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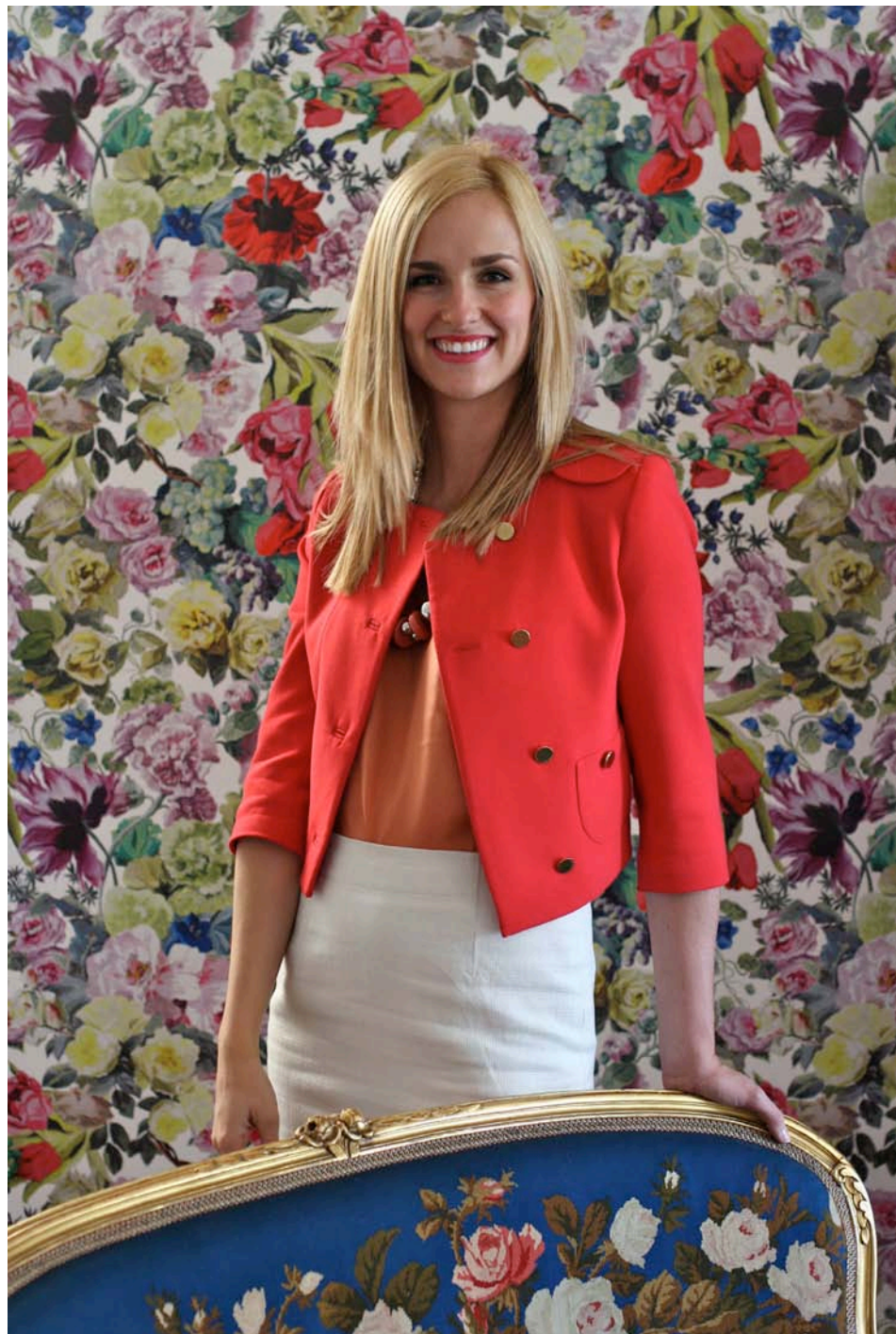
At Home with
the Spades

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Step into my Office

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Josh Thornton*

Chicago-based interior designer **SUMMER THORNTON** knows how to make a space sparkle. Lucky for us, she recently granted *Matchbook* a behind-the-scenes peek at her chic Lincoln Park headquarters. Read on for the dish on all that inspires Summer and her talented team.



WE JUST LOVE YOUR OFFICE! WHAT WAS THE ORIGINAL VISION FOR YOUR WORKSPACE? I envisioned a space with sheen and glitz, but that was also playful at the same time. It was about creating a fresh space where ideas could flourish. The super-saturated digital print wallpaper is from

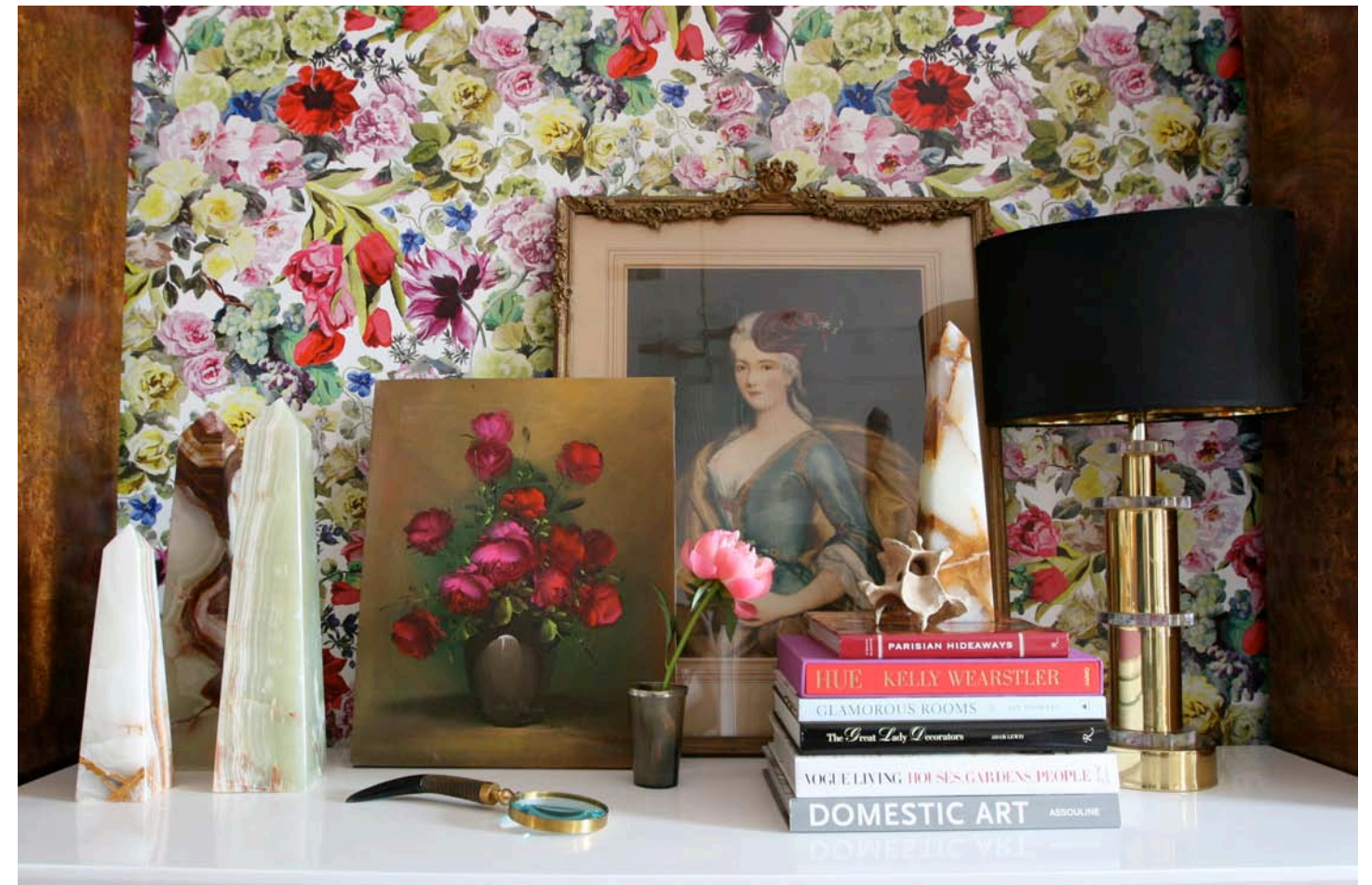
Designers Guild. The colors are strong, but the pattern maintains some tradition, which I love.

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE PIECE IN THE OFFICE? I like how they all work together, but if I had to choose, my favorites would be the

glass rod sconces and chandelier and the chevron wing-back chairs.

WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE NEIGHBORHOOD? WAS THE SPACE LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT?

We're in a great little neighborhood called Lincoln Park.





It's a beautiful area with tree-lined streets and gorgeous old homes. As far as the actual space, it was not love at first sight. The office was a former real estate office with track lighting, polyester curtain office dividers, cheap office furniture, and wires everywhere. Thankfully, it had great natural light.

TALK ABOUT A TRANSFORMATION! HOW DOES THE CITY OF CHICAGO INSPIRE YOU?

Chicago is an amazing city. We have the best architecture, great vintage shopping, and such down-to-earth creative people. One of my favorite things to do is wander the streets of different neighborhoods and admire the architecture. It's especially fun after dark when you can get a glimpse of the interiors as well!

IN THE ERA OF DIY, WHY DO YOU RECOMMEND HIRING AN INTERIOR DESIGNER?

Hiring a professional to help with your home is no different than hiring a lawyer to create a contract or a doctor to diagnose an illness. They're experts in their field and know who to talk to, how much it should cost, and all the tips and tricks. I think the most important reason is that good designers understand how to blend and mix materials into a cohesive look.



**SUMMER'S DECOR
ADVICE FOR THE
MATCHBOOK GIRL**

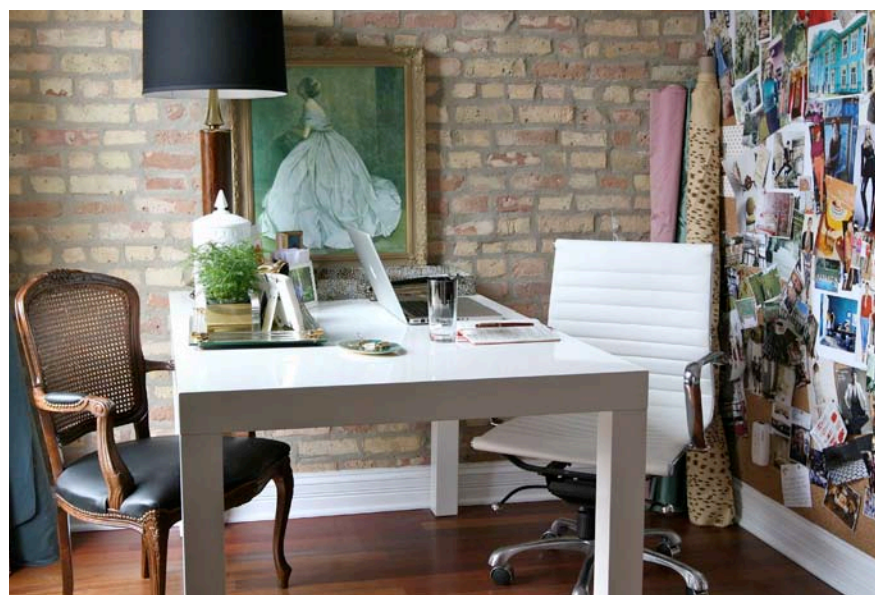
Granny IS chic.

*Go for personality
over prestige.*

*The greater the risk,
the greater the reward.*

Patina adds personality

*Quirky homes welcome
quirky friends.*



**SUMMER'S
FAVORITE SHOPS**

*JAYSON HOME & GARDEN:
A Chicago favorite!*

*1ST DIBS: The craziest things
and also the best*

*THE FIND: A recent favorite vintage
furniture shop in Chicago*

*JEAN DE MERRY: Over-the-top
deco-inspired furniture*

*OSBORNE & LITTLE: Amazing fabrics
and wallpapers*

SOMETHING WE COULD BENEFIT FROM! TELL US, WHERE DO YOU LOOK FOR DESIGN INSPIRATION?

My inspiration comes from so many places--I recently started recording it on a blog. I get most of my inspiration from travel (most recently to Russia!), from fashion photography, books, flea markets, and architecture.

DO YOU HAVE ANY DESIGN IDOLS?

Kelly Wearstler, Miles Redd, and Madeleine Castaing

SOME OF OUR FAVORITES TOO! WHAT ABOUT A DREAM DECORATING PROJECT?

My true "dream project" would be somewhat of a contemporary interpretation of Versailles. Lots of glamour and splendor and impracticality in a beautiful rural estate setting.

NOW THAT SOUNDS FUN. LAST BUT NOT LEAST, HOW DOES SUMMER THORNTON DECORATE FOR THE HOLIDAYS?

For me, the holidays are all about creating a warm and inviting feel. I love decorating for Christmas! I have a collection of vintage glass ornaments that are so fun and nostalgic. While I love a good tree and wreath, you can go a long way just by adding more luxurious layers than you would normally have in your home--a touch of fur, sparkle, or deep rich colors. ●