

# Design & Architecture

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Chicago Edition\*

\*Inspirations in Design and Art for the Home



industrial **strength**  
\*secrets of hip hotel style

Haute Stuff

Up Close  
with the Pros

Sunrooms, Suites  
and Glorious  
Living Space





## \*shop talk

■////design professionals hit the town shopping

{ writer Stacy Wallace-Albert }



## PATRIZIO FRADIANI

Studio F • [www.studiof-design.com](http://www.studiof-design.com)

4251 North Paulina Street; 773.880.0450

*A true Italian minimalist, Roman-born Fradiani loves blending personal touches on an architectural blank slate. His imaginatively renovated Lakeview frame house was recently featured in Metropolitan Home.*

**Maharam Suite:** 1188 Merchandise Mart; 312.661.1630; [www.maharam.com](http://www.maharam.com)

**K&B Galleries Ltd.:** 1880 Merchandise Mart; 312.645.1833

**No Place Like:** 300 West Grand Avenue; 312.822.0550; [www.noplacelike.net](http://www.noplacelike.net)

**I.D.:** 3341 North Clark Street; 773.755.IDID; [www.idlive.com](http://www.idlive.com)

**Dale Tile:** 1501 Estes Avenue, Elk Grove Village; 847.228.9911

**American International Tile Luxe Home:** Suite 134, Merchandise Mart; 312.379.1700

**Nash Fresco Finishes:** 708.296.0323

**Golden Triangle:** 72 West Hubbard Street; 312.755.1266

**Atelier Asia:** by appointment; 5400 N. Clark Street; 773.275.3001

**International Marble & Granite Supply:** 2950 West Grand Avenue; 312.243.1670

**Stone Design:** 551 Mitchell Road, Glendale Heights; 800.424.1332

**Village Carpets:** 924 Green Bay Road; 847.446.3800

**Menard's:** several area locations

**David DeCastro:** 773.339.0186; [www.daviddecastro.com](http://www.daviddecastro.com)

**J.B. Daniel:** 773.291.0341; [www.tallskinny.com](http://www.tallskinny.com)

**Eric David Hamilton:** 773.276.6454

**Tweeter:** 2828 North Clark Street; 773.525.7005

\*all sources are in Chicago unless otherwise noted

**AT THE MART:** I like to use Maharam, since the fabrics respond to my aesthetic. I use fabric from their Kvadrat collection, solid wool felts that are slightly textured but still minimal. The 20th Century collection, re-issued designs from the 1950s and 60s are fantastic, too, especially the Eames patterns. K&B Galleries has great customer service, and carries Dravit, Dornbracht and Hansgrohe; although lately, I've been using Citterio faucets. They do modern interpretations of traditional fittings that are angular, squared-off and slick.

**ON THE STREET:** I bring clients to No Place Like. I really love the people who run it. They support the local design community but also have a good selection of alternative Italian designer pieces. I.D. on Clark Street has a nice selection of lines, too, like Rosendahl wineglasses, iittala's Hackman casserole pots, simple glass vases from Aava, and Mono stainless-steel flatware. They carry a great selection of sunglasses, too, and I seem to buy a pair every time I go.

**TILE FILE:** I used Mexican glass tiles from Kolorine in my bathroom, in a beautiful color with a bit of variation. They are unusual because they make a 3/8-by-3/8-inch tile in addition to 2-by-2s and 3/4-by-3/4s. Bisazza makes a wonderful tile; the range and price points are good. They show the trends coming from Italy, moving back to a ceramic tile with an interesting pattern.

**FAUX REAL:** For subtle wall treatments, I prefer interesting and innovative finishes. Not "super-faux," but fresh and contemporary—the look of stucco, vintage plaster and wax plaster. I love the texture and feel of a wall finished like this. It can express something, can be a focal point, a mask, or attract attention to special artwork. It's more sculptural than paint, and Rae Radovitch of Nash Fresco Finishes does a beautiful job.

**TRIBAL BEAT:** For antiques, I go either African or Asian. Golden Triangle always has something I'm looking for, usually furniture. I love the accent pieces at Atelier Asia in Andersonville. It's a lovely place, not really a store but a showroom that takes appointments. They have an interesting selection of Asian furniture, Thai and Burmese figures and sculptures. It strikes me that some of what they carry is clean and minimal, more folk and simple, like a little African stool.

**FLOOR ME:** I am against any floor coverings. I try to convince people that wooden floors and honed stones are soft and beautiful to the touch, even next to a bed. Slate is beautiful on a floor, too, especially slick slabs, totally smooth and well joined. I love the blackness, the textures, and often go to International Marble or Stone Design for honed limestone or polished marble. Of course, I don't always get my way, so if I must put down a rug, I use Ruckstuhl in a thick, monochromatic boiled wool. They are textural and pretty spectacular.

**OFF TARGET:** I dislike Target for reasons I don't understand, but I love Menard's. I get inexpensive under-cabinet lighting fixtures, and acrylic sheet to create frosted window treatments for a clean, minimal look that lets light through but still provides privacy. This way, you don't have to use sandblasted glass, which can get pretty pricey. Their kitchen cabinets and bi-fold doors are inexpensive and simple, too.

**ARTFUL:** I like to support local artists who are wonderful and promising and still a great buy. David DeCastro has a lot of range; he paints in oil and creates multimedia pieces and wood constructions. J.B. Daniel's interesting conceptual art is extremely poetic. He uses everyday items like lint-roller tape and that red exploded cap tape to create evocative works of art. Eric David Hamilton's large, abstract oils on canvas are beautiful pieces.

**SOUND ADVICE:** I like to set up music systems all through the house, even in bathrooms, and I have used sound systems from Denon to Sony. For installation, the gentlemen at Tweeter do a great job. I love music—World Music, Portuguese, Brazilian, Italian, to me it's like classical. I also love all the great Mahler, and buy most of my music from Amazon.com. \*