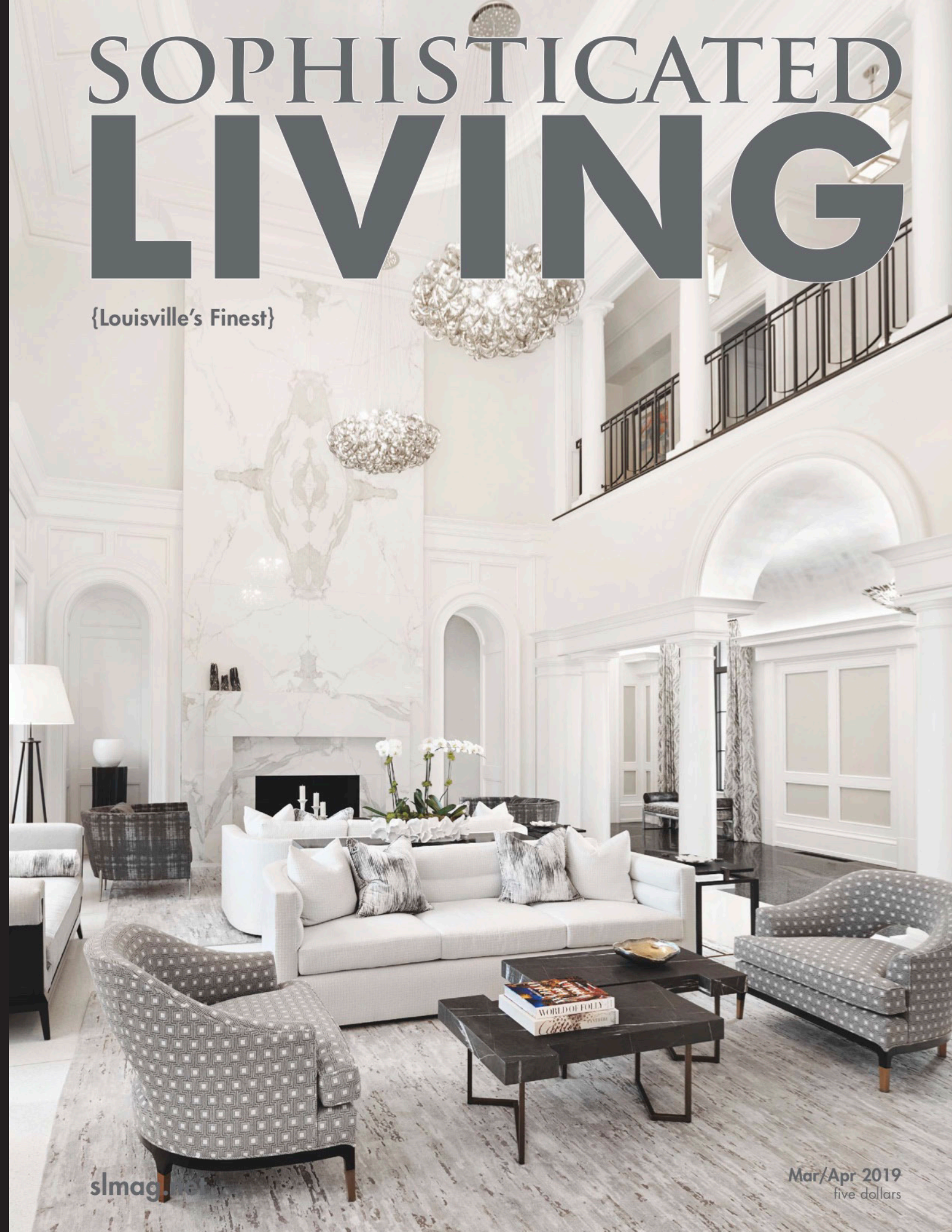


SOPHISTICATED LIVING

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Broche chandeliers from Crystorama in an antique silver finish illuminate the entry hall.

OHMS & AAHS

A newly built home in Prospect designed by Amy Cimba of Bittners utilizes a controlled color palette and plenty of shine to create serene and splendid spaces.

Written by Bridget Williams / Photography by Rachel Lutz/Andrew Kung Group

The cut limestone façades of Hausmann-era apartment buildings that line the grand boulevards of Paris have become as endemic as the Eiffel Tower. The “noble” second floor dwellings of these stately structures possess the enviable bone structure of a supermodel; in the subsequent decades, the Parisians have mastered the art of deftly layering a modern skin upon this timeless framework. A similar aura of old-meets-new was artfully crafted within a newly built Prospect home, a five-year labor of love spearheaded by interior designer Amy Cimba of Bittners.

Drawing architectural inspiration from Rostrevor, a Louisville landmark residence designed in the early 1900s by the renowned firm of Carrère and Hastings, the home’s substantial

Beaux-Arts-style limestone exterior is accentuated with balconets that confute its newness. The hefty steel pivot front door is the first indication that what is inside defies convention.

In keeping with the principles of Carrère and Hastings’ designs for grand country homes, the main hall runs perpendicular to the entrance axis and functions as a point of access to all rooms, and staircases are tucked away at either ends of the home. Adding instant antiquity and juxtaposing nicely with contemporary art, luminescent surfaces and finishes, are substantial architectural accents, including a groin-vaulted ceiling in the long entry hall, a central dome in the double-height living room, and extensive application of classic case and millwork.



Resembling a Rorschach inkblot test, monumental slabs of bookmatched Neolith sintered stone slabs create a dramatic floor-to-ceiling statement as a fireplace surround in the formal living room.



A gently curving marble staircase is tucked away near the entrance to the master suite.



A three-door cabinet from Bethan Gray deviates from the living room's predominate black, white and gray color palette.

Assembled in a more piecemeal fashion with input from friends, the homeowners' previous residence was as colorful as an Easter basket, and Cimba remarked that the design of their current home represents both a "palette cleanse" and an evolution of their personal style. "The [wife] has superior taste," said Cimba, who added that while she understood the wife's proclivity for shine and reflectivity, she was given a very loose rein to bring the project to fruition, and was therefore able to incorporate finishes rarely seen in Louisville.

Floor-to-ceiling luminosity is found throughout the first floor. In many of the rooms, Cimba began with selecting the light fixtures and worked her way down from there. Broche chandeliers from Crystorama in an antique silver finish illuminate the entry hall. Underfoot are gleaming terrazzo floors; black is found in the entry hall and dining room, and white in the living room and

kitchen. Painter Byron Roberts worked for weeks to apply silver leaf to the groin vaulted ceiling in the entry corridor and the dome in the living room.

Resembling a Rorschach inkblot test, monumental slabs of bookmatched Neolith sintered stone slabs create a dramatic floor-to-ceiling statement as a fireplace surround in the formal living room. The space is defined by a strict adherence to symmetry and a muted and calming color palette; the lone exception is a stunning three door cabinet from Bethan Gray with a hand-shaded teal ombré veneer. A pair of spun glass chandeliers suspended from the dome ceiling illuminate mirrored seating areas.

Highly polished rosewood base cabinets in the butler's pantry near the dining room exhibit one of the few uses of stained wood in the home. Mounted above are polished nickel glass front cabinets with mirrored backs.



A pair of Ipswich counter-mounted lights from Waterworks are found on the T-shaped island in the kitchen.



Bold upholstery on the dining room chairs is a nod to the wife's love of color.



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Comprised of walnut and German Restoration Mirror, the craftsmen at the Bittners' woodworking studio created the dramatic bed in the master suite. The velvet duvet cover is from Kevin O'Brien Studio.



Tile and fixtures from Ann Sacks and Waterworks are found in the expansive master bathroom.



A powder room features Kelly Wearstler wallpaper and sconces.



Judicious use of color and a Kate Spade desk create a playful vibe in the wife's office.

Jonathan Stanton is credited with the installing the dimensional tile around the fireplace in the family room.



The wow factor continues in the kitchen, where a wall of ebony cabinets, lacquered to a mirror shine, are dressed with polished nickel hardware. Marble mosaic marquetry tile on the wall behind the polished range hood adds visual energy and tempers the glossiness. A pair of Ipswich counter-mounted lights from Waterworks are found on the T-shaped island, a multi-function piece that incorporates a multitude of textures, and ties together the overarching black, white and grey color scheme.

The open-concept kitchen encompasses a casual dining space and a family room. The arms of a Lindsey Aldeman chandelier extend over the dining table, which is surrounded by origami-like chairs with cane backs that are simultaneously timeless and time reflecting. The casual appeal of the family room is underscored by a wood herringbone ceiling, and a comfortable sectional oriented to the fireplace wall. Accent pieces and throw pillows are a nod to the wife's enduring love of color. Cimba scattered houseplants from Mahonia throughout the rooms to add living color. "Living plants have a grounding effect in spaces with lots of shine," she remarked.

A judicious use of color in the wife's office adds personality while maintaining congruity with the rest of the home. A playful Kate Spade desk faces out to a curved wall of windows. Nearby, Cimba's keen eye elevates what would otherwise be mundane into something marvelous: a passthrough hallway that leads to

the laundry room is dressed up with a mica-flecked wallcovering from Schumacher. With its ample lacquered cabinetry, farmhouse sink and central island, it would be easy to mistake the enviable laundry room for a secondary kitchen.

Conjuring up thoughts of donning a formal gown and making a dramatic entrance, a gently curving marble staircase is tucked away near the entrance to the master suite. Near the base of the stairs is a regally modern powder room with mirrored arched doors, a crystal bead chandelier suspended from a gilded ceiling, Kelly Wearstler Channels wallpaper, and rock crystal sconces.

Comprised of walnut and German Restoration Mirror, the craftsmen at the Bittners' woodworking studio created the dramatic bed in the master suite. Cimba dressed the bed with a burnout velvet duvet from Kevin O'Brien Studio. A calculated use of color comes in the form of a pair of Kelly green armchairs positioned in front of tall windows that provide a view of the pool.

Similar to Hausmann principles, where buildings are treated not as independent structures, but as pieces of a unified urban landscape, the individual rooms designed by Cimba throughout the entirety of this 11,000-square-foot residence present themselves as a cohesive unit. Cimba said that although the project was not without its challenges, it came together beautifully because of her clients' confidence in her skills as a designer and project manager. "This was a project of trust," she added. 