

luxe.

interiors + design®



\$ 9.95 A SANDOW MEDIA PUBLICATION 5 1>



0 09281 03334 9

PAUL LAUREN DESIGN CONSULTANTS
AS FEATURED IN LUXE CHICAGO

INDUSTRIAL LIMITS

WRITTEN BY BRIELLE M. FERREIRA
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JESS SMITH

WHEN DESIGNER LAUREN RAUTBORD SET ABOUT THE JOURNEY THAT LED HER TO A SPRAWLING, THREE-LEVEL COMPLEX IN CHICAGO'S MEATPACKING DISTRICT, SHE WAS LOOKING FOR MORE THAN JUST A PLACE TO LAY DOWN ROOTS. She was looking for somewhere to branch out. Leaving her traditional Lincoln Park abode and lifestyle behind, Rautbord sought a home that would not only be an edgy alternative to the suburban particularities she was accustomed to, but also a launching pad for her growing interiors business, Paul Lauren Design Consultants. The mixed-use property she decided on was exactly what Rautbord had in mind: unfinished. "It was at the stage of building that I love," she laughs. "They had already done the framing and most of the interior, but I still had the freedom to do what I wanted. We ended up ripping it apart."

Home builder Michael Walczak of Chicago's Walco Group, who developed the stretch of the Fulton corridor where Rautbord settled, was impressed by the designer's discriminating eye. "Lauren came in with a completely different vision," he says of their first meeting. "The building was a sort of blank canvas for her, and she wanted to transform it." And that she did. With Walczak's help, Rautbord knocked down walls, refurbished the bathrooms and kitchen, expanded the hallways, redesigned the staircases and rearranged the bedrooms, redefining the spaces by pairing natural light with intriguing, high-end finishes like Thassos marble and limestone, and labor-intensive Venetian plaster wall applications. While Rautbord's demands extended construction on the home by over six

INTERIOR DESIGN Lauren Rautbord, Paul Lauren Design Consultants		
HOME BUILDER Michael Walczak, The Walco Group		
BEDROOMS 2	BATHROOMS 4	SQUARE FEET 2,700





GOOD EATS
A basket-weave limestone backsplash from Ann Sacks lends a contemporary element to the otherwise traditional kitchen. Viking appliances and custom hardware round out the space as both highly functional and aesthetically intriguing.



ANIMAL INSTINCTS
Clarence House-upholstered chairs, a gift from Rautbord's fashionable mother, surround a table bearing bronze candlesticks by artist Tom Corbin.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 154

months, Walczak recognizes it as a time of great ingenuity. “Her place is unlike any of the others we built,” he admits. “I would love to live in that house. It’s beautiful.”

Rautbord’s real work, however, didn’t get started until construction stopped. Practicing design in a storefront directly below her residence means, in essence, that her home doubles as a showroom, with a revolving cast of extraordinary furniture and art finds that carefully reflect her unique design sensibilities: marrying the elegance and sophistication that she honed while working in Lincoln Park with the downtown, eclectic vibe



CLEAR PATH
This redesigned staircase was one of the projects that Rautbord collaborated on with builder Michael Walczak. The improved restructuring contributes to the room's open floor plan and light-filled ambience.



STYLE SELECTION

This traditional chair, from Dan Marty Design, is shown in a Vintage Monksheet upholstered fabric and adds elegance to any space. *Gustavian Armchair, \$2,625; danmartydesign.com*



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 157

of her new location. She stuck to her signature color palette of beige and creamy whites for the walls and seat groupings, and added interest with luxurious fabrics and furs—forgoing distracting prints except for a quartet of chairs handed down to her by one of her greatest design inspirations, her mother Audrey Kaufman. Upholstered in a gorgeous velvet with leopard markings from Clarence House, the chairs are one of the few furnishings that are off-limits to clients. Another favorite is the brown leather recliner in her daughter's bedroom. “When I first moved to Fulton, I only had that chair, the coyote fur throw in the living room and a bed,” she recalls. “I stacked books as a side table, and



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 159

I read and watched TV on that chair and slept there many nights, as well. I was totally happy only having that one piece.”

While Rautbord remains loyal to her tried-and-true favorites, the designer’s yearning for all things cutting-edge is sometimes hard to suppress. Not long after she moved into her trendy outpost, she reached out to builder Andy Poticha, a principal of Northbrook-based Design Construction Concepts, Ltd., to make another round of tweaks and changes to her constantly evolving homestead. The two have collaborated on various projects, working in perfect unison with their matching hands-on, no-ego approach to design. “Lauren’s very pragmatic,” Poticha says. “She likes nice things, but it’s important to her that everything in the house be durable and sustainable. She’s down-to-earth and the house reflects that. It’s gorgeous and sophisticated, but not intimidating.” **L**



HOME CALLING
Rautbord designed a second bedroom for her daughter’s visits, using a lime mohair-upholstered bench from Michael Taylor to add flair to the otherwise muted palette. Crushed-marble Venetian plaster walls and a custom headboard complete the look.



LAUREN RAUTBORD

"If I've created a comfortable haven that somebody absolutely loves to live in, I've done my job."

Paul Lauren Design Consultants is a firm known for serene, uncluttered spaces that are sumptuously livable. The idea that your home is a haven—a place where you should feel peaceful and happy—is at the heart of principal designer Lauren Rautbord's trademark style of luxurious fabrics, neutral palettes, and furnishings full of warmth and personality. Always sophisticated but never fussy, Lauren's designs incorporate vintage and contemporary pieces alike. She believes less is always more, and that exterior views—from desert landscapes to urban lakefronts—should be embraced and enjoyed.



PAUL LAUREN DESIGN CONSULTANTS

1011 W. FULTON MARKET
CHICAGO, IL 60607
PHONE 312-829-9922

WWW.PAULLAURENDESIGNS.COM

REPRINTED FROM



luxe.
interiors + design

For more information about LUXE, visit us at luxemagazine.com

Content for this brochure has been reprinted and/or repurposed from Luxe Interiors + Design™ magazine with the express permission of its publisher. © 2009 Sandow Media Corporation. All rights reserved.