

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS



► TREASURE HUNTER

(Top) Dunne's collection of vintage perfume bottles; (right) a dress from Broadway Antique Market with a necklace by Sent Murano; (below) jewelry passed down from Dunne's mother and grandmother; (far right) Laine in a Gap dress and her mother's Jimmy Choos, with a Jackie O.-style Tibi jacket hanging



► OLD AND NEW

Vintage Valentino jacket and floral-print satin heels by Jimmy Choo



Her Lake View home, where she moved with her husband when his work transferred him here in February 2008, has no bright colors or crazy prints, decorated as it is in variations of cream, beige, and gray. Dunne's closet is also mostly devoid of prints, although she does love a crisp striped sailor blouse. Seated on her beige velvet couch in a flowy cream Empire top, slim fitted jeans, and ballet flats, Dunne explains why her first love has always been perfume. "I love the utter fantasy and rite of passage of dabbing it on the body," she says. She has vivid memories of watching her mother get dressed for a night out, putting her perfume on with a stopper. (When Dunne designed the bottle for Ellie, an atomizer spray was out of the question—Ellie goes on with a stopper too.)

Her second love is jewelry. Dunne has inherited many pieces from her mother and grandmother. Dunne has two sisters, but, petite and fine boned, she is the only one whose wrists fit her grandmother's bracelets. Dunne's appreciation of heirlooms carries over to her vintage handbag collection. "I'm not someone who buys the latest 'it' bag," Dunne says. She is a junkie for small clutches, and her collection includes many beaded or wicker ones from the midcentury. She scours thrift stores and flea markets in Chicago, New York, and London and has found several bags at Broadway Antique Market in Chicago.

Ellie Nuit, her second perfume, was released last year. "I designed it to be layered with Ellie or worn alone. It's more sensual, while Ellie is cleaner," Dunne explains. (The company's website says that Ellie is "evocative of the French countryside.") "I wanted them both to be pretty and feminine and a little nostalgic." Which, come to think of it, sounds exactly like her approach to getting dressed.



► CHIC SILHOUETTES

(Clockwise from left) Dunne holding her Jil Sander dress; Emma Hope shoes with a vintage bag from Orsini in London and a necklace from Stardust Vintage in New York; acid yellow Balenciaga top from Blake in Chicago



► SLEEK IN SILK

Dunne's feminine Lanvin dress





ELLIE D PERFUME

elliedperfume.com

Elegant. Youthful. Classic.

Jessica Dunne founded Ellie D Perfume to create scents inspired by childhood memories of her elegant grandmother, perfume aficionado Eleanor "Ellie" Dunne. Jessica is dedicated to creating luxurious products rooted in the time-honored art of perfumery. She worked one-on-one with master French perfumer Michel Roudnitska to create the fragrances. Everything is created in small batches to maintain quality and authenticity.



Q and A

What are your most popular products or services?

Both scents, Ellie and Ellie Nuit, have a loyal following. It's impossible to pick favorites!

People may be surprised to know...

It took about two years of trips to France and hundreds of samples sent across the ocean to create the fragrances.

What or who inspired you to start your business?

My grandmother and my mother were my biggest inspirations. I have vivid memories of watching them dab on their perfume before an evening out, and I wanted to try to capture their elegance with a modern, youthful spin.

How do you spend your free time?

With my husband, Brian, and my daughter Laine, cooking, traveling, and visiting friends.

What is your indulgence?

Other than traveling, most of my indulgences involve food! I love wine, cheese, and trying new restaurants.



Jessica Dunne

