



Scents and Sensibility

A young Lakeview couple dresses their dual nest and fragrance headquarters.

By Barri Leiner Grant
Photography by Nathan Kirkman

Don't be surprised if, during an evening stroll along Belmont Harbor in Lakeview, you suddenly smell hints of violet, rose, fig, musk, black currant and oak moss wafting along on the lake breeze. Tucked into a vintage four-bedroom, which has been serenely spruced up as of late, is the home of Ellie Perfume.

Jessica Dunne, the perfume "passionista," has taken the city by storm with her signature scents—Ellie and Ellie Nuit, named after her grandmother, Eleanor—bringing the old-time tradition of small, hand-assembled batches she develops in France to a new generation.

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EATING IN From top: The living room plays host to snack time upon an heirloom antique rug Dunne had in her childhood home; Dunne checks on delivery dates and office details at a desk once used by her husband's grandmother



...CONTINUED Refining her style during stints living and working in the art worlds of New York and London, Dunne is reminiscent of a tousled Carolyn Bessette-Kennedy (think signature red lipstick, well-worn Goyard tote and pristine T-shirt with jeans and heels). Her gracious manner and old-school acumen seem to speak to her classically cool air—which designer Greg Jagmin helped eloquently translate into her home.

Her 1920s co-op has been a work in progress since she and her husband, Brian Reshefsky, landed here three years ago from London with their young daughter. They welcomed a son (and some product development) into the mix and got serious about updating their interiors when they were introduced to Jagmin. Dunne had long carried around a coveted tear sheet from a design story in *Elle Décor* that sported his work, and her vision was realized when they met. “They wanted a place that represented a sophisticated style, but also showed that they were a young family,” shares Jagmin.

Jagmin spent a decade in the design field as a partner at design-build firm Anne Coyle Interiors before heading out on his own. He also has a past life in accounting, which counts for a lot when he has his eye on the bottom line of a project. It adds a dash of reality to each purchase, with Jagmin translating his “where to spend” vernacular to every client regardless

of budgets. His surprising color combinations and penchant for fine French lines, along with the construction and numbers know-how needed to make a solid and stately plan for a kitchen, bath or a whole new house, certainly make him a neat package.

Dubbed “Mr. Sportcoat” as a kid, Jagmin is as dapper as he is preppy casual. His Palm Beach-inspired gingham shirt and pastel tie combinations are the perfect peek into his decorating psyche: “I am always interested in mixing classic and modern pieces,” he shares, often bringing home salvaged finds in need of recovering and reconditioning for personal and professional use. Where others may see nothing, Jagmin sees an unexpected fabric combination and a reconceived life for the well-made, yet well worn.

Dunne had a chaise that once belonged to her great-grandmother, as well as two settees that she remembers vividly from visits to the family’s Washington, D.C., home. He started the project by updating all for the living room in deep chocolate mohair velvet and creamy linens, and reworked the frames to live on for generations to come. “One of the most exciting parts of working with Brian and Jessica was working with the pieces that they already had and helping to scout pieces that suited young collectors,” says Jagmin.

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BOTTLE SERVICE Clockwise from above: Dunne’s quarter-ounce perfume formats, to splash or roll on at an affordably chic \$50 price point; the office does double duty as a family den in black and white with playful purples; an antique family chaise gets decked out in new fabrics and finery.





...CONTINUED The living room's soft palette also makes a dreamy background for art acquisitions, like the graphic John Himmelfarb above the sofa (commissioned by Dunne), along with her neighbor Meg McCabe's tranquil oil paintings. Layered on the fireplace mantel is a lovely landscape painted by Dunne's grandmother and a graphite and silverpoint seascape by artist and professor Michael Moore of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts.

The foyer meets guests with a grand ceramic mirror from Mecox Gardens that echoes the original curves and arches of the entry. Nearby, a favorite charcoal sketch—a Christie's marketplace acquisition from London—takes a place of pride.

In the studio that Dunne shares as a family den, framed New York subway plans add a strong graphic detail that plays off the rug—an Ikea score. Jagmin reworked an ottoman from Wisteria and a Bergère chair in shades of lilac linen with blue velvet trim—turning the family on to some new color ideas. A vintage Baker armchair that Dunne grew up with sits center stage, along with a desk that belonged to Brian's grandmother.

The Mr. and Mrs. love to entertain, and the formal dining room in a cool, calm pewter gray shows off its heirloom rug, painterly chairs Jagmin refinished and a grand Swedish sideboard. The white wool roman

shades with Greek key trim are a signature Jagmin detail. The Ralph Lauren nickel-plated bar stands at the ready for cocktail hour, which the duo enjoy each evening since moving lakeside. It's a versatile piece that can move in and out of play as a dessert cart, plant stand or even a crafting station when needed.

The baths in the home have been returned to their original splendor after the deep tubs were re-glazed, the walls decked in tidy subway tiles and the floors laid with timeless black-and-white penny tile.

"There's a hint of history in everything Jessica and Brian do, but there are never any 'airs,'" observes Jagmin. "Dinner at their home can be as easy as the HomeMade Pizza Company, but it's served on fine china and crystal." True, but if Dunne keeps her nose to the grindstone, her children could become "heirs" to a thriving perfume empire—not to mention some exquisite heirlooms. ■



NATURAL VIEWS

From top: A friend of the family, artist John Himmelfarb, fashioned the painting above the sofa expressly for Dunne in an oversize format she commissioned for their Chicago space; the lady of the house—and of Ellie Perfume—Jessica Dunne. New accounts for the perfume run the gamut from Space 519 and Florodora in Chicago, to celebrity favorite Fred Segal and various boutiques in Germany, London and Dubai.