

Chicago HOME + GARDEN

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CHICAGO
DESIGN**

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STYLE STAR

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to Know



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Call them redesigners, stagers, or rearrangers—if you want to make the most of what you already have, just call them.

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Designer Annika Christensen uses fabulous fabrics to up the personality quotient in two rooms of her own imagining.

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A media cabinet in a Streeterville penthouse has curves in all the right places.

SIZE 3,000 sq. ft.
 TYPE Split-level house
 LOCATION Glen Ellyn



BEFORE



A new two-story, glass-faced tower (top) adds space for a lofted home office and establishes a bold architectural presence. Steel-reinforced mullions in a Mondrian-esque pattern give the window wall strength and style.

Make It Mondrian

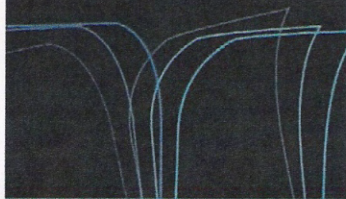
Walls of windows and smart design give a mid-century split-level a boldly modern new look **by Lisa Skolnik**

House-hunting always takes vision, but sometimes the quest also calls for a giant leap of faith. "We almost drove right by this place because it had absolutely no curb appeal," says the executive who bought the modest 1950s house in Glen Ellyn with her husband in 1998, when they made a work-related move to Chicago from California. It was a time of high demand and low supply in the town, with "people knocking on doors and asking to buy at any price," she explains. So their strong desire to live in the community, "a half-hour from everywhere and both of our jobs," prompted a closer look.

Once the house was theirs, do-it-yourself cosmetic fixes—removing country-kitsch wall-paper, ripping out soiled carpets, refinishing newly exposed hardwood floors, painting—did much to improve things. The touchups held them until 2002, when they gutted the kitchen

PHOTOGRAPHY ERIC HAUSMAN

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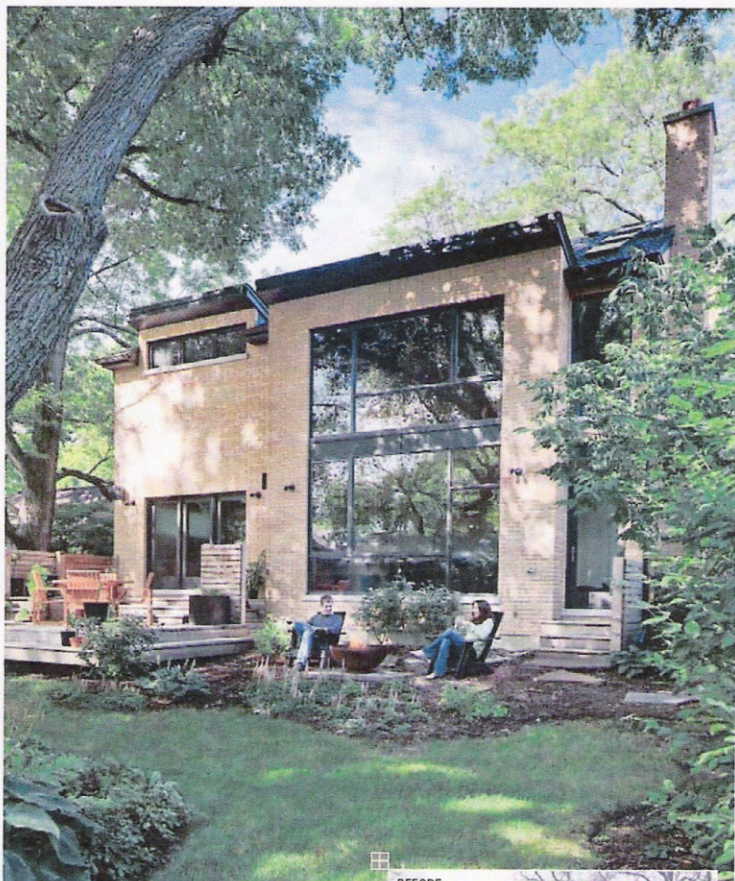
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TRANSFORMATION ♦♦♦



BEFORE



An addition that followed the footprint of an existing backyard deck added about 1,300 square feet of interior space (top). Its window wall echoes the one in front but is even larger. The homeowners relax in the garden.

In all, the plan added 1,300 square feet to the 1,700-square-foot house; required Pavelka and Ebert to rework another 500 square feet on the interior (replacing countertops and appliances and updating mechanical systems in the kitchen; updating bathrooms; and adding a new washroom to the lower level); and cost \$450,000, more than twice the home's \$223,000 purchase price.

"The results were well worth it," says the husband, pointing out that "a year and a half later, drivers are still constantly slowing down to stare when they drive by, and delivery guys ask all sorts of questions." But the ultimate compliment came from a group of teenage boys trick-or-treating on Halloween. "They told us, 'We love your house. It's so cool,'" says the wife. ■

RESOURCES SEE BUY GUIDE, PAGE 98.