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A TRIAL BY FIRE

From an early age, Rev. William Martin has faced a series of calamities that friends compare to the Biblical suffering of Job. To him, it's all a gift.



A 10-year-old learns about politics, Chicago-style

How to get prepared for those unexpected guests

Cultural advantages

HER MODERNISM TRUMPS HIS INDIGENOUS ARTIFACTS IN A HUMBOLDT PARK HOME

Seven years ago, both Dorothy Zalewski and Dan Engh were skeptical when a friend fixed them up.

"I'm a designer and look at things in a very refined, reductive way," reckons Zalewski. "Dan was just getting back from a yearlong trip around the world and was into artifacts. But [the friend] figured we'd like each other because we both love to travel."

Indeed, she likes modern, especially pieces from the 1960s and 1970s. "I started collecting about 20 years ago, when I was still in college," she says, ever the '70s hipster with her long raven tresses parted in the middle and a Scandinavian-inspired tunic over her jeans. Today she runs a namesake graphics firm in River North that specializes in package design.

He likes ethnic, and anything goes. "I love to travel and get objects and artifacts that reflect the indigenous cultures I see. The more intricate and colorful, the better," says Engh, who embraces yet another 1970s aesthetic with his ponytail, frayed T-shirt and jeans and Birkenstock sandals—on a bone-chilling winter day. He teaches art in an Evanston middle school, and often uses those treasures in his classes.

When they met, they both lived in Humboldt Park and owned three-flats. Hers was a tailored graystone

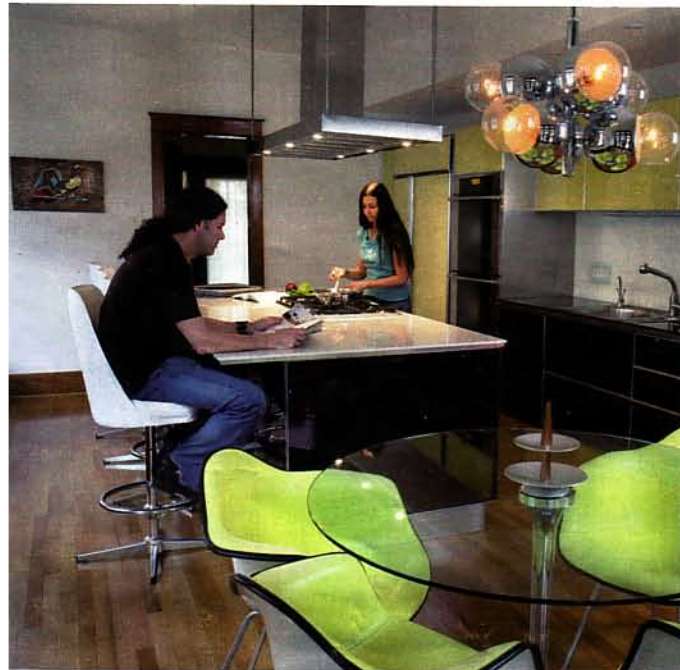
BY LISA SKOLNIK

PHOTOS BY KATRINA WITTKAMP



A restored 100-year-old four-square is a timeless canvas for a couple's collection of mid-Century and contemporary furnishings. Here a pair of contemporary Ligne Roset chairs are paired with a Le Corbusier chaise lounge and anonymous occasional tables.





Dan Engh and Dorothy Zalewski relax in their contemporary Scavolini kitchen. Glass panels in three different colors clad the kitchen cabinets. Right: Frosted glass is paired with colored glass in a free-standing cabinet. Opposite: The palette in the master bathroom includes vinyl-backed glass on clad walls (in yellow) and the tub-surround (in orange), limestone on the floors, clear glass for a shower partition, teak for the vanity and teak to frame the tub.

and his was a far more frothy brownstone. Not surprisingly, their apartments reflected their proclivities. “I had a well-edited place furnished with mid-Century furniture and art, and his was filled with things he picked up in Asia and South America. A lot of tapestries and masks,” she says.

They fell for each other despite their aesthetic differences, and decided three years ago to start living together. They planned to get a house that would suit both of them—something long on character for him, but with the potential for wide open spaces for her. And both wanted a large yard to make their place more of an urban retreat. “We wanted to take up organic gardening and spend more time outside,” explains Zalewski.

Given the booming real estate market at the time, it was difficult to find a property that met their criteria—and was affordable. Houses were going so fast that they started checking the listings on Sunday nights, before the agents would see them on Mondays. That strategy tipped them off to a gracious 1907 four-square in Humboldt Park on a double-sized corner lot.

“We were so excited when we saw the listing that we got in the car and drove by. It was pitch black, but the lights were on inside and we could see all the

woodwork. And the yard was huge so we knew it was the one,” says Zalewski. She made an appointment with the broker for 8 a.m. the next morning, even though Engh couldn’t miss class. “After all that looking, I knew I didn’t need to see it. I told her to just write the check,” he says.

Zalewski did, and the broker had to turn away three other interested parties who had appointments following hers.

The house turned out to be better than they hoped, says Kathy Zalewski, an architect with her own namesake Chicago firm and Dorothy’s sister. “All the character was still there, right down to the original blown-glass windows, and there was a huge unfinished attic that they could make into a master suite.”

The challenge was to preserve that character, yet give the home a modern, airy demeanor. Fortunately, the four-square architectural style was “handsome . . . not fussy . . . and the place was in great structural shape,” notes Kathy. But the second floor had been split up into six bedrooms in the 1960s, the kitchen was outdated and the original double-hung windows were not exactly energy-efficient, so “the biggest parts of the job were revamping that floor, renovating the kitchen, figuring out what to do with the windows and finishing the raw space in the attic,” she says.





To give the master suite a sleeker look, the architect used knot-less, tongue-and-groove paneling to clad the walls. A new Bubble Chair, designed by Eero Aarnio and introduced since 1968, was a splurge.

The windows came first. "The glass was so beautiful we wanted to keep them, so we had them restored," says Dorothy. Kathy tracked down a supplier who could fabricate storm windows to work with the historic originals.

In the kitchen, Kathy eliminated the breakfast room and added French doors to the wall overlooking the yard; both moves opened up the space, and allowed the couple to look out at their coveted garden.

She also devised a new layout, which puts a 10-foot multipurpose storage-filled island in the center of the space and more cabinetry against the wall, and used a sturdy yet stunning glass kitchen system from Scavolini. "The glass comes in dozens of hues and can be used in any configuration," explains Kathy, who chose vivid shades of yellow, orange and brown to clad the kitchen. "It set the tone for the rest of the house."

On the second floor, she reconfigured the space to yield two guest bedrooms, an office and a family room. All of the woodwork, which had been covered with white paint, was also restored.

But the third floor, which the couple use as a retreat and fondly refer to as "the lodge," is the pièce de résistance of the restoration. The once-dead space is now "the most used place in our home," Dorothy says. It sports a dazzling 16-foot-high cathedral ceiling, a

sleek glass-enclosed gas fireplace flanked by display cases for objects and art, warm pine-paneled walls, a 4-by-6 foot commercial skylight and a sleek yet sumptuous spa bathroom, also clad in colored glass.

Thanks to Kathy's work, Dorothy found a place for all of the remarkable Modern pieces she has collected over the years, and a few of Dan's family heirlooms, like his grandmother's cherrywood-encased sewing machine. And, thanks to Dorothy's influence, Dan's aesthetic is changing: "I really do like a more streamlined look. I'm learning." □

Lisa Skolnik is a city editor for Metropolitan Home magazine.

RESOURCES Architecture and Design: Kathy Zalewski, Zalewski Design, Chicago. **Contractor:** Pryor Construction, Chicago. **Storm windows:** Savocchi Glass Co., Winnetka. **Living room:** Fireside Pop Chairs—Ligne Roset, Chicago; Le Corbusier chaise lounge—Luminaire, Chicago; window treatments—designed by Doug Johnson at Mr. David's Carpet Service, Carol Stream; all occasional tables and Arco Floor Lamp—collection of owners; custom-made shag carpet—Olympic Carpets, Chicago; series of mixed media works—by Jennifer Scott McLaughlin at Klaudia Marr Gallery, Santa Fe. **Kitchen and kitchen detail:** Scavolini kitchen system—Accento Italia, Chicago; Eames dining chairs—collection of owners; glass table—European Furniture Warehouse, Chicago. **Bathroom:** Glass panels for ceiling and tub surround—Showerworks, Chicago; Neptune tub, Royal Botania Vanity, Robern medicine cabinet, Pottery sink, Dornbracht towel bar—all at Advantage Kitchen & Bath Gallery, Niles; limestone—Stone City, Chicago; paint—Benjamin Moore 2017-30 tangelo. **Bedroom:** Bed and side table—Scandinavian Design, Chicago; ottoman—ABC Furniture, New York; Eero Aarnio Bubble Chair—plushpod.com; globe lamp and Flocati—Ikea, Chicago.