

SHERIDAN ROAD

NORTH SHORE STYLE & SUBSTANCE
NOVEMBER 2015

COURTING LIFE LESSONS

*MetroSquash helps
disadvantaged children
find the right path*

CHEESE & CARATS

*Delicious jewels for
the holiday season*

DINE
FIRESIDE
with our *new*
Gatherings
feature

“No hour of
life is wasted
that is spent
in the saddle.”

-WINSTON
CHURCHILL

TALLY HO

MILL CREEK HUNT CLUB celebrates a tradition
of hounds, horses, and the hunt



Living room

LA DOLCE VITA

If we were to have an imaginary dinner party for Brigitte Bardot, Audrey Hepburn, and Sophia Loren, it might happen in this glamorously appointed Wilmette living room.

WORDS BY SHERRY THOMAS / PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOSH THORNTON

HOME TOUR

When a Wilmette homeowner first set eyes on the work of rising design star Summer Thornton at a North Shore show house, two words came to mind: living room. When we first saw the 1970s Italian glam meets 1940s Paris transformation of that room and the adjacent dining space, two words came to mind: cocktail party.

Thornton's penchant for "cultured irreverence" is evident throughout this decadent but thoroughly playful transformation—starting with a couch in midnight blue velvet that sits upon a perch of solid brass gold feet.

"The owner wanted to have fun with the design, and not be too literal or too stuffy," explains Thornton, whose Chicago-based atelier specializes in luxury interiors infused with a passion for bold color and rich fabrics. "It's an older home, which I love, but the owner is creative and came up with some great ideas. We share a similar taste and aesthetic."

One of Thornton's signatures is creating spaces with curated elegance, mixing high and low pieces with a dash of irreverence.

In addition to the midnight velvet showstopper, the living room evokes an air of 1970s Italian glamour with modern art, sumptuous peach mohair fabric lounge chairs, and a pair of 1940s French benches topped with green tiger silk velvet.

"It was very purposeful that we kept the walls so quiet so that furniture could be the star," says Thornton, commenting on the subdued tone of white with a hint of gray. "The dining room takes an opposite approach with walls, curtains, and decor, all playing with different shades of lavender and periwinkle."

Favorite pieces in the dining room tableau include chairs upholstered in slate blue leather and a stunning vintage chandelier.

Thornton's background in textile design is evident throughout, with daring choices in texture, color, and

Living room



HOMETOUR



pattern. The Wilmette project also reflects some of her favorite design “rules,” which say that every beautiful room ought to have at least one flea market find. “This one clearly has several,” Thornton says, adding, “The homeowner has a knack for finding spectacular pieces.”

Her Chicago-based Summer Thornton Design atelier has been providing personal style services for the home for about 10 years. In that time she has watched her business evolve to include luxury projects around the country, with more than ever popping up on the North Shore.

“The general migration is in that direction,” she

says. “As my clients have children and move, I follow them.”

While Thornton’s style is more eclectic and modern she says she loves working in vintage homes like the one in Wilmette. “The house is from the 1920s or 1930s so it has those great traditional bones and beautiful details. It was fun to take that and give it a sleek edge, especially with a homeowner who was excited about color.”

The only thing missing now is a cocktail.

For more information about Summer Thornton, visit SummerThorntonDesign.com