

DESIGN'S DARLING

Lake Forest's Shelley Johnstone Paschke unveils her studio and showroom in what is sure to become a North Shore destination for interior design.

By Ann Marie Scheidler

Photography by Katrina Wittkamp

Having a beautiful space to showcase her work was a natural next step for interior designer Shelley Johnstone Paschke. "It was the one piece we were missing," she says. "We were ready to take the next step." Over the course of a weekend, she saw the space, signed the lease and reimagined the two-story downtown Lake Forest location.

To step into the Shelley Johnstone Design Studio and Showroom is to get a glimpse into her elegantly styled world. Inspired by her travels from Palm Beach to the Amalfi Coast, Johnstone favors fabric-covered walls, lacquered paint finishes and bamboo-fashioned furniture. "The upstairs showroom is where I can give people a feel for my aesthetic," Paschke explains. "It's filled with curated things I love and use in my own life. It's also a place where I can show the furniture I design, which can be custom-ordered in the size and finish my clients desire. The downstairs studio is where the work happens. It's where we have all of our fabrics and sourcing information for client projects."

While Paschke will have items for sale on her showroom floor, including a line of candles, note cards from The Printery, pillows, art and signed coffee-table books, she has no intention of becoming a "shopgirl." "I have created this space to grow the business I love—interior design," she says. "I'm happiest when I'm helping clients create beautiful, functional spaces in their homes." 207 E. Westminster Ave., Lake Forest, shelleydesign.com

