

HOUSES

In a historic 1899 Boston home, the spirit of Art Deco style comes alive again: a designer reinvents the interiors for a young couple.

This brownstone regains its character with a renovation by Lisa Tharp: Art Deco, precious materials and intense colors redesign the home of a couple from the media and technology world.

by Ludovica Stevan

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On the walls, a wide selection of artworks. Among them, *Black Fields VI*, 1980, by Ruth Eckstein (blue painting) and *Fink! Forge II*, 1996, by Richard Serra (black painting). Interior design: Lisa Tharp Design. Photos: Jose Manuel Alorda. Production: Karine Monié.

Art Deco style lives on in this 1899 Boston brownstone, now reinterpreted by designer Lisa Tharp for an American power couple.



In the living room, the marble fireplace with pink veining is the focal point of the room. Above, an abstract work by Stanley Boxer. Interior design: Lisa Tharp Design. Photos: Jose Manuel Alorda. Production: Karine Monié.



In the foreground, *the Arlo Lounge Chair*. In the background, a display case with Visual Comfort lighting displays decorative objects. Interior design: Lisa Tharp Design. Photos: Jose Manuel Alorda. Production: Karine Monié.

Morning light slides across rust-colored facades and filters through tall windows, casting warm reflections on the parquet floors and recently restored moldings. In Boston's historic neighborhoods, *brownstones* embody a quintessentially urban way of living deeply rooted in American history. Built primarily in the mid- to late-19th century, these elegant row houses owe their name to the reddish-brown sandstone with which their facades were clad, a material that over time acquired an almost velvety patina. Vertical, often with multiple levels and recognizable by their iconic entrance staircases, *brownstones* represented the **ideal home for the urban bourgeoisie of the time**. The one at the center of this project, built in **1899**, still retains the generous proportions and architectural character typical of these homes. When the new owners purchased it, however, they discovered that years of renovations had gradually erased much of its original charm, leaving interiors surprisingly anonymous for a house with such a rich history.



In the living room, classic paneling amplifies the depth of the moldings. The forest green palette, one of the owner's favorite colors, provides the backdrop for furnishings selected from Holly Hunt, Baker Furniture, and Knoll, while rugs from The Rug Company and Edward Fields define the atmosphere. Interior design: Lisa Tharp Design. Photos: Jose Manuel Alorda. Production: Karine Monié.



Two Italian Art Deco lounge chairs from the 1930s. Interior design: Lisa Tharp Design. Photos: Jose Manuel Alorda. Production: Karine Monié.



Mid-Century Modern style sofa, attributed to Milo Baughman. Interior design: Lisa Tharp Design. Photos: Jose Manuel Alorda. Production: Karine Monié.



Jose-Manuel-Alorda-Photography-LLC

Two different visions, one shared home

Envisioning a new life for this *brownstone is a young couple from the media and tech* worlds , with young children and a fast-paced daily life that also includes convivial moments at home. From the outset, the project reflected their dual aesthetic sensibilities: he is a staunch modernist , drawn to clean lines and essential materials; she, on the other hand, is captivated by the sophisticated atmosphere of European boutique hotels. Two seemingly distant visions, which, precisely for this reason, become the creative driving force behind the home. The warm , enveloping colors—terracotta, dusty orange, and champagne—coexist with deeper hues like **blue and forest green** , creating a perfect balance. More than a showcase of design, the home was intended to be an authentic, personal, and above all, flexible place.



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In the skylight-lit kitchen, the custom polished wood island designed by Ian Ingersoll becomes the focal point of the space. Surrounding it are *Rockwell Unscripted* stools with upholstered seats by Knoll. On the wall, the work "*Scarf coat handbag long hair two shopping bags blonde bob puffer jacket hooded coat leather bag*" by Julian Opie, presented by Krakow Witkin Gallery. Interior design: Lisa Tharp Design. Photos: Jose Manuel Alorda. Production: Karine Monié.

The Brownstone Rebirth According to Lisa Tharp

To make this vision a reality, the owners turned to interior designer **Lisa Tharp**, founder of Lisa Tharp Design, known for her approach that combines respect for historic architecture with a contemporary sensibility. "I love restoring classic homes while authentically adding the comforts of modern living," the designer explains. The project draws on the architectural styles of the early 20th century, particularly the **allure of Art Deco and French Modern**, evident in the materials—polished walnut, rosewood, parchment—and the architectural details.



Interior designer **Lisa Tharp**. Interior design: Lisa Tharp Design. Photos: Cheryl Richards. Production: Karine Monié.

One of the most ingenious interventions arose from a structural challenge: a low ceiling that interrupted the transition between the living room and kitchen. Instead of hiding it, the team incorporated it into a system of arches and curved walls that now defines a new dining room: intimate yet surprisingly spacious, with a table over three meters long that can seat up to twenty people. This is where the family spends much of their time, between slow breakfasts and long dinners with friends. A perfect example of how this *brownstone* has rediscovered its identity: **a historic home that doesn't dwell in the past** , but elegantly accompanies contemporary life .



In the master suite, the owners' desire to evoke the atmosphere of a refined European palace takes shape in a palette of luminous golden tones that envelop the space: from the glossy lacquered ceiling to the silk fabrics covering the bed and windows, to the custom-made lacquered nightstands. The 1960s *Tulipan* chandelier by Aixo Design for 1st Dibs. Interior design: Lisa Tharp Design. Photos: Jose Manuel Alorda. Production: Karine Monié.



On the floor, the custom-cut *Yori* alabaster rug by Steven King Carpets. Interior design: Lisa Tharp Design. Photos: Jose Manuel Alorda. Production: Karine Monié.



Restored swivel and reclining chair by Adrian Pearsall. On the walls, the work "Nature Song" by Henry Botkin. Interior design: Lisa Tharp Design. Photos: Jose Manuel Alorda. Production: Karine Monié.



In the nursery, the atmosphere is defined by Schumacher's multicolored Italian Panoramic wallpaper, which creates a suggestive landscape on the walls. The Stokke Sleepi Bed V3 is illuminated by Orsay Medium floor lamps designed by Paloma Contreras for Visual Comfort. Interior design: Lisa Tharp Design. Photos: Jose Manuel Alorda. Production: Karine Monié.