

MODERN LUXURY

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Interiors

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Furnishings

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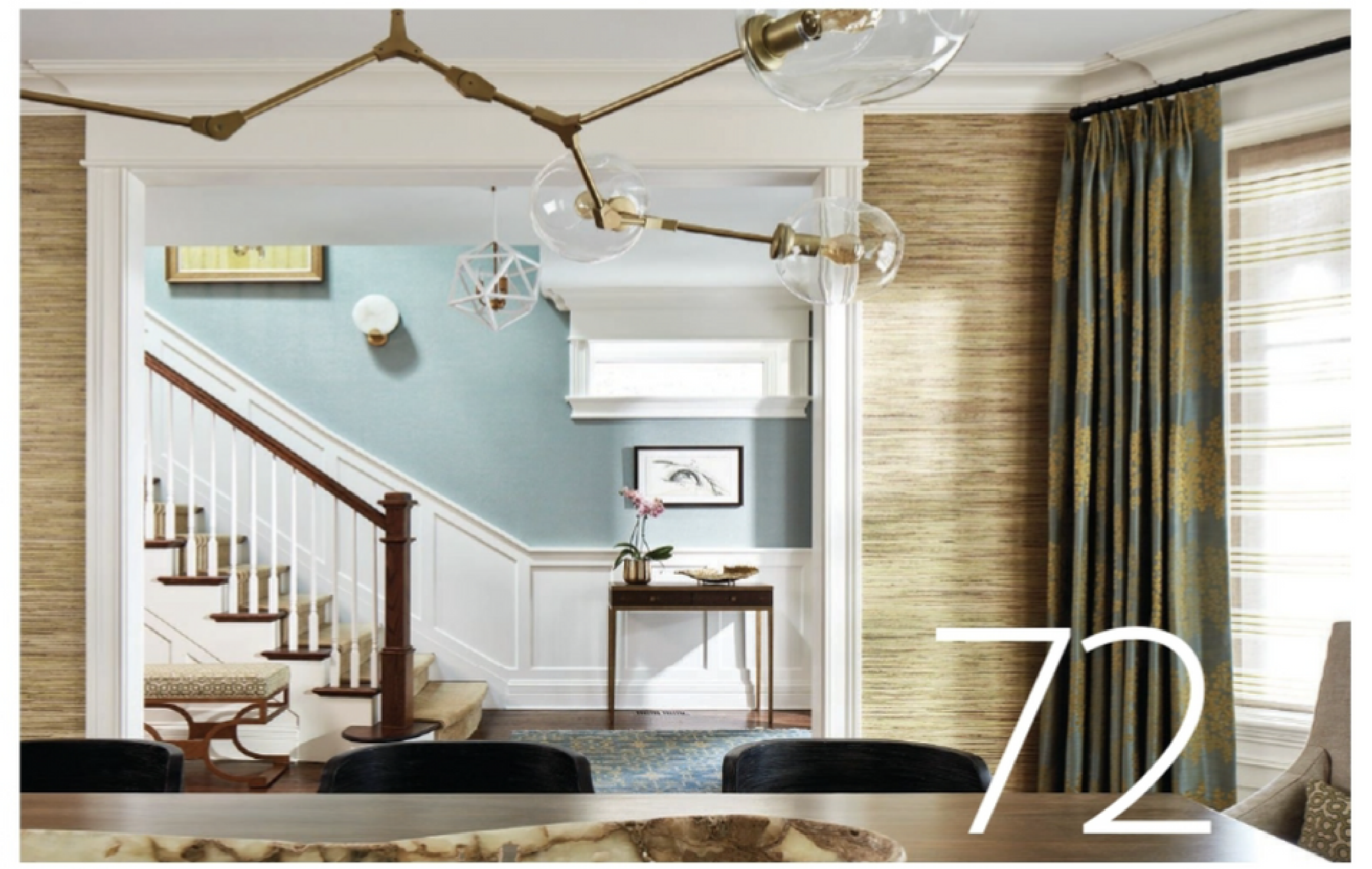
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From top: Pops of blue accent the neutral hues in the family room, including a handknotted wool rug and an elegant cocktail brass table with a hair-on-hide top; the transom window inspired interior designer Stephen Young to go wild with color in a way he never has before.



...CONTINUED accent pillows in the family room at the back of the home. "This was a huge opportunity to use color in a way that I've never done before," Young says.

Texture also plays a crucial role in the project. A bamboo chair with jute sides and a brass cocktail ottoman with an upholstered hair-on-hide top lend the family room a casual, relaxed feeling. "I love combining earthy texture with elements that are a nod to nature," he says, pointing to the wood stump side table. "It's cosmopolitan, but it feels relaxed, casual and sort of rustic."

Those elements have been carried into the formal living and dining areas, where a grass-cloth wallcovering highlights the new custom millwork. It's one of many wallcoverings throughout, including a fringed design with a slight metallic sheen in the CONTINUED...



ADDRESSED FOR SUCCESS

Interior designer Stephen Young puts a vibrant new spin on a historic brick rowhome in North Center.

By Tate Gunnerson // Photography by Nathan Kirkman // Portrait by Daniel Kelleghan

Greg and Ellen Wipke were thrilled to find and purchase a renovated 1916-era brick rowhome with many original intact details, but they weren't so sure about the stained-glass transom window street number, which seemed a bit too old-timey. Their interior designer, Stephen Young, however, saw it in a different light. In fact, it inspired many of the fabrics, paint swatches and wallcovering samples that he incorporated into his initial presentation, which he laid out onto the floor in front of the couple. "It was almost like a menu of his brain," Greg says. "I could instantly visualize the design."

The blue walls and traditional area rug in the front foyer coordinate perfectly with the stained glass, making the window feel almost modern despite its provenance. And the same tone can also be found in the wool rug and on the CONTINUED...



From top: The brass chandelier over the dining table is one of many unique fixtures that Young incorporated throughout the home's interior; brass stools surround the furniture-like island in the open kitchen, which required only minor enhancements, including new pendant lights.



From top: Antique mirrors and a Parisian fabric wallcovering highlight the beautiful moldings in the master bedroom; wallpaper and a luxe mirror elevate the traditional white-tile master bathroom.

...CONTINUED powder room and a Parisian fabric wallcovering in the master bedroom.

"It has a boudoir quality that's kind of sexy," Young says. "Wallcoverings add a layer of dimension, color, texture and sophistication."

Lighting is another important element. A pair of traditional globes illuminate the kitchen island, for example, where Young added a quartet of brass stools. And a sculptural brass chandelier with handblown glass globes illuminates the wooden table in the dining room. "A showstopping light fixture sets the tone and creates such a high-end look," he says. Made of materials like concrete and brass, the accent lighting is just as luxe.

While some of the couple's existing furnishings now live in the lower-level family room, everything on the first floor is brand-new, and Young also handled the smaller touches, including custom-embroidered hand towels, bed linens and even tissue-box covers. "It was a very personal project, and I put 100% of myself into it," he says. "It's a beautiful example of what I think a family home can and should look like."

Greg and Ellen can't say enough about Young's design, pointing out unique elements like the vibrant and whimsical mosaic wallcovering in the lower-level rec room, which their 4-year-old son, Theo, also loves. "I wanted it to be eclectic and timeless, and I think Stephen captured that perfectly," Ellen says. "He was fabulous," Greg adds. "This is really Ellen's project, but Stephen made it fun for me too." ■

