

SQUARE Deal



This modern retreat creates an open, light-filled dream home for its owner, while embracing its more traditional neighbors.

By Tom Gossman
Photographs by Carlos Leri

"The kind of joint vehicle when you walk into this house," explains architect Greg Flores of the modern, covered home on an affordable lot in Lincoln Square that he and colleague Paul Lussano-Millett of Paul Lussano Flores Architects designed for an architect and step as home owner with two young kids. "I wanted the architect association website and checked out literally every architect who did modern design," the husband explains. "We had a good idea of what we wanted, but Greg did a great job of making my children's needs fit into something so much more."

The couple searched for months before finding the right place for their new abode—a white-brick structure in Lincoln Square. "We knew which street had the larger lot, and it came down to what the owner was willing to do with the lot," he explains. "We also really needed to be close to the mainline area so we could just walk to our four-year-old and experience what Lincoln Square has to offer."

From most importantly, the property included a covered and high-ceilinged dead-end back house, which came with some model goals. "It's really challenging to incorporate the elements that



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everybody wants and will have enough room left over after architectural and design programs," Lussano-Millett explains. "Having a house with a couch house that allowed us to do some things that aren't easy to do in a regular residential tract was key."

For starters, the two-story structure has been converted into a garage with a second-floor residence. A basement residence with bright, white walls and subway tile connects the garage with the main residence house at the front of the property. The area between the two structures has been transformed into an outdoor living area with wood furnishings grouped around a brick fireplace. A second outdoor space with a pergola is in place for natural daylight and outdoor dining in the rear of the building. "Bright light goes into the house without compromising privacy was a priority and there are a lot of different games in recognition of that," Lussano explains.

The kitchen, for example, is filled with light all day thanks to an angled row of skylights along one side. Another large skylight breaks the open connection between the living and dining areas toward the front of the house. A glass ceiling over the second floor and an internal window at the landing allow that light to pass through unobstructed. "The light enters, and I appreciate the way the large windows and skylights really open things up," the husband explains. "Even if it's a game winter day, it's nice and bright in here."

A limited palette of simple materials, including white oak flooring and white subway tile, enhances the sense of openness. Custom white subway tile covers the mainline area and has also been used in a bathroom for the main-level main entrance. In the kitchen, a band of white subway tile, long stripes of white subway tile, and a custom white subway tile.

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with one simple room," Lussano-Millett notes. "There are a lot of different elements happening there that this outfit with one simple, simple thing."

Like that, all the tile and accessories throughout are complementary white materials that enhance that sense of continuity. "The client was adamant that it be a simple, simple style of materials that would be timeless, neutral and understated," Lussano-Millett explains, pointing to the wood-burning fireplace in the living room, which carries the exterior brick over the house. "Having the same palette of materials mix everything together and create a sense of harmony."

While the owners' architectural preferences create a decidedly contemporary response, it reads in a way that connects with the more traditional homes in the historic neighborhood. "We made a conscious effort for the light house, fittingly fitting from the street," says Lussano-Millett.

Although the owners have received many compliments from their neighbors about the new addition to the block, their favorite comes from a neighbor walking past the house with her dog. "She said, 'I love modern, but I love your house,'" the husband explains. "That was the best validation that we had achieved our goal."

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DESIGN DETAILS

- THE** Single-family home
- LOCATION** Lincoln Square
- ARCHITECTURE** Greg Flores and Paul Lussano-Millett, Paul Lussano Flores Architects
- GENERAL CONTRACTOR** Illinois Brick Company
- RESOURCES**
 - CEO** Observed interior finish work and transportation work in living room
 - Countertop** White Niagara granite in living room and dining room
 - Cabinets & Island** White in living room and coffee table in living room
 - Furniture/Built-ins & Supply** Custom cabinetry and built-ins
 - Hardware** Brass in living room
 - Lighting** Custom in living room
 - Paint** White in living room
 - Stairs** Custom in living room
 - Lighting** Custom in living room
 - Stairs** Custom in living room
 - Sub-Floor and Wall** Custom in living room



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