

STRUCTURE + Design

Signature work by leading architects and interior designers







LAUREN COBURN

CHICAGO, IL

Lauren Coburn has a strong architectural and design background, which shines through in each of her projects. She founded her firm after completing her interior architecture studies at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and following extensive work with renowned firms Tigerman McCurry Architects and Soucie Horner Ltd. Through her education and experiences, Lauren grew to appreciate the importance of the working relationship among the architect, designer, and homeowner and learned how to foster the cohesive, productive, and creative team that every successful project needs. Today, Lauren and her firm create stunning, highly personalized, residences as well as a line of custom furniture pieces.

A hallmark of Lauren's designs is that her interiors do not have one particular style or look. Indeed, each home that Lauren works on achieves a strong sense of beauty by customizing the space and taking the homeowner's wants and needs into account. For example, for a six-foot, nine-inch homeowner, Lauren and her team factored his height into every detail, from high ceilings and countertops to bespoke furniture. Similarly, when another homeowner wanted to show off his modern art, Lauren and her team ensured that his collection was represented throughout the home and served as the focal point in several integrated installations. Lauren and her team never lose sight of the fact that in the end, it's all about the homeowner's comfort and tastes, which Lauren translates and implements into beautiful living spaces with her extraordinary design skills and eye for detail.



"Every element is created with the homeowner in mind. The space must make sense for a particular lifestyle."

—Lauren Coburn



TOP, CENTER, & BOTTOM: Set in a scenic Illinois suburb, a traditional estate that originally had a dark, heavy interior was completely transformed. Incorporating the owner's desire for a coastal feel gave the home an airy, light concept. The soft palette of whites and blues helped achieve a beach-inspired feel with a strong calming effect. A collection of vibrant modern art and customized, over-scaled furniture pieces—primarily created by Lauren—highlights the home's elegance. While the striking, mainly modern art adds contrast to the home's traditional elements, the loosely French-inspired custom furniture brought in the homeowner's personal vision. And since three young children and two dogs live in the home, Lauren used practical and beautiful stain-resistant fabrics throughout the space.

FACING PAGE: Lauren designed the Gold Coast home to let natural light pour in and show off its striking architectural details and design elements. Crisp and white, the dining space uses mirrors to reflect the light from the nearby window, while open shelves on the kitchen wall let light flow uninterruptedly from the corner window.

PREVIOUS PAGES: When a creative director for a high-profile Chicago company hired Lauren to renovate his vintage duplex on Chicago's Gold Coast, Lauren wanted to match his high expectations of drama and beauty. The firm succeeded masterfully, with an effective, eye-catching use of black and white contrast. The 1925 Gothic Revival building had some beautiful elements—including floor-to-ceiling windows, original glass, the staircase, and interior doors—which needed substantial restoration to preserve the character of the space. The black-and-white mixed media artwork is by Barbara Coburn.

Photographs by Tony Soluri Photography © 2015 Lauren Coburn, LLC









ABOVE & FACING PAGE TOP: When most people think of media rooms, large screens and theater seating come to mind, but when Lauren was selected to design the media room for the Merchandise Mart Dream Home, she took a different approach. With the modern family in mind—and the understanding that some people don't have the space for an extra media room—Lauren designed a dual-purpose formal living room/media room. Starting with an antique credenza under the large flat screen, Lauren designed two matching rosewood units that each house smaller televisions that can be watched simultaneously through the use of headphones. Electrical sliding panels cover the smaller televisions when not in use, but are attached to sensors, so they raise when someone enters the room. Luminous wood veneer in a scroll pattern covers the wall behind the television and the sofa sitting opposite. The artwork was created by Lauren's mother, Michigan artist Barbara Coburn.

Photographs courtesy of Lauren Coburn and the Merchandise Mart

FACING PAGE BOTTOM: Vintage and new pieces complement one another in the eclectic living room. Beautiful shades of gold, cocoa, and cream mingle with black vintage Asian stools and the African artifact on the mantle. The silver hammered metal and white glass Bradley étagères features the owner's milk glass collection complemented by eye-catching accessories. The bronze and glass coffee table, also by Bradley, adds yet another sculptural focal point to the room. A soft rug by Oscar Isberian Rugs grounds the space, and the lines of the sofa, from Jayson Home are mirrored in the graceful chair in front of the arched window. Barbara Coburn original pieces flank the fireplace, adding even more light to the space.

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