

Story By Kate Ancell
Photos by Landon Collis

Rix Master

In a handsome Hyde Park mansion, David Jimenez juxtaposes graphic mid-century modern and stately antiques with sheer panache



There are times in everyone's life when a style reality check happens. Such as when an exact replica of the vintage *objet* that you discovered at a quaint Italian market as shows up on QVC and is purchased by your aunt in Des Moines. Or when a paint color that you so painstakingly custom-mixed looks exactly like Dulux 173 on sale for \$9.99 a gallon — that sort of thing. In this case, my case, it happened when I went to David Jimenez's home and realized that he does something with his surroundings that I — and most mortals — could never, ever do. Suffice it to say that the people at Hallmark were clever indeed when they snapped the San Francisco transplant up to head their Visual Merchandising and Store Design team. It's because we all want what he's got.

Jimenez's landmark Hyde Park home is a study in elegant living — it's Cary Grant

Previous pages: Twin walnut columns flank the entry to the living room. *Above:* David Jimenez at home. *Right and below:* Two views of the living room. Jimenez found the mid-century sofa in Palm Springs, then had it reupholstered in a taupe velvet. Most of the photographs from his substantial collection lean instead of hang, the better to rearrange them, of course. Flowers here and throughout by Matney Floral Design. *Opposite:* The library is a cozy study in neutrals.



meets modern style. Jimenez is as passionate about style as he is charming and gracious. (Any guest immediately feels like the person he's most wanted to see all day — and is soon chattering away on one of the many velvet-covered sofas or chic leather wing-backs, cocktail in hand.) But life in the big house wasn't always this way.

"It all started because I wanted to upgrade the wallpaper in the kitchen," he explains. "And then one thing led to another, and another..." Well, quite. A year and a half of intensive renovations later — including six weeks' worth of work insulating and painting the enormous attic loft ceiling, a complete kitchen and master bath redo, turning the portico into a fabulous outdoor living room — and Jimenez is finally installed in his new res-

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Opposite: Tall French doors lead from the center hall to the dining room. Jimenez had the dark woodwork painted a creamy white to lighten the room. *Left:* The fireplace niche in the dining room is another opportunity to display photographs and paintings. *Below:* A table laden with Sunday brunch awaits the guests.

idence, which is now all pools of light, intimate seating areas, black-and-white artwork, and clear, clean lines. And it has taken a village to raise the bones of his place. "I've been so incredibly lucky to have connected with such an amazing network of people, all of whom have truly made this project their own," he says. "My contractor, Keith Krouse, has easily put as

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Above: Jimenez kept the original cabinetry in the kitchen, then updated it with gleaming coats of white paint, new polished-nickel hardware, a Calcutta Gold marble top on the island and stainless-steel-fronted appliances from Viking and Sub-Zero.



This page: The small sitting room off the master bedroom is wall-to-wall with striking photographs and drawings. Striped gray flannel suiting fabric adds a distinctive touch to the pillows.

The Source BOOK



THE VISIONARIES

Chuck Matney, Matney Floral Design,
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Rupert Serrioz, Designers Workshop,
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Above: Reminiscent of a Paris atelier or a New York City loft, the third floor makes a convivial gathering place. Right: Iridescent silk "ball gown" curtains frame the window in the staircase landing.

Opposite: Two views of the crisp navy-and-white guest bedroom. A white leather wing chair is trimmed with polished nickel nailheads. Jimenez found the retro blue-striped ceramic lamp in Palm Springs.

much of his heart and soul into this place as I have, and the team that has brought this to life has amazed me again and again."

Jimenez began assembling his team almost immediately. Local designer Jane Bolte of Dalton Interiors facilitated his access to the right local experts by graciously unlocking her address book and connecting him with the best Kansas City had to offer (see Source Book), and the people who came to work stayed for the love of the project,

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THE ELEGANCE

Personal style is impossible to duplicate, and it will probably take a lifetime of paying close attention to develop your own concentrated vision. Nevertheless, here are a few places to get you started.

Cheep Antiques

500 W. 5th St., 816-471-0092

Parrin & Co.

1717 W. 45th St., 816-753-7959

Christopher Filley Antiques

1721 W. 45th St., 816-561-1124

Retro Inferno

1500 Grand Blvd.,
816-842-4004

Georgian Village

1714 W. 45th St., 816-531-4414

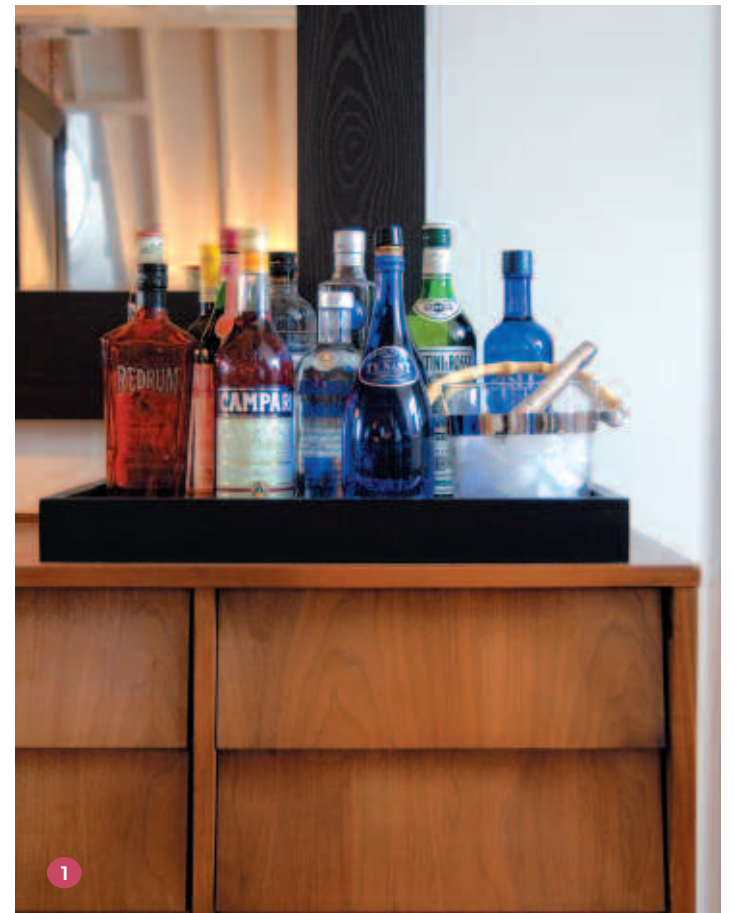




This page: Reflected in the dressing room mirror, two retrofitted 19th-century armoires provide storage for clothes.

Seen & Noted

1. Consider a drinks tray. In at least one location on each floor, Jimenez has outfitted a drinks tray for the convenience of houseguests and visitors.
2. Consider the tablescape. Flowers, art, books and decorative objects together form a harmonious whole.
3. Consider the art. Hang art in unusual places to draw the eye. Here it's hung on the molding between windows.



1



2



3



Mix

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seeing it through to its tremendous end.

Take the kitchen, for example, with its “new wallpaper” — which has become cool bone-white walls, a huge Calcutta Gold marble island with inset Viking four-burner range and griddle, bar area with prep sink and Miele stainless refrigerator, and a room full of top-end Viking and Sub-Zero appliances. Or the dining room, where stone-colored walls, white paneling and beveled mirrors meet and make a chic background to the vibrations of dinner-party laughter that spills through the giant double glass-paned doors to the center hall. The sumptuous living room is filled with light, mirrors, objets and Jimenez’s collection of black-and-white art (15 years in the making). A stone mantelpiece holds the room’s focus, while an antique marble-topped Louis Philippe bureau seamlessly blends with ‘60s retro pieces. “I love mixing old and new — different periods, different styles,” says Jimenez. “To me, that’s what makes a room feel interesting — things are all connected.”

Above: In the master bedroom, two comfy leather chairs face a flat-screen TV. Below: A writing desk is tucked into one corner.



Interesting the rooms certainly are, from the masculine-retreat library, to the glass-

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Left and below: Befitting the period the house was built, the master bath was redesigned with white subway-tile walls and marble countertops.



Mix

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paned sunroom with its enormous sink-in sofa and chairs. (“I love this room,” Jimenez says. “It’s hard to leave it — the light is so beautiful here.”)

The second floor is home to Jimenez’s master suite, including a cozy sitting room with a Palladian window to the world. The coolly stylish, black-and-white bedroom is home to such disparate elements as a 19th-century Belgian armoire, in-use *escritoire*, and wall-mounted flat-screen TV. Through the master bath, with its heated floor, marble counter, subway tiled walls and walk-in shower, one comes to the dressing room — which is, appropriately, filled with sturdy, beautifully grained armoires, modern pieces and, of course, the art.

But the best part of the house, the very best part of it all, is up the stairs still further — up, up, to the rafters and the attic, where Jimenez and his team hold creative sessions

— to an enormous, funky, fabulous loft space filled with sofas, Barcelona chairs, a baby grand piano, conference table, sitting area, huge leather ottomans, piles of books, art, vases and a storming sound system. It’s all arrayed on quartersawn old floors that snap and creak appropriately under the elegant oval windows and their scudding-clouds views of Hyde Park. It’s extraordinary, it’s unbelievably covetable, and it’s the mark of a true visionary. An open, New York loft in a Kansas City attic space — if nothing else, it’s certainly the best office in town.

“I love Hyde Park,” says Jimenez, surveying his domain. “The people who live here are passionate about their homes, this area. I love it here — I never thought I could feel so full. Kansas City, and all the people who have become important to me along this journey, has been an amazing gift in my life.” We’re happy we could help, David. Welcome to the neighborhood. ♦