

Carriage TRADE

In Central Hyde Park, the temporary digs of style arbiter David Jimenez are West Coast urban hip

With bravura style that belies its temporary nature, the carriage house living room showcases Jimenez's flair for the mix. Classic black leather Barcelona chairs flank a wenge wood coffee table that sits on a vintage zebra skin rug.

Story By Kate Ancell
Photos By Landon Collis



You **KNOW** how it is:

You're remodeling a house, there's dust everywhere, you need a place to stay for a few months — so you move into your carriage house, transform the bijou space into an example of superior urban living, and make a home that is so covetable that visitors start wanting to downsize immediately. Well you do, that is, if you're David Jimenez, San Francisco transplant and



Opposite page, top: The sleek, wall-hung '50s console designed by Paul McCobb provides extra storage in the small carriage house. Opposite, below: Jimenez has been collecting graphic black-and-white photographs, drawings and prints for more than 15 years. Left: David Jimenez. Above: The beadboard-backed and glass-fronted built-in cabinet is original.



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newly minted vice president of merchandising and store design at Hallmark.

Jimenez, to whom we should give thanks for resurrecting and rebranding the now aspirational style temples of Pottery Barn and Restoration Hardware, was bowled over by the unexpected beauty of Kansas City — and the warmth of its natives — when he arrived for an early reconnaissance of the area. “I got on the plane to go back to San Francisco feeling very conflicted. I wasn’t supposed to want to move here, I loved my life as it was. But after seeing the town and meeting the people — I just connected.”

Much soul-searching later, Jimenez found himself Kansas City-bound for good. The only question: How to make the transition from his very well-appointed (and much beloved) West Coast Edwardian nest to a new roost in the Midwest? Jimenez was looking for a place where he could live “surrounded by warm colors, rich wood tones and classic furnishings with a nod to the past,” he says. “It’s the stuff that makes me feel good and smile.”

As his real estate agent headed south to show the city off, she cruised through the historic Hyde Park district, “and I said, ‘Stop the car,’” he recalls. “This was the first house I saw, and I couldn’t get it out of my mind. To me, it’s *the* quintessential Kansas City home.” The imposing yet graceful blond brick colonial is undergoing a major rehab

Above: Narrow, steep stairs lead up to the diminutive kitchen and dining space.

Right: Vintage Bertoia wire chairs and an Arc lamp lend style to the dining area. A sextet of black-and-white cloud photographs back the table.





by übercontracter Keith Krause, who has become as dedicated to the project “as if it were my uncle working on my home,” Jimenez says. Luckily for his immediate shelter needs, the property came complete with grounds and a carriage house — the perfect spot to oversee renovations while living in style.

And living in style he is: The petite carriage house hideaway is cool, urban, retro, contemporary and homey, all at the same time. The wide-open downstairs space, all terra cotta Mexican tile floors and tall white walls, is full of personality and flair. It has a brave mix of textures that reflect the best of past decades, filtered through the laser-sharp eye for detail that is Jimenez’s trademark. One wall is covered in a lively mix of black-and-white photographs, charcoals, and pen and inks, while a set-piece bar cabinet begs visitors to slink into a Barcelona chair and sip on a martini with a twist and three olives.

Adding a touch of international flair and true individuality to the space is Jimenez’s eclectic pottery collection, a hip mix of Mexican, Italian and Asian vases and sculptures that the style arbiter has picked up “everywhere,” he said. “I just keep my eyes open for things that speak to me, and then I ... find a place for them.”

There’s certainly nothing out of place in this house, which is to the run-of-the-mill temporary residence as the president is to the boy next door. Up the dollhouse staircase and around the corner is a fully decked-out kitchen under the eaves with a view over the rooftops and sky, sky, sky. The centerpiece of the whole room is bravura display of brilliant orange tulips against white-painted brick. Jimenez downplays his efforts in this retro space, although the results belie his modesty. “I didn’t do too much here,” he says. “Took up two layers of linoleum flooring, painted, retiled, new appliances, you know.” The vintage feel of



Left: In the kitchen, a stainless steel table Jimenez bought at a restaurant supply store, topped by an riotous arrangement of orange Adrem tulips in an overscaled white ceramic urn, is set for a lavish brunch. Flowers here and throughout by Matney Floral Design. **Above:** Jimenez had the brick walls painted a creamy white to provide generous background texture. In the small space, he kept the color palette simple to better showcase accessories and art.



Above: In the small house, the sitting room is minuscule, yet it's still Jimenez's favorite place to relax. *Opposite:* In one corner of the bedroom, a sleek '70s chrome dining table is reinvented as a desk. He found the cowhide rug in Colorado.

the room is belied by its streamlined workings, which is, no pun intended, the hallmark of Jimenez's personal style.

Next door to the kitchen is the heart of the tiny home: a warm sandstone-colored room whose sink-in sofa and super-soft carpeting lend a cool urban-dweller vibe to this old-school conversion. "This is where I really live," he admits, and it's easy to see why. The warm colors and bright view over the street are welcoming and cozy.

The bedroom (see cover) is clean and crisp with, of course, not a hair out of place. "I love the old floors in here," says Jimenez. "It's one of the things I was hoping this space would have. I took up the flooring everywhere I could." In this intimate space, and indeed almost every-

where upstairs, the soft polish of the antique floors hits just the right note of authenticity, which is so interestingly juxtaposed with the chic, spare, cool-guy feel to the house.

David Jimenez lives by example. The space he calls home is a personally styled representation of his retailing prowess. In the end, one can't help but feel that, if this is what Jimenez does when creating a temporary haven, there might be no stopping him when he aims for permanence. Kansas City living is about to evolve, West Coast style. Welcome home. ♦

The SourceBOOK

The problem with a truly individual style is: You gotta have it to get it. If you want David Jimenez's cool-retro funk, you're going to have to hit the flea markets (and estate sales, and vintage furniture shops, and the odd antique shop, too). Keep your eyes open for fun finds that will add interest and substance to your space, and seek out a collection of pieces that move you — chances are, if they speak to you, they'll shout to your guests.

ONE-OF-A-KIND FINDS:

Adriennes Midtown Flea Market
3308 Troost Ave.
Kansas City, Mo. 64109
816-561-3532

Broadway Flea Market & Furniture
1204 S. Broadway St.
Oak Grove, Mo. 64075
816-625-8266

Merriam Lane Flea Market
1270 Merriam Lane
Kansas City, Kan. 66103
913-677-0833

Nearly New Shop Northland
4710 N.E. Vivion Rd.
Kansas City, Mo. 64119
816-453-3063

Retro Inferno

1500 Grand Blvd
Kansas City, Mo. 64108
816-842-4004

Westport Flea Market

817 Westport Road
Kansas City, Mo. 64111
816-931-1986

THE EXPERTS:

Keith Krouse, contractor
913-220-8715

Matney Floral Design
2708 W. 53rd St.
Fairway, Kan. 66205
913-362-5419



Seen & Noted

- 1. Art doesn't have to be hung to be seen.** Jimenez casually displays his framed art on a long, narrow shelf, which allows him to rearrange it on impulse and move it easily.
- 2. Art and technology can mix.** Jimenez surrounded his flat-screen television with thick slabs of custom-made shelves that display an eclectic collection of pottery.
- 3. The art can be in the display.** Objects as mundane as paper clips and rubber bands take on new importance when arranged with panache.

