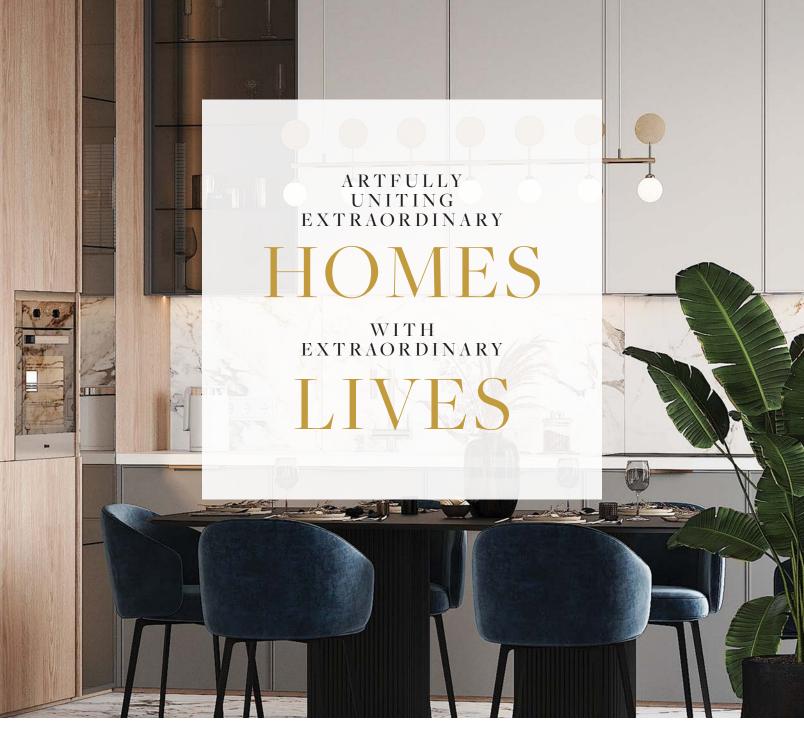




With heartfelt thanks for helping make this year's celebration of creativity and craftsmanship

truly unforgettable.





Our brand is known throughout the world for representing homes that embody the rich tapestry of varied lifestyles, distinct settings and diverse locales.

Where the utmost quality is considered intrinsic.

Where the essence of the extraordinary is defined.





With contemporary art galleries as your backdrop, catering by Idol Wolf and exceptional hospitality, 21c St. Louis offers an inspiring setting for holiday events, corporate meetings, and unforgettable celebrations.

Contact our sales team at stl.sales@21chotels.com

1528 Locust St, St. Louis, MO 63103 21cmuseumhotels.com/stlouis



