

Wheeler Kearns Architects designed Pamella Roland and Dan DeVos's five-story, 13,000-square-foot Chicago residence with a facade of dark-gray marble and expanses of glass. **Opposite:** Kadlec Architecture + Design oversaw the interiors, including the partially enclosed living room terrace, where a wall-mounted piece by Steven Haulenbeek and a Jaume Plensa head sculpture overlook a seating area furnished with a Holly Hunt sofa and cocktail table and a Tribu armchair. For details see Sources.

URBANE OASIS


Fashion designer Pamella Roland and businessman Dan DeVos create a majestically modern Chicago retreat for entertaining and enjoying family

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A Holly Hunt table is paired with Eero Saarinen chairs by Knoll in the family room, whose double-height windows are curtained in a Dedlar fabric. **Opposite, from top:** Stairs lead from the terrace to a small back garden designed by McKay Landscape Architects. An Ellsworth Kelly painting adds graphic punch to the third-floor landing.



The Chicago home that fashion designer Pamela Roland shares with her husband, businessman and sports executive Dan DeVos, stands out for its breadth and its style. Not unlike Roland's collections of glamorous evening dresses, which can routinely be spotted on red carpets, worn by stars like Halle Berry, Debra Messing, and Allison Janney.

The couple's five-story, 13,000-square-foot residence, designed by Chicago firm Wheeler Kearns Architects, spans two lots and, in contrast to its more traditional brick-and-limestone neighbors, is a striking modern structure clad in richly veined black marble. The interior, overseen by another local firm, Kadlec Architecture + Design, balances clean-lined furnishings and works by noted contemporary artists with subtle, luxurious textures.

"We were interested in creating a city home that would be both comfortable and intimate for our immediate family as well as open and spacious for larger entertaining," says Roland. "We worked with the architect to design a bold modern aesthetic and organize the spaces throughout the five floors to make living and entertaining hubs that have a natural flow."

Joy Meek, a principal at Wheeler Kearns who served as the project architect, describes the first floor, where you enter the house, as "basically a backyard," with an indoor basketball court, a media room, an exercise room, utility areas, and two garages. An angular black steel staircase winds its way up through the center of the house, becoming a spiral at the top, where it connects the fourth-floor master bedroom, dressing room, and Roland's office to the fifth-floor spa, DeVos's office, and a roof deck. In between, the second floor contains the guest rooms, while the third floor features the main entertaining spaces, including living, dining, and family rooms as well as the kitchen and a large terrace.

Living in such a contemporary house was a departure for the couple, who, as Roland puts it, are drawn to "classic and enduring design." So Steve Kadlec's mission was to soften the interiors with inviting textures, warm tones, and comfortable furnishings, while also conceiving high-impact moments. In the double-height living room, a large bronze light sculpture commissioned from designer Frederik Molenschot hangs over the space "like a cloud," Kadlec says, "celebrating the amazing volume but nurturing a sense of enclosure, too." Above the 18-foot-long sofa, an artwork by Allan McCollum—a series of 115 framed graphite drawings that represent all the counties in Missouri—is another example of what Kadlec calls "big pieces with small parts."

Armchairs are arranged around two tables by Steven Haulenbeek—one a hefty, angular volume with a smoked-glass top, the other lighter in spirit, with a richly textured top of ice-cast bronze resting on slender legs. Together, notes Kadlec, they offer a contrast "between geometric and organic." The living and family rooms look onto an expansive, double-height covered terrace with seating and dining areas. Meek says it's meant to feel inside-outside and serve as a space for displaying →





In the living room, a swirling bronze light fixture by Frederik Molenschot provides a spectacular counterpoint to the gridded installation of graphite drawings by Allan McCollum above the 18-foot custom-made Luteca sofa. Similarly contrasting are the two cocktail tables by Steven Haulenbeek, which are joined by a pair of rounded Franco Albini armchairs and two lounge chairs by Liaigre. The floor lamp near the window is by Caste, while the lamp at right, atop a Liaigre side table, is by Armani/Casa; the rug is by Holland & Sherry.

“ART AND FASHION HAVE ALWAYS BEEN MY PASSIONS,” SAYS PAMELLA ROLAND



Left: Enlivening Roland's office are a Holly Hunt sofa, a curvy Jean de Merry armchair, Fran Taubman's steel-ribbon table from Ralph Pucci, and an Alexander McQueen bird carpet from the Rug Company.

Below: A Lindsey Adelman chandelier hangs in Roland's dressing room; a small Damien Hirst artwork adds a splash of color.

Opposite: The master bedroom's ceiling is embellished with a custom installation by David Wiseman, while the walls are upholstered in a Holland & Sherry wool; the Anees bed is paired with a bench by Liaigre, and the rug is by Marc Phillips.



artworks such as a large stone head by Jaume Plensa and a delicate bronze wall sculpture by Haulenbeek.

On the fourth floor, the master bedroom is distinguished by a spectacular ceiling installation created by David Wiseman with twining plaster branches and porcelain blossoms. Roland's office—"a calming space to start and finish the day," she says—is a colorful counterpoint to the house's largely neutral palette with its Alexander McQueen-designed rug and purple Holly Hunt sofa. Her dressing room has a wall of open closets for displaying some of her more showstopping dress designs, as well as a cabinet that contains her collection of vintage Fendi clutches.

When it came to the art, Kadlec worked closely with the couple on both new acquisitions and the display. "Art and fashion have always been my twin passions," says Roland, who with her husband had previously acquired key pieces like the colorful Damien Hirst in the first-floor entry and the black-and-white Ellsworth Kelly painting on the third-floor landing that happens to be her favorite work. "Commissioning and finding new art and mixing with existing pieces was one of the first things we focused on." With Kadlec's guidance, the couple added the McCollum drawings, the Plensa and Haulenbeek sculptures, and the Molenschot and Wiseman commissions.

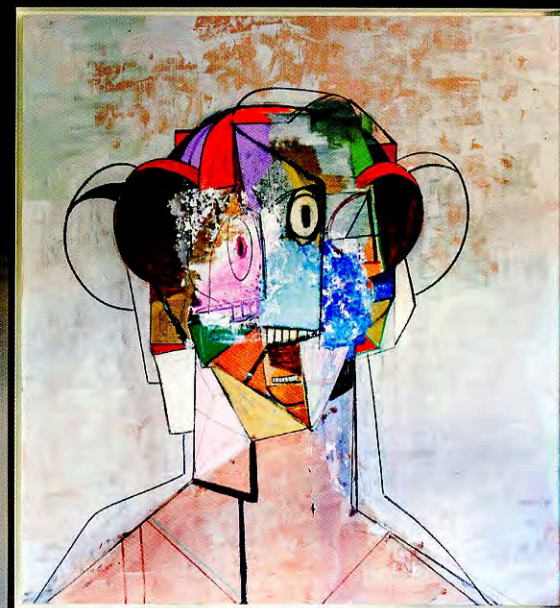
"Pamella has a very good eye," says Kadlec, "and pedigree is not her sole consideration. It's a personal approach." That self-assured individuality is felt throughout this home, where the architecture, furnishings, and art combine in uncommonly elegant harmony. □



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**THE
CREATIVE
MINDS
ISSUE**



SPRING 2020
ISSUE N° 17