

Fort Luxe

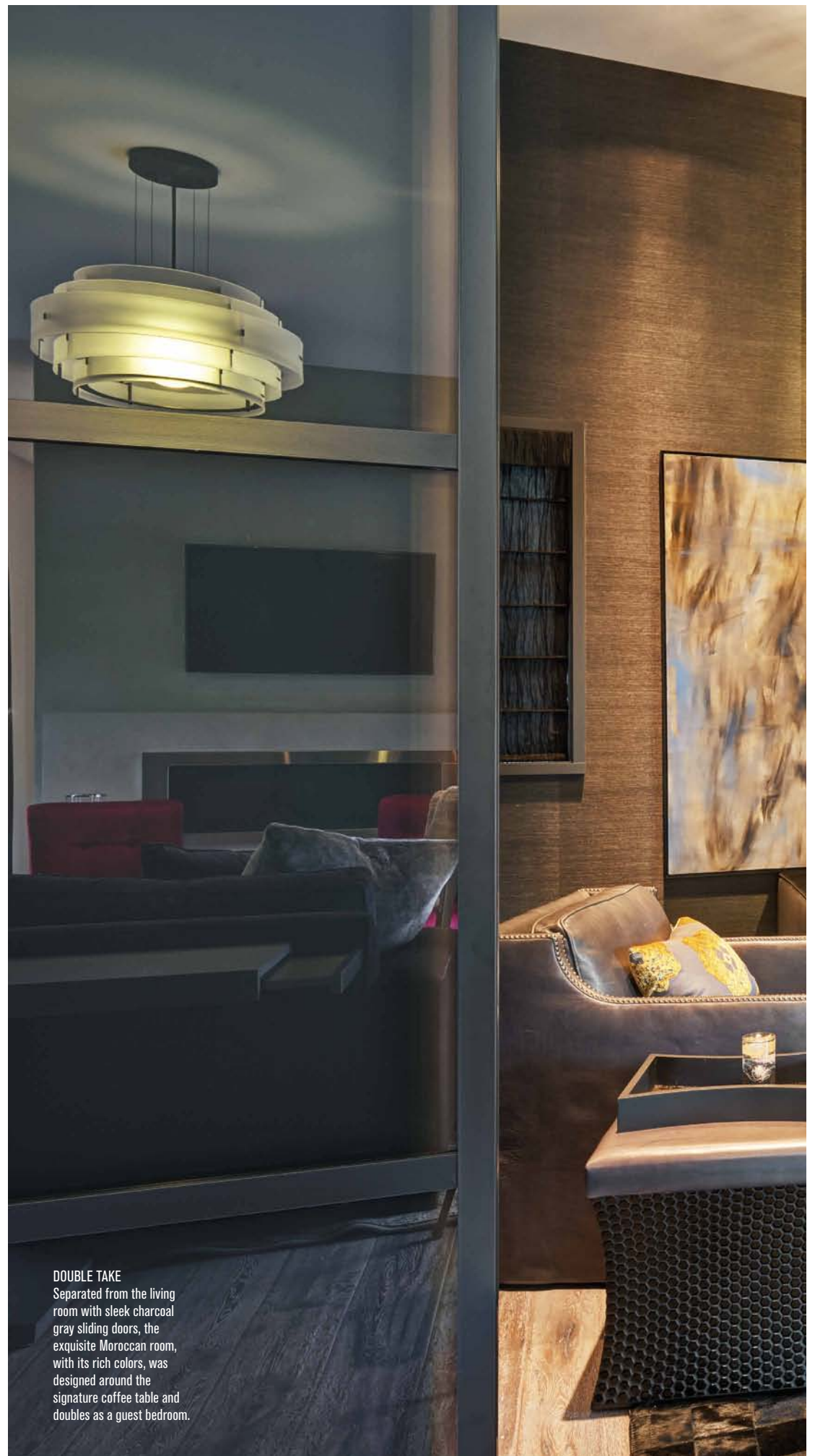
Within historic Fort Sheridan, new construction luxuries blend into the scenery.

| By Lauren Viera |
| Photography by Joel Schachtel |

For Highland Park-based designers Jamie Schachtel and Danielle Yucht, their latest client's prescription was spelled out in just two words: industrial chic.

"She really didn't have a lot of restrictions," Schachtel says of the homeowner, an independent middle-aged woman transitioning from a condo to a permanent dream home. She wanted open spaces to entertain extended family and built-in durability for her Labrador. That was it. "When she met us, we coined this house 'industrial chic,' so that's where we started with our inspiration," says Schachtel of the goals she and her team set. "We took it to a really nice level that's not too edgy, but we threw a lot of color into it and a lot of texture, and she's thrilled."

Though the client didn't have specific restrictions, the building site did. Located on a tear-down lot in Fort Sheridan, the landmark-protected Civil War army post straddling Highland Park and Lake Forest, the new-construction ranch came with strings attached: Historic preservation dictates maintaining the integrity



DOUBLE TAKE
Separated from the living room with sleek charcoal gray sliding doors, the exquisite Moroccan room, with its rich colors, was designed around the signature coffee table and doubles as a guest bedroom.





“[The owner] wanted some color; she wanted a bright shocking color, and we ran with it,” Schachtel explains.

of its original architecture—including new construction. “In order to conform to historic preservation regulations, the exterior of the home had to incorporate architectural details used in the original fort design in the 1890s by Holabird & Root,” says builder Glenn Gutnayer, founder and principal at Highland Park-based Glenn Gutnayer Custom Homes, who collaborated with architect Erik Johnson of Chicago’s Erik Johnson & Associates. “I found brick matching the originals that was manufactured with Fort Sheridan clay,” says Gutnayer. The finished house mimics the surrounding architecture so seamlessly, he adds, it fooled the pros. “Today, when you see the finished product, you cannot tell that the residence is new construction. During construction, the trades and inspectors would ask if it was a remodeling project.”

For designers like Schachtel, new construction means an opportunity to have a say in every detail, from the plumbing to the roofing materials. “When we are able to work on a house from the ground up, everything relates to each other,” explains Schachtel. “It’s nice. When I’m thinking of the floor for the laundry room, it works with the floor of the entire house—even the doorknobs.”

The interior design goal: Translate industrial chic into comfortable. Schachtel knew the client wanted edgier pieces, but also was interested in a nod to the past—and bold color. The solution was to integrate a few older pieces, but finish them with eye-catching edginess that would complement the home’s modern vibe. The airy kitchen’s booth seating, for instance, was designed around an antique pedestal table whose fluted base is vintage, and the new stainless steel tabletop is decidedly 21st century.

In the great room, a massive stone table with exposed screws is softened by fur pillows and luxe upholstery—all dark tones, accented by two shocking pink chairs and an armoire.



“They were the client’s idea,” Schachtel explains. “She wanted some color; she wanted a bright, shocking color, and we ran with it.” A softer pink is in the stunning amethyst bowl displayed on the stone table. There’s amethyst lining the base of the horizontal fireplace, too, adding unexpected sparkle and texture to the display of flames.

In fact, subtle texture is everywhere in the home, particularly on walls—from the cork paper in the foyer to the deep, romantic lavender linen paper in the powder room and a flashy metallic stone lining the guest bath. “Every paper in the house has a different texture to it,” says Schachtel, pointing out the office’s wallpaper, called Yesterday’s News, made of abstractly woven newsprint. “I like using texture, but not a lot of pattern. I’m not a

SITTING PRETTY

Above: The breakfast nook banquette pairs a custom designed booth and an antique pedestal table with a vintage fluted base and new stainless steel tabletop. Opposite page: In the great room, dark tones are offset by two shocking pink chairs.



ROOM WITH A VIEW
 From top: Overlooking a pond, the master suite is light and airy with masculine and feminine touches for balance; design partners Jamie Schachtel (left) and Danielle Yucht.



print person. We like to save prints for a pillow or an accessory, not a major piece.”

Reserving prints for small details makes them pop even more, like in the exquisite Moroccan room, uniquely designed around the client’s statement coffee table. It was the one piece of furniture the homeowner wanted to incorporate, and as Schachtel laughs, “of course it was a challenge.” A perfect square with gilded finishes and flecks of color, the table is the centerpiece of a cozy drawing room cordoned off from the great room by sliding charcoal doors. Black window treatments, subdued wallpaper, a black couch and cowhide rug keep the look calm, while brightly colored and textured pillows bring the table to life. “The room is the table,” Schachtel says, “but it just works.”

The one antidote to the home’s dark, edgy aesthetic is the master suite, with clear views of

a small pond and the backyard green belt. “We wanted a Zen feel,” says Schachtel. “Just white walls, and beautiful sheer drapes that open to the view. We kept it really serene and calm—no TV.” The bed itself is a more masculine choice to balance the feminine tones, and the chandelier walks the line between; it’s an elegant silhouette, finished in tough metal.

Though the overall aesthetic is dark, the U-shaped home is built around an attractive pergola in its center, bringing natural light into every space. And save for the master suite, nearly every room is visible from elsewhere in the home—ideal for a solo inhabitant. “This is definitely her time,” Schachtel says of her client. “This is not anything she needs to grow into; this is it. It’s definitely her dream home, and she did everything the way she wanted to do it. I think that’s why it’s so amazing.” ■



FINE DINING
Tucked between the great room and kitchen, the dining room seamlessly transitions one room to the next with ample flow at both ends.