



A Highland Park living room regained its sleek lines, left, and a passageway in a Lake Forest home found better form and more function, right, as a game room.

ting a two-room effect without creating obstacles for his young client.

■ **Huge windows:** Black-painted casement windows in the breakfast area open out, rather than into the room, so they're completely out of the way.

■ **Wide doors:** The door leading into the dining room was stretched to a full 3 feet wide, painted black and given pretty moldings. "We didn't try to hide the fact that the doors are wider," says Eichhorn.

■ **Rough-hewn French oak floor:** A dark stain with a hand-scraped distressed finish is more forgiving. "For a wheelchair, it's a smart-choice. It'll only look better with age," says Eichhorn.

Modern revival Highland Park

What it was: Lovely bones. Designed in 1962 by pioneering modernist Edward Dart, this living room's charms lay buried deep beneath a well-intentioned "improvement." A Dart-designed skylight was covered by plywood and fluorescent lights. In combination with the ceiling's dark cedar stain it made for one dim-lit, dated room.

What it is: Jazzed by Dart's spectacular mid-century architecture, these empty-nester homeowners asked Chicago architect Kathryn Quinn for a sensitive update and a serene palette for their 700 square foot open-plan living/dining room.

What we love

■ **The original stepped up 'floating' ceiling with sky-lit perimeter:** "This driftwood gray stain changed the ceiling from dark and looming to visually uplifting," says Quinn, who also restored the skylight.

■ **Black herringbone brick floors:** "The black stain on the original floor gives it a monolithic feel that imparts texture," says Quinn.

■ **Steel accents:** Quinn says she sheathed the original brick fireplace in steel plate because it doesn't compete with the patterns on the ceiling and floor.

Hardworking gamer Lake Forest

What it was: Outdoor terrace space, rarely used, on the shady side of a gracious, but modest-size, 1957 home.

What it is: A sun-kissed game room for fash-

ion designer and interiors wizard Shelley Johnstone's five children. Architect Austin DePree of Northworks Architects and Planners created this versatile space from a 200-square-foot corridor connecting the original house to a new family room addition.

What we love

■ **Geometric walls:** DePree suggested layering latticework over the walls, an idea Johnstone immediately embraced.

■ **It multitasks:** Johnstone originally envisioned the room as a backgammon and board games space for her family of seven, but it's proved to be much more. Dinner guests are happy to spill over into such a beautiful room, and Johnstone says the heated granite floors and warm afternoon sun make it the perfect spot for a quiet cup of tea on a cold winter day.

■ **Seating to measure:** In a tight space that sees lots of traffic, the custom banquette is a great choice maximizing every inch of available wall.

■ **Outdoors in:** The iron lantern is a twin of one on the house's outdoor porch. Combined with the lattice and a sunny starburst mirror, it makes the room feel like the inside of a garden folly.

Lake Forest by Bill Hogan/Tribune photo



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