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GOLD LIST



ARCHITECTURE / CELESTE ROBBINS, ROBBINS ARCHITECTURE
INTERIOR DESIGN / TRAVIS CLIFTON, T. CLIFTON DESIGN, LTD.
HOME BUILDER / JAKE GOLDBERG, GOLDBERG GENERAL CONTRACTING INC.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE / KRIS BARKER AND TIFFANY EVANS,
BARKER EVANS LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



MODERN MANOR

GLASS WALLS AND CLEAN LINES PROVIDE A MINIMALIST
SETTING FOR GLENCOE ART COLLECTORS.

WRITTEN BY MAILE PINDEL / PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEVE HALL/HALL+MERRICK

A sunburst mirror by Baker brings sparkle to the entryway of a family home in Glencoe designed by architect Celeste Robbins. The marble-and-steel console table is by Powell & Bonnet.



It was while on an architecture tour in Glencoe when a lifelong design enthusiast visited a house by architect Celeste Robbins she would never forget. "Being modern, it was markedly different from everything else in the neighborhood," she recalls. "I was immediately struck by it, and I remember thinking, 'I could live here.'"

Her chance to work with Robbins came years later, when she and her husband were on the hunt for a new home to raise their two children in. "We fell in love with a property surrounded by a ravine a stone's throw from Lake Michigan," the wife says. "As soon as we acquired it, we contacted Celeste to create a modern family-friendly residence that would take advantage of the spectacular surroundings."

The heavily wooded setting served as the driving force for the modernist structure that would replace the original home on the property. "The inspiration came straight from the site," Robbins says. "With a gorgeous ravine view out the backdoor, I knew it was important to create a connection to the outdoors." Other contributions came from the clients, who regularly stopped by the architect's office with new ideas. "The homeowners were engaged in the process from the beginning, which I loved," Robbins says. Among their requests were room for entertaining and plenty of solid walls for a growing art collection.

In answer, Robbins devised a two-story rectangular-shaped house with a slight bend at one end to allow for views of Lake Michigan. At the front, she conjured an Indiana limestone

The architect designed the house with large white walls to accommodate the homeowners' growing art collection. In a corner of the living area, a painting by Meredith Pardee hangs near a pair of chairs from Bernhardt Design. The coffee table and ottoman are from Minotti, and the rug is from Parsons Group, Inc.







The combination living-dining area is the family's formal entertaining space and offers expansive views of the landscape. The sofa, purchased at Luminaire, is by B&B Italia, and the dining table and chairs are part of the brand's Maxalto collection. Moodi pendants add a touch of glam to the dining area. The coffee table is Minotti, and the windows are Duratherm.

An eat-in kitchen offers a more casual gathering-and-dining space as well as immediate access to the pool patio. The Boffi kitchen features an island that accommodates four Jean-Marie Messaul barstools. The nearby table and chairs, which join a built-in banquet designed by Robbins, were purchased at Luminare; above them are Tom Dixon pendants.

façade punctuated by slot windows. "The windows create patterns of light to animate the façade yet still maintain privacy," the architect explains. In the back, Robbins installed floor-to-ceiling windows on both floors, offering unimpeded views of the trees. The resulting building is sculptural, timeless and elegant—an impressive feat, acknowledges builder Jake Goldberg. "For the layperson, minimalist architecture appears to be simple to build, but in fact it's the opposite," he says. "Clean lines create a small margin for error, and ductwork, steel beams and plumbing lines become very tricky to hide."

The home's modern forms offer a pure backdrop for its interior design, a collaborative effort by a cohesive team organized by Robbins: She brought on lighting designer Anne Kustner as well as designer Travis Clifton, a friend of the architect since their days at Cornell University. "My focus was on the furnishings," Clifton says. "The forms and textures of the pieces both respond to the architecture and play off one another." In the main living spaces, the designer introduced clean-lined Italian pieces upholstered in gray-blue hues to keep attention on the clients' art collection, which includes works by Alex Katz and Meredith Pardue. She also opted for textural fabrics and subtle patterns that change with the day-to-evening light.











The master bedroom was kept neutral to focus views on the property's ravine and lake. Classic midcentury pieces from Knoll include Eero Saarinen's Womb chair and Warren Platner's side table. The bedding is from Bedside Manor.

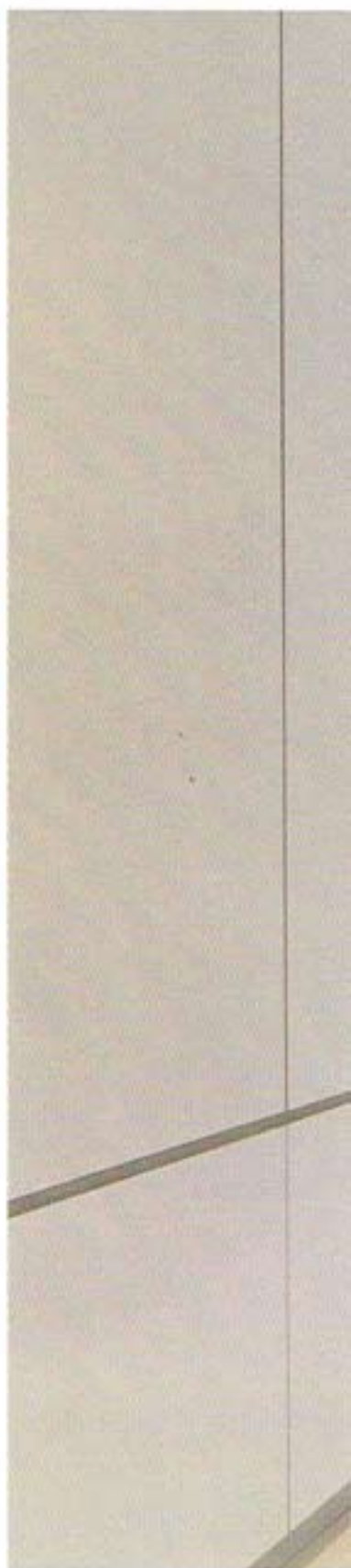


Throughout the project, the interior design evolved as Clifton collaborated with the wife, who found inspiration from magazines and showrooms. "If I could embark on a second career, it would be in the fields of design and art," the wife says. "I follow the contemporary art and design scenes. Walking through the Chicago Merchandise Mart, European furniture showrooms and art galleries is a treat."

But this residence's greatest muse, the homeowner acknowledges, is Mother Nature. "Depending on the season, we're visited by blue jays, squirrels, rabbits and the occasional deer," she says. "It's so peaceful." Home to oak, maple, willow and ash trees, the grounds required only

minimal enhancement. "We added redbuds and dogwoods to the understory of the trees," says landscape architect Kris Barker. Closer to the home, she and partner Tiffany Evans kept the look architectural and linear with evergreens and a flat lawn perfect for kicking around a soccer ball. "We also created controlled moments of seasonal color, like planters for spring tulips," Evans adds.

Amidst the woody environment, the family's new linear home stands tall and proud, welcoming its surrounds with the signature minimalist style that caught the wife's eye years ago. "It has a classic modernism aesthetic that responds to the site quietly," Robbins says. "It's a really special house." ■



Opposite: A Tibetan lamb-fur bench from Barneys New York adds to the master bedroom's glamorous atmosphere created by large Fandrie porcelain tiles from Transceramica on the floor and walls.

Below: Durstern windows provide a dramatic view of the ravine from the master bathroom. The clean lines of the Conan countertops, Dornbracht Deque faucets and cabinetry built by Stay-Straight Manufacturing allow the setting to take center stage.







Carefully thinking out the location of the pool, the design team placed it on the edge of the site to maintain a clean view of the ravine. Landscape architects Kris Barker and Tiffany Evans worked with David Migdal from The Garden Consultants on the installation of new plantings.

