



PLAZA *Perfection*

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PHOTOGRAPHED BY AARON LEIMKUEHLER



THE MULTI-TALENTED DESIGNER (AND SPACES CONTRIBUTOR) DAVID JIMENEZ CREATES AN INTERIOR THAT MELDS MIDCENTURY MODERN AND STATELY ANTIQUES

When David Jimenez moved from a five-bedroom, three-story Georgian in Hyde Park to a two-bedroom apartment in the historic Sophian Plaza [see sidebar] overlooking the lawn of the Nelson-Atkins Museum he had a tag sale. In fact, he had a few. But even with this focused winnowing, many fantastic pieces remained. Jimenez is

Left: The living room is an eclectic mix of midcentury, contemporary and antique furniture and art. Flower arrangements here and throughout are by Kenneth Sherman at Trapp and Company. Above: In the foyer, an eye-catching vintage lamp with large crystal drops frames a vignette. The rug is from West Elm.

Right: Jimenez worked with Christopher Filley at his eponymous shop to select the art and frames displayed salon-style in the dining room. **Opposite:** A bright turquoise screen trimmed with white moldings adds a punch of color to the dining room. The zinc table is from Restoration Hardware. Flowers from Trapp and Company. **Below:** In one corner of the living room, an antique, marble-topped mahogany chest is outfitted with a drinks tray.



a collector—of inspiration, of art, and of stylish things.

There are similarities between the house in Hyde Park and the apartment; both boast significant moldings, a good vibe and Jimenez’s masculine, though not heavy-handed, aesthetic. And both residences benefited from renovations executed under his exacting eye.

An elegant and enthusiastic host, Jimenez has turned a former entrance into a clever and concealed bar that opens to the hallway. This ingenious use of space enables its owner to host much larger parties—

some with guest lists in the hundreds—than the apartment itself would allow.

The main foyer envelops you as you enter, its dark charcoal walls with its crisp white moldings creating a tighter lens through which to see the glamour of the living room. “I wanted it to be dark but not oppressive. This darker color is neutral enough to carry the space but has a great presence. And it works as a terrific backdrop to the black-and-white photography,” Jimenez says.

His photography collection is extensive. He brought many pieces with him from San Francisco, where he was an executive with





Above and opposite: Two views of the warm and cozy library. The mirror above the fireplace disguises the television. Bookcases are lined in brown felt and trimmed with brass tacks. The chesterfield sofa is from Ralph Lauren. Flowers from Trapp and Company.

Restoration Hardware before moving to Kansas City to be vice president of visual merchandising for Hallmark. “But the photography is from everywhere, really. It’s about finding a piece that I connect with,” he says. “Some pieces are of note, but it’s more about having a connection. That’s what fuels the eclectic feel.”

It’s in the living room that one begins to appreciate Jimenez’s ability to layer. The room itself makes a welcoming first impression, the flokati rug nearly begging for guests to kick off their shoes. Closer examination reveals the owner’s comfort mixing old and new, the tradition of figure studies and the excitement of abstract art and sculpture. Here, too, there is a merry mix of metals: chrome, gold leaf, stainless steel and bronze happily cohabitating.

As with all collectors, Jimenez hunts and gathers as he goes. A New York native and a Californian along the way, he notes that Kansas City has amazing resources for design. “I have a terrible sense of



Opposite: In the dressing room, an iconic Dorothy Draper chest is topped with a vintage lamp, a totally appropriate photograph of men in hats and a large mirror. **Left:** Tucked into one corner of the master bedroom is a drop-front desk. **Below:** The master bedroom is a study in neutrals, with a classic menswear vibe.

direction, and I literally stumbled upon the antique shops at 45th and State Line. They are such a pleasure to work with and are so passionate about what they're doing. Each dealer has a distinct aesthetic; they make it easy to curate."

In the library Jimenez deepened his palette again with rich chocolate walls. As in the living room, the upholstery is mostly neutrals letting the accessories provide the color. Varying shades of green provide an organic note, giving a lift to the subdued background of browns and camels.

The fireplace in the library is from the

Creighton estate in Omaha. (The mirror above hides the television, as does the one in the master bedroom.) The addition of the mantel is just one of the many changes Jimenez made to the apartment. He completely renovated both bathrooms and the kitchen, relying on the classic materials of marble and nickel keeping the era of the building in mind.

The kitchen, a crisp, white, sunny spot, offers no hint of the trouble it caused. Jimenez was determined to have a gas range and knew that the apartment had the original gas lines. Still, it's a 91-year-old building,

THE SOPHIAN PLAZA

Located at Warwick Boulevard and Emanuel Cleaver, II Boulevard, the Sophian was built in 1922. The architecture firm of Shepard and Wisner conceived its Beaux-Arts style. Harry Sophian, the developer, had a reputation for building beautiful apartments. He wanted the Sophian to reflect the "fine residential character of the neighborhood." The building is on the National Historic Register and features an spacious entry with a light blue and gilt-coffered ceiling that soars above black and white marble floors. A large fireplace opposite the front door greets residents and visitors into its stately entry, sending a message of comfort and permanence for more than 90 years.





and the infrastructure, modified by dozens of residents, can be a maze of wire and plumbing. Fortunately, a neighbor who had recently completed a renovation had uncovered his and provided the lead to help Jimenez find his.

Originally a one-bedroom apartment with a maid's room, Jimenez uses the maid's room as a dressing room, the closet of which has evolved to hold an extensive music collection. A vintage chandelier adds sparkle to the deep turquoise walls while a Greek key rug provides a crisp geometry underfoot.

While the other rooms feature shots of color, the master bedroom reigns serene. Even the black-and-white photography here is softer,

grayer. The rich vanilla screen offers a creamy contrast to the crisp white of the trim, lamps and bedding.

All in all, the move was a downsize only in square footage and neither style nor taste. "It's all about the mix of vintage and new," he says. "I love the balance. It's so evocative."

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Above: Although the kitchen was gutted to the studs, it feels totally appropriate to the period of the building, with classic Calacatta marble countertops, white glass-front cabinetry and pretty subway tile for the backsplash.

Seen & Noted

Jimenez is a master of the vignette, and art plays a leading role in his compositions.

1. A Matisse drawing is mixed with midcentury fashion photographs and an extra-large boldly framed mirror.
2. Another Dorothy Draper chest (yes, he has two!) is topped with a vintage lamp, another bold mirror and orange lacquer boxes.
3. In the master bedroom, the antique marble fireplace mantel is framed by more art, mirrors and a tall, sinuous, sterling-silver candlestick.



1



3



2



Plaza

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The source BOOK

ANTIQUES

Christopher Filley Antiques
1721 W. 45th St.
816-561-1124

FABRIC

Calico Home
6617 W. 119th St.
913-491-2995
calicocorners.com

FLOWERS

Trapp and Company
4110 Main St.
816-931-6940
trappandcompany.com

LAMP REPAIR

Dave Smith the Lampmaker
7432 Wornall Rd.
816-333-4200

MARBLE

Carthage Stoneworks
3043 Roanoke Rd.
816-561-7020
carthagestoneworks.com ♦