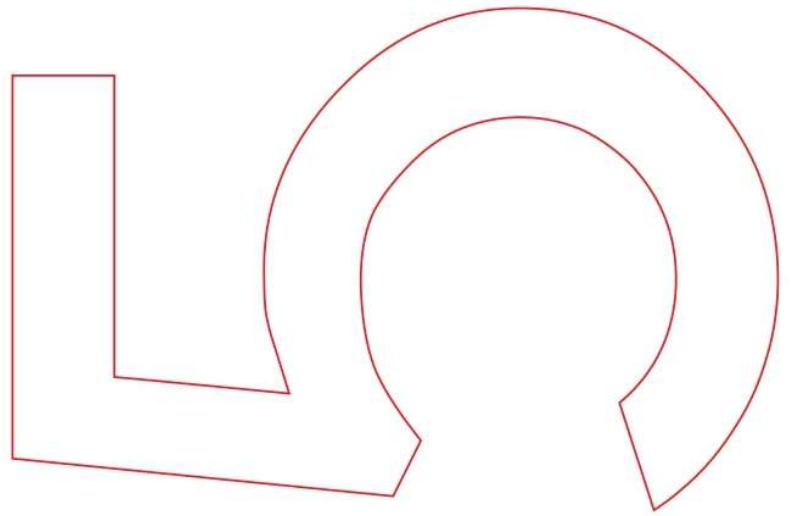
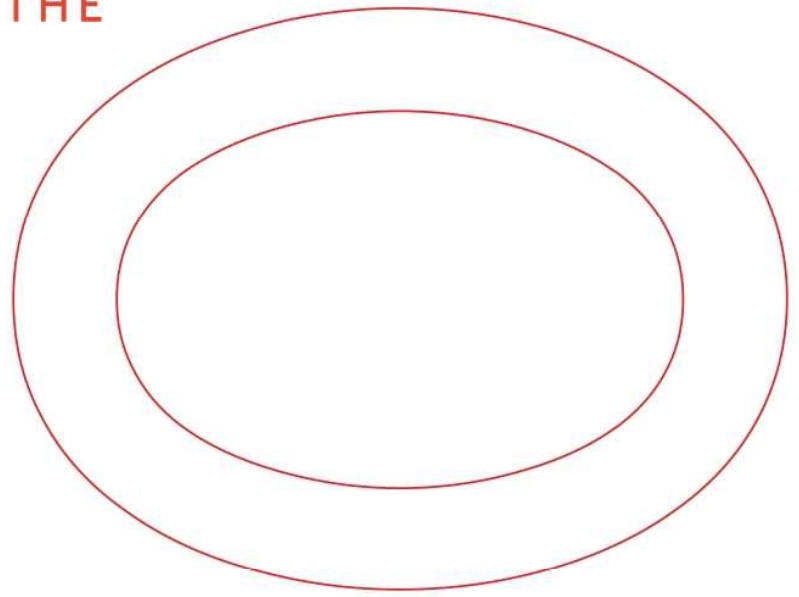




THE



FROM THE BEST SHOWROOMS
TO THE TOP TASTEMAKERS,
THESE 50 PEOPLE AND PLACES
ARE SHAPING THE DESIGN
SCENE IN CHICAGO.

BY THE EDITORS

THE DESIGNERS



JET PHOTO COURTESY OF SOAR MAGAZINE AND JET LINA AVIATION

BRANCA

1255 N. State Parkway, branca.com
Punctuated by a flair unmistakably her own, Alessandra Branca's eponymous firm delivers elaborate compositions underscoring a reverence for artful ornaments, antique furnishings and lush color palettes. With her Casa Branca collection—a thoughtful edit of fabrics, accessories, wallpapers and other accoutrements—fans

of the Italian designer can import her inimitable whimsy to their dwellings too.

BRUCE FOX DESIGN

440 N. Wells St., #620,
brucefoxdesign.com

Small surprise that Bruce Fox was recently called on to furnish a model condo unit at Robert A.M. Stern Architects-designed Streeterville high-rise One Bennett Park. With 20-plus years of design experience under his belt, the respected designer has become an essential go-to for dense, multifaceted interiors for the *ne plus ultra*, tempering classic sensibilities with au courant panache in handsome expanses in and outside of Chicago.

BUCKINGHAM INTERIORS

1658 N. Milwaukee Ave.,
buckinghamid.com

Founded in 2007, Julia Buckingham's team harnesses the moving, transformative power of vintage finds, antiques and flourishes to refreshing, modern effect. Applying her self-coined Modernique style, Buckingham honors the past to create lush, curated scenes that incite interest at each turn, be it in a lakefront manse, city dwelling or suburban abode.

DONNA MONDI INTERIOR DESIGN

1517 W. Carroll Ave.,
donna蒙迪.com

Punchy energy invigorates the output of this West Town-based favorite, tapping into the namesake founder's passion for European architecture and other influences to inform bold condo and estate design, renovations and more since 2001 (recent hits include multiple residences at

No. 9 Walton). Looking to take home the designer's trademark edge? Her EnVie Collection of chairs, tables and other furnishings distills her signature aesthetic into must-have accoutrements that are serious conversation-starters.

ELIZABETH KRUEGER DESIGN

124 W. Kinzie St., 3rd Floor,
elizabethkruegerdesign.com

Rich, layered compositions are signature to this boutique outfit, exhibiting a unique knack for tying together disparate elements from a wealth of reference points to cohesive effect. From River North to Roscoe Village, Streeterville to Southport Corridor and beyond, Elizabeth Krueger and company's abodes let their clients' personality shine through without sacrificing the firm's signature eclecticism.

EVA QUATEMAN INTERIORS

220 W. Huron St., #2002,
evaquatem.com

Be it a stately Lincoln Park co-op or a dazzling Streeterville pied-à-terre, traditional luxury characterizes Eva Quateman's work across stunning Gold Coast, River North, Michigan Avenue and citywide dwellings. Don't have a top-down design or renovation on the horizon? Fret not: The designer's touch also infuses Eva Quateman Essentials, her line of handmade consoles, chairs and other fetching accents.

FRANK PONTERIO DESIGN

500 N. Wells St., #3,
frankponteio.com

This revered pro's sweeping, 25-plus-year portfolio demonstrates a firm adherence to heritage and quality from Nashville wine cellars to Lake Shore Drive apartments. Outside of highly regarded residential work,

Frank Ponterio applies the same qualities to collaborations with Lee Jofa, Avrett, Clarence House and Arteriors, evincing tactful sophistication each step of the way.

GEMMA PARKER DESIGN

gemma-parkerdesign.com

With a keen understanding of color, texture and scale, Gemma Parker-McKeon orchestrates inviting expanses in the Windy City and beyond, including Michigan, New York and London. An alum of Lichten Craig, where she served as director of interiors, Parker-McKeon effects tasteful pattern play and excited, unexpected use of materials to create atmospheres that feel at once wholly new, but simultaneously lived-in.

JAMESTHOMAS

900 N. Franklin St., Ste. 800,
jamestomaschicago.com

Timeless design gets a dash of modern-day pizzazz under the direction of principals James Dolenc and Tom Riker, the discerning duo leading the charge at the boutique outfit since 2003. From both here and offices in Glenn, Mich., the firm refracts conventional cues through a fresh lens, creating spaces from Park City to New York that endure without ever feeling aged.

JESSICA LAGRANGE INTERIORS

216 W. Chicago Ave.,
jessicalagrange.com

Since 1998, this industry vet has garnered praise for its artful adaptability, whether articulating modern minimalism, well-appointed luxury or vivid eclecticism spanning the Gold Coast to the North Shore. Based in River North and led

by principal Jessica Lagrange, no project is too much for this inspired team (even outfitting a Lake Geneva yacht), showcasing a personalized eye from start to spectacular finish.

KADLEC ARCHITECTURE + DESIGN

110 W. Kinzie St., 4th Floor,
kadlecdesign.com

Congratulations are in order for founder and principal Steve Kadlec, whose River North-based practice just celebrated its 15th anniversary. It's an unsurprising milestone: Building a name off the strength of highly personalized work that sensitively navigates concerns both practical and aesthetic, Kadlec and company's cohesive approach has graced modern-bent lakefront retreats, posh pieds-à-terre and commercial locales including the Atelier Lapchi showroom.

KARA MANN

165 W. Chicago Ave.,
karamann.com

Founder and Creative Director Kara Mann distills a background in fashion, design and art to electrify projects that abound with striking contrasts, unexpected juxtapositions and mold-breaking compositions, cumulating into an edgy vision that's won her industry acclaim since launching in 2005. Embodying that kinetic zip is Gold Coast's Talbott Hotel, high-profile developments 1000M and OneEleven, and retailer Athene in Winnetka.

KAUFMAN SEGAL DESIGN

900 N. Franklin St., #710,
kaufmansegal.com

Founders David Kaufman and Tom Segal joined forces in 1995 and haven't looked back, solidifying a sterling reputation on the Windy City design circuit with nuanced, unfussy design. The

result: a smart, focused aesthetic that doesn't sacrifice personality, be it a Wrigleyville loft, a Lake Shore Drive dwelling, an Edgewater duplex or commercial clients like Lakeview's Kit Kat Lounge & Supper Club.

KIM SCODRO INTERIORS

303 E. Wacker Drive, #650,
kimsodro.com

Be it tackling a new build or engineering an imaginative renovation, this Chicago- and Phoenix-based powerhouse steeps spaces with a light, airy ebullience that underscores an impressive awareness for unity, balance and harmony. That same warmth and emotion are found in her covetable rugs designed for Nourison and so-chic furnishings designed in collaboration with Pearson.

LUKAS MACHNIK DESIGN

3845 S. Winchester Ave.,
lukasmachnik.com

With an unerring commitment to exacting, elegant restraint, Lukas Machnik channels sensuous minimalism with laser-focused precision. Sharp lines, stark palettes and geometric-driven furnishings coalesce in local efforts like street-goth spot Gallery Aesthete, as well as a handful of West Coast projects. Machnik brings the same savvy to the Hamptons as a partner in fellow designer Michael Del Piero's Good Design, an office-retail hybrid.

MIA RAO DESIGN

509 N. Wolcott Ave.,
miraodesign.com

Principal Mia Rao and Senior Designer Robyn Swanson, the creative brain trust behind this West Town-based firm founded in 2001, display an uberacrobatic ability to pull together wide-ranging cues, elements and flourishes to yield typology-

defying work ranging from richly layered, visually stimulating expanses to pared-down, reductive vignettes. Influenced by Rao's globe-trotting travels, the firm's visible enthusiasm for artfully juxtaposed textures, patterns and colors elevates any blank canvas it crosses.

MICHAEL ABRAMS

1901 N. Clybourn Ave.,
michaelabrams.com

Classic comfort anchors Michael Abrams' practice, established in 1999 by the New York-born, South Carolina-raised designer. Whether it's imbuing a Gold Coast billiards room with graceful machismo, realizing a light-resplendent sunroom in a lakeside house, or getting his hands dirty with Miami, Park City or Captiva Island projects, a palpable sense of tradition permeates Abrams' work—without defining it.

MICHAEL DEL PIERO GOOD DESIGN

428 N. Wolcott Ave.,
michaeldelpiero.com

The magisterial ability to balance the old with the new, the high with the low, is paramount to Michael del Piero, whose roving, curatorial eye has overseen projects as audacious as converting a sprawling charcoal factory into a private residence. The designer's West Town office, complemented by a space in the Hamptons, beckons with an inventory of custom-made and found antiques and curios (after all, who can resist an 18th-century Bavarian antler chandelier?).

NATE BERKUS ASSOCIATES

nateberkus.com

After more than two decades of plaudits aplenty, Berkus isn't slowing down one bit. Aside

from minting interiors with his harmonious, unforced style, the designer has collabs left and right: a collection carried in Target, a partnership with The Shade Store and, more recently, fabrics for Kravet. As he ushers in his 25th anniversary, whatever he and firm partner Lauren Buxbaum Gordon do next will undoubtedly tantalize.

NICHOLAS MORIARTY INTERIORS

nm-interiors.com

Crisp, uncluttered design is Nicholas Moriarty's calling card, whether he's livening up a South Loop condo, reimagining a Bucktown kitchen or rejuvenating a vintage Evanston unit. From a Lake Forest ranch to an Alaskan vacation spot, a shared DNA binds his varied projects—clear, open design whose sleek sheen masks the inherent complexity that makes this exciting up-and-comer one to watch.

SARAH VAILE DESIGN

1242 N. Wells St.,
sarahvailedesign.com

Effervescent whimsy radiates from this six-person, all-female team, soon to be a three-time participant in the vaunted Lake Forest Designer Showhouse. Since relocating to Chicago in 2010, Sarah Vaile has shepherded a prismatic reno in Winnetka's Indian Hill Estates and jazzed up a playful Lakewood townhouse, to name a few highlights. Packing high-impact visual punch at every angle, little wonder we minted her Transitional Design Firm of the Year in 2015.

SASHA ADLER DESIGN

202 E. Walton St., sashaadler.com

When Sasha Adler struck out on her own after serving as design director for Nate Berkus Associates for 14 years, there was



THE SHOWROOMS

210 DESIGN HOUSE

210 W. Illinois St.,
210designhouse.com

Home projects become much less daunting at this River North Design District go-to, showcasing primo kitchen cabinetry, closets and other necessities from heavy-hitters Snaidero, Plain & Fancy and MisuraEmme.

CASA SPAZIO

222 W. Hubbard St.,
casaspazio.com

Cutting-edge Italian flair buoyoys this sprawling, 5,200-square-foot showroom housing 25-plus brands including Bonaldo, Sangiacomo, Dellarobbia and others. Product design and space planning consultation are also available.

CIRCA LIGHTING

444 N. Wells St.,
circa Lighting.com

This leader in lighting offers it all, from understated pendants to unabashedly over-the-top chandeliers and more. AERIN, Ralph Lauren, Suzanne Kasler and Clodagh are just a few of the blue-chip designers carried by this River North Design District cornerstone.

HOLLY HUNT

222 W. Merchandise Mart Plaza,
Ste. 1428,
hollyhunt.com

At the eponymous showroom of this A-list designer, browse (and these are just a few) furniture by Caste, Formations and Gregorius|Pineo; textiles from Dedar, Hermès and Pierre Frey; and products by Pagani Studio.

JAYSON HOME

1885 N. Clybourn Ave.,
jaysonhome.com

There's a reason this store has been a favorite for professionals and enthusiasts alike for more than two decades: With a mix of both new and vintage furnishings, the Lincoln Park institution provides the cornerstones for thoughtful, inspired home design all under one roof.

MONTAUK SOFA

1229 W. Lake St.,
montauksofa.com

This Montreal-born brand elevates the art of unwinding tenfold with sophisticated and sustainable handmade seating. An assortment of decidedly mod furnishings and beds complements the brand's sofas, loveseats, benches and other exemplary seating options at its West Loop showroom.

OSCAR ISBERIAN RUGS

120 W. Kinzie St.,
isberian.com

With outposts in River North, Evanston and Highland Park, this stalwart has been putting on a master class in tying together rooms from the floor up since 1920. Helmed by brothers Oscar Tatosian and Sarkis Tatosian, the brand's rich selection evokes a range of hues, motifs and materials.

POLIFORM

445 N. Franklin St.,
poliform.it

Contemporary Italian sensibilities inform the exquisite efforts of this furniture fixture, showcasing its latest efforts in a destinationworthy River North showroom. Established in 1942, the brand's product offerings are varied, delivering everything from walk-in closets and wardrobes to armchairs, sofas, coffee tables and more.

SOLID + PATTERN

3146 W. Chicago Ave.,
solidandpattern.com

Design inspo abounds at Liisa Jordan's destination for textiles, trim, wallpaper and plenty more. Offering leathers by Moore & Giles and AVO; textiles from Seema Krish, Foundation and Quercus & Co.; wallpapers from Grace Garrett, Fayce and Calico; plus cords, rugs and more, the building blocks for inspired design await.

TUFENKIAN

802 W. Washington Blvd.,
tufenkian.com

The striking West Loop showroom of this celebrated brand touts impeccable handmade rugs and carpets. Emphasizing rich materiality, unrivaled levels of craftsmanship and striking palettes, Tufenkian's accoutrements range from midcentury modern-driven efforts to rich Moroccan numbers that are nothing if not flooring.

STUDIO 41

225 W. Hubbard St.,
shopstudio41.com

The grandest design dreams are set into motion at this do-it-all favorite, beckoning with a robust suite of kitchen and bath fixtures, cabinet and door hardware, window treatments and more from Kohler; Moen, Grohe, Blanco and other design-fave brands.

STUDIO 6F

2857 W. Diversey Ave.,
studio6f.com

Founder Gil Melott flexes his acrobatic creative savvy at his Logan Square-based design firm and showroom. Melott's tastemaker sensibilities translate

into a well-edited collection of tables, seating and other products by makers including his namesake line of custom-made effects, Gil Melott BESPOKE.



WATERWORKS

222 W. Merchandise Mart Plaza,
Ste. 136,
waterworks.com

For well-appointed fixtures, faucets and more, head to theMart location of this nationally known bath and kitchen outfitter, whose accoutrements have graced hot spots like The Hoxton Chicago and Soho House Chicago. From cabinetry, faucets and lighting, to knobs, hinges and latches, this mainstay leaves no detail uncovered when piecing together the big picture.

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF BRANDS