From top: The dining room's versatility allows for both casual weeknight family dinners and large holiday gatherings; the urban home sits on two lots in sought-after Lincoln Park and features a spacious side yard.

HOME DESIGN

FOREVER & ALWAYS

When this Chicago-based family brought together a talented group of industry professionals to build their elegant yet functional forever home, the result was truly something special.

BY CHANDLER PRESSON

"Timelessness, elegance, happiness and fun" are all words Elizabeth Taich uses to describe her recently completed design project spanning two lots in Lincoln Park. When a mutual acquaintance recommended Elizabeth Taich Design (elizabethtaich.com) to help the owners, a young professional family of five, to build their forever home, the stars began to align. Taich was brought on to the project just as the architect, Michael Hershenson of Michael Hershenson Architects (mhadesign.com), began to work on drawings. Her early entry allowed seamless integration of the architecture with her interior design vision. "I was able to help work on those initial ideas and really hone in on the feel of the home and how that related to the layout," says Taich.

Under Chicago Custom Home Builders (chicagocustomhome.com) and cabinetry by Intelligent Spaces by Design (intelligentspaces.com), construction took about 2 1/2 years to complete. While the project was the first time designer, builder, cabinetmakers and architect all worked together, they have since gone on to collaborate on many more projects. "Everyone worked so nicely together, which I think was in part due to the fact that we had a clear vision for the home," says Taich. A classically designed urban oasis that combines city convenience with suburban amenities resulted.

Chicago's lakefront paths inspired the home's design, including shades of blue and colorful floral patterns that freshen the traditional finishes ranging from crown moldings to paneled walls. With a very hands-on approach, the clients collaborated as a couple to create a timeless home they would both enjoy. "There were many shopping trips for

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tile, plumbing, appliances, furniture—an extensive running list—and they were there together, every step of the way," says Taich. Every detail was carefully considered, from a hidden pantry closet in the kitchen to the husband's concession of pops of green, rather than blue, in the family room.

Subtle changes in color palette cleverly make each room of the ground floor distinct while still maintaining cohesiveness. "We really strove to make a big impact when you first enter the house," says Taich. In the foyer, bold floral wallpaper with a silver background by Designers Guild (designersguild.com) helped formalize the nearby living room by allowing for fabrics with metallic sheens. A stunning chandelier by Circa Lighting (circalighting.com) elevates the dining room, yet the overall design remains understated in an aim to be comfortable yet versatile.

With the kitchen and family room at the heart of the home, the clients wanted the two spaces to be functional yet fun. Bold colors were incorporated through kid-friendly materials and fabrics that maintain elegant design, such as the kitchen counter stools by Serena & Lily (serenaandlily.com) and custom pillows using Schumacher fabric (fschumacher.com) in the family room. Neutral cabinetry, counters and wall colors complement the pops of color and ensure timelessness, and plenty of storage was added in the kitchen cabinetry, an important detail for the growing family.

When creating the family's forever home, the bedrooms required beautiful and lasting design that each family member would enjoy for years to come. "It was important to make the master bedroom not feel overly feminine, so we paired a softer floral print with a bolder paint color," says Taich. Both daughters' bedrooms are any little girl's dream, featuring custom bedding and design to ensure "they could grow with the spaces over time," according to Taich. We would argue the whole home is a dream, from its functional and elegant design to its sought-after location. Forever home, indeed.

Clockwise from top left: Dark navy grass cloth color-matched with high-gloss cabinetry gives the office a modern take on a traditional wood-paneled library; the home's serene blue palette was inspired by Chicago's lakefront paths; the kitchen features Sub-Zero and Wolf appliances, a custom banquette and a creative cabinetry layout that incorporates a hidden walk-in pantry.