

5 **SIZZLERS** kitchen reinventions // **YARD ART** sculptural showcase // **COLOR CUE** espresso

# Detroit Home

HOW WE LIVE, WHERE WE LIVE

October - November 2016



## DREAM HOMES

LOOKING UP AFTER DOWNSIZING  
PLUS, A LUXE MASTERPIECE



### BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER

The pendant light is from Currey and Co. Lighting, while the sconces are from Robert Abbey Lighting. The backsplash ceramic subway tile is from Virginia Tile. The wallcovering in the kitchen is "Swan Lake" by Nina Campbell for Osborne & Little. As for the breakfast table, it was the couple's first furniture purchase (from Pottery Barn) 19 years ago. The table runner is a gift from one of the homeowner's parents, purchased during a trip to Stockholm. The pottery and ceramics on the table and mantel are by Jack Zender (the homeowner's son). The napkins and rings are from Sur la Table. The squirrel figurine, basket on the hearth, and cutting board are all from Downtown Home & Garden, Ann Arbor. Bistro chairs are from McGuire, upholstered in "Tally" by Tilton Fenwick for Duralee. The gold and white plates in the upper cabinets are from West Elm. The wallcovering in the dining room is "Mae Fern" by Nina Campbell for Osborne & Little. The etchings in the dining room are by an artist in Positana, Italy.

## Mid Century Makeover

This Ann Arbor kitchen is well done, thanks to just one structural change and several new design elements



**SMART MOVE:** Laura Zender, shown above, went with frameless cabinets to “give just that little bit of extra wiggle room on the interiors of the cabinets.” The flat front (a European look) provides additional storage space, which was on the couple’s priority list.

**BACKSTORY:** When Ann Arbor interior designer Laura Zender, of Laura Zender Design, first saw the home she now lives in with her husband and two children, she knew she had to have it. “The fireplace in the kitchen grabbed me,” Zender recalls. “We were in a bidding war and I just couldn’t let the house go — it was the fireplace that got me.” Zender, who has a 14-year-old daughter and 17-year-old son, has been renovating the home since the purchase. “We’re almost done — we’ve got the master and some exterior work, and then we’re done!” Her priority was to preserve the charm of the original 1955 Mid Century colonial floor plan. “I’m a bit of a preservationist at heart, so when working with an older home, I try to maintain the integrity but bring in what’s needed.” In the kitchen’s case, light and more storage space were must-haves.

**ALL ABLAZE:** “I just love the fireplace in the kitchen. We have it on every morning in the winter when we eat breakfast,” Zender says. She had the fireplace transformed into a gas unit — not only to make things easier, but also to cut down on coal emissions from burning wood.

**UNIFYING COLORS:** Zender selected a putty color — Benjamin Moore’s *Seapearl* — for the kitchen. In the dining room, the cabinets are a sage tone with a chocolate glaze, inspired by the sage-slate flooring in a three-season space. “With a renovation, colors should reappear from room to room so it feels a little cohesive.”

**LET THERE BE LIGHT:** Zender says many designers would probably blow out an entire wall, but she wanted to maintain the integrity of the original design. Between the dining room and kitchen, she created a pass-through (3-by-5-feet), which allowed for additional light and a full wall of storage on both the kitchen and dining room sides. The pass-through also created a direct sight line all the way through the home to a beautiful window in the living room.

**UNDER FOOT:** “We chose cement tiles (Cement Tile Shop) for the kitchen and entryway partly because they’re a ‘green’ product (the tiles cure, instead of being fired in a hot kiln that requires a lot of energy). They’re also really warm and soft underfoot.”

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— By Megan Swoyer

