



“The client loved the idea of having a floating staircase, so that was our starting point.” – Katie Wozniak

# RISING FROM THE ASHES

AFTER A  
DEVASTATING  
FIRE, A DRAMATIC  
NEW LUXURY  
HOME WAS  
ENHANCED BY  
KATHERINE  
ELIZABETH  
DESIGNS



TEXT GWEN DONOVAN PHOTOGRAPHY KYLE FLUBACKER OF LENSPEAK PHOTOGRAPHY INTERIOR DESIGN KATHERINE ELIZABETH DESIGN

## BARRINGTON, ILLINOIS

When a client's home burned down during a remodeling project, award-winning interior designer Katie Wozniak stepped in with a brand new vision for a bespoke floor plan filled with curated finishes. As the principal and lead designer of Katherine Elizabeth Designs, Wozniak made enhancements from the early construction phase until moving day. "In my client's original home he was restricted by the layout, but with this new home he was able to go big on design and perfect every piece of it." Located in the Chicago suburb of Barrington, Illinois, the transitional design merges dark wood tones, towering ceilings and expansive windows with dramatic effect.

An essential part of Wozniak's process envisioned a variety of ways to integrate artwork into a dynamic layout. "My client is an avid art collector who loves bold art like Andy Warhol; unfortunately much of his collection was lost in the house fire. He didn't have a clear idea about the home design he wanted, but knew that he would be rebuilding his art collection and needed his new home to accommodate that. We started off by presenting inspiration images with different styles, patterns and color schemes to see what he was drawn to. He ended up loving modern style with the flair of midcentury modern, a pop of color, and some antiques thrown in."

An ornate staircase serving three levels visually unites spaces within

the stunning floor plan, Wozniak said. "The client loved the idea of having a floating staircase, so that was our starting point. The railings were designed to be sleek and to play off the modern lines of the furniture and kitchen design. This was definitely a major component in the design staircase and fireplace, they are both a focal point when entering the home. The staircase treads are made from slabs of walnut and the geometric but clean railings complete the look."

Wozniak's favorite design element is the great room fireplace. "We spent a lot of time choosing every piece of stone. My client fell in love with blue stone which is from Paris Ceramics, and the navy accent tile from Waterworks just turned out perfectly and makes a great statement as you enter through the front door. The client really wanted an oversized hearth box because he loves to sit by the fire and read a book."

Attention to every aspect of the luxe interior is revealed in patterned wallpapers with a metallic polish. "The wallpapers were selected to add texture, dimension and layers within each room," Wozniak said. "The master bedroom has a wood veneer wallpaper in a chevron pattern, which has a sheen to reflect the light while keeping the room masculine." Other reflective finishes are displayed in the dining room wallpaper, living room artwork and accessories throughout.

As for the new homeowner, Wozniak reported that he is thrilled with how everything turned out. "The client loves his new home! He now spends more time in this home than his home on the West Coast."

