

SHERIDAN ROAD

NORTH SHORE STYLE
& SUBSTANCE

MAY 2024

“In order to
look your best
you must feel
your best.”

- AZEEZA KHAN

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HOME TOUR

EVERYTHING OLD IS NEW AGAIN

Designer Lee Thinnes offers a fresh take on art and antiques for a mother and daughter merging two households in a Northfield home.

WORDS BY THOMAS CONNORS / PHOTOGRAPHY BY RYAN MCDONALD / STYLING BY BRITT SARTIN

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OPPOSITE PAGE: A classic, crisp, black and white checkerboard pattern marble floor sets the entry stage. White walls in Benjamin Moore's White Dove with meticulously placed square moldings in Benjamin Moore's Chantilly Lace set the tone for the owner's vast antique and fine art collection. The room boasts Visual Comfort wall sconces, a Ligne Roset marble table, a pair of 1970s vintage stools updated with cream wool bouclé, a 1920s French commode, and a vintage Venetian mirror with vintage marble bust. An antique oil painting anchored by a pair of antique French Louis XVI cane chairs emphasizes the second-floor gallery. **LEFT:** Kitchen and breezeway boast walnut-stained chevron shape oak floors and matching beams. A 13-foot walnut island holds a custom-lighted Cristallo Quartzite countertop. The BlueStar range and stove hood have custom copper finishes. The Galley 55 Workstation sink anchors the large island. Bespoke lighted cabinet in stainless steel, chrome, and wood displays family heirloom copper pots and pans. Antiqued mirror backsplash and a brass, copper, stainless steel mesh covers the painted cabinets, refrigerator, and freezer. **BELOW:** Custom millwork molding in Benjamin Moore Chantilly Lace surrounds the chic game room. Family heirlooms fill the space. Antique iron and colored glass sconces were once pendants hanging in the owner's grandfather's Chicago restaurant. Vintage furnishings include the green leather Chesterfield sofa, faux yellow and green leather bamboo barstools, pool table, and Asian-inspired painted commode.

“It was a match made in heaven,” says Lee Thinnies, owner and principal designer of Lee’s Antiques & Interiors LLC. “My client had purchased a very large home, because her mother was moving in, along with her extensive collection of art and antiques. I’ve been an antique dealer for 18 years, specializing in late 19th through mid-20th-century European and American furniture, fine art, and lighting. So, I was able to use that knowledge to incorporate all these pieces into the home in a really soulful way,” explains Thinnies.

Her client’s home is a large, 1990s property executed in a French Country style. Working with architect Jeff Heaney and Callahan & Peters Inc.’s owner Dave Peters, the homeowner took the house down to the studs to create a cleaner, more contemporary envelope. Thinnies worked with Michelle Chircop, a Designer/Project Coordinator at Callahan & Peters, to fine-tune the interior architecture, then set about fashioning spaces in which the client’s furnishings would really shine. “We designed the home as a backdrop to highlight these pieces so they would appear more modern,” says Thinnies, who got an early grounding in architecture and design while working summers for her mother who managed an architectural firm. “We opened up headers in doorways to make rooms feel more spacious. We used white walls everywhere and a raised paneling in a square motif in the foyer and billiard room that feels more today.”

Aside from a few sconces, everything in the house came from the client’s existing inventory. “There were pieces some people would have let go,” admits Thinnies, “but we used every piece that she and her mother owned, merging two entire households into one home.” The billiard room sports a vibrant green Chesterfield that once sat in the mother’s family room. “The sconces in that room,” notes Thinnies, “are repurposed pendants that hung in a



restaurant my client’s grandfather had in the city.”

Embracing family and heritage were key to Thinnies’ approach. So too was creating a conversation between old and new. In the double-height foyer, Thinnies paired 1970s stools updated in cream wool bouclé with a 1920s French commode and a vintage Venetian mirror. The living room is set with Louis XV armchairs upholstered in yellow silk, a sapphire blue Ligne Roset sofa, and a vintage glass coffee table. The wallpaper—an overscale rendering of almond blossoms by Vincent Van Gogh—is a bold but sympathetic gesture in this eclectically outfitted room.

“Because the family loves to entertain and the client’s mother had an extensive Queen Anne dining set, we made the existing living room into a dining room that seats 20,” shares Thinnies. In the kitchen—executed with an assist from Starved Rock Wood Products of Glenview—she created a contemporary space that tips a toque to French Country. Anchored by a 13-foot walnut island capped with rust-veined Cristallo Quartzite, it generates a special warmth thanks to handsome ceiling beams, walnut-stained oak floors in a chevron pattern, and a BlueStar range and stove hood in a custom copper finish.

HOME TOUR



ABOVE: Vincent Van Gogh's *Almond Blossom* wallpaper provides the perfect complement to the antique French Louis XV armchairs upholstered in yellow silk. A 1920s antique French sideboard holds an heirloom antique clock and crystal vase. A blue Ligne Roset sofa anchors the wall. Vintage glass coffee table holds family heirloom antique vase, ink bottles, and silver plate tray. **TOP RIGHT:** Primary bedroom. Benjamin Moore's soothing Silver Mist covers the walls, custom molding, and ceiling. Vintage Karl Springer nightstands flank the bed. An antique French brass and crystal chandelier dangles over the vintage iron four-poster bed. The vintage French Louis XV style bench is covered in mohair and the mid-century modern armchair holds a custom mohair throw pillow. Wall sconces by Visual Comfort. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Warm walnut-stained oak floors surround the gracious second-floor landing. A 1970s ebonized Asian-inspired console table with complementary Asian stools hug the wall. Wall sconces by Visual Comfort.

Art graces almost every room. A Renoir-like Edna Hibel lithograph hangs in one bathroom, a Roy Lichtenstein print in another. Chandeliers sparkle throughout. An antique French brass and crystal piece is suspended over a four-poster bed in the primary bedroom. An early 20th-century fixture illuminates a primary bathroom. Stylish finishes and fabrics, such as Calacatta Gold and Borghini marble flooring and the silvery mohair on a Louis XV bench, play a critical role in supporting the pervasive sophistication. An embarrassment of riches, the home—thanks to Thinnies' eye for scale and proportion, color and material, and her intimate knowledge of art and antiques—is stunning, but not overwhelming. And most importantly, keenly expressive of the lives lived here.

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