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Best Family-Friendly Kitchen: Stephen Young Design

Style is not an afterthought in this large open-concept kitchen in Lincoln Park.

Lively peacock-blue cabinetry with a traditional profile, quartz countertops and a glass-and-marble mosaic backsplash exude sophistication, and also stand up to the owners' two toddlers in this spacious chef's kitchen in Lincoln Park by interior designer Stephen Young. "Everybody's doing white kitchens, but that's the furthest thing from what we wanted," Young explains, noting that white cabinetry would get lost in such a massive space. "The color gives it a family feeling, and it's really stimulating for kids." Open to the living and dining areas, a massive 12-foot-long island allows the parents to keep an eye on the rambunctious tykes while prepping a meal and, thanks to the counter stools, makes an ideal place for quick snacks. "You can basically hose them down," Young explains of their bamboo legs and faux woven rattan upholstery. A trio of blackened-metal globe light fixtures from Lightology seals the deal. "They are seen through the entire home and really command the entire space," Young says.

BEST GARDEN DESIGN: MARIANI LANDSCAPE

With its traditional detailing and a classical axial layout, this North Shore garden exudes elegance.

The grand gardens of yesteryear inspired Design Principal Carrie Woleben-Meade's plans for the patio at the Lake Forest Showhouse & Gardens in 2017—a patio that, indeed, feels like something out of one of F. Scott Fitzgerald's novels. Working around the existing center fountain, Woleben-Meade juxtaposed the rambling cottage-style home with a symmetrical layout planted with boxwood hedges dotted with white hydrangeas, green euphorbias and other white flowers selected by Head Horticulturalist Jim Osborne. Bluestone pavers likewise evoke a classic feel, and bluestone gravel walking paths add subtle texture. "The inside has a lot of bold colors, so I wanted to quiet it down and create a relaxing space," says the designer of the simple black, white and green color palette and tailored furnishings by Alessandra Branca. Woleben-Meade hosted several cocktail parties on-site during the show and was thrilled to see people mingling about the space. "People enjoyed it," she says. "I got a big kick out of seeing if it actually was being used as it was intended." 300 Rockland Road, Lake Bluff, 847.234.2172, marianilandscape.com

