

ANNOTATED ROOM

A Room Made Brighter, More Feminine

By LAURA HINE

When the homeowner first purchased this condo in the Lincoln Park neighborhood of Chicago in 2013 for a little over \$2 million, she and her husband decorated it with lots of golden yellow, reds and dark wood. Seven years later, the homeowner—whose husband died 18 months after they moved in—was spending a lot of time indoors because of the pandemic.

“I realized that the yellow, although you think of it as a bright color, was actually quite dark,” she says. “I decided it would be nice to have a little more feminine feel to my home, and that’s when I started this project.”

Lakesha Rose, founder of L Rose Interior Design, was recommended by a friend and after a few conversations, Ms. Rose was confident she could transform the living room. “I start by talking to the client to get a feel for how they want something to look and how they want it to feel,” she says. “Right away I read [the homeowner] as fresh, sophisticated, tailored and happy, and I knew I could give her a home that matched.” The budget for the project was about \$186,000.

Here are some details:



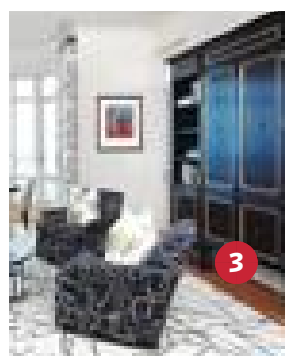
KATRINA WITTKAMP ©

1. A custom-made rug by The Rug Company was the foundation for Ms. Rose’s design for the room. It is 25-by-12.5 feet and took six months to make in Nepal. “Before they sent it, the workroom in Nepal spread it out and took a photo of it so we could see it was on its way,” she says. // **Price:** \$51,000

2. Ms. Rose and the homeowner found a Romo fabric that was exactly what they wanted for the draperies. But a London designer had already tagged the remaining inventory. Ms. Rose’s showroom rep swooped in at midnight, Chicago time, just as the other designer’s hold ran out and secured the yardage needed. “There was no other fabric in our

minds on planet Earth that could go in that room,” Ms. Rose says. “It was meant to be.” // **Price:** \$8,650

3. Not every element in the room is new. The Steinway piano and the black cabinet are pieces the homeowner loves and Ms. Rose used them to balance the room’s two seating areas.



4. Ms. Rose chose two matching Baker sofas for their streamlined form and sophisticated profile. She upholstered them with Lee Jofa fabric. // **Price:** \$19,500

5. The interior was given a new color and reconfigured decoration. Ms. Rose used Creamy White by Benjamin Moore for the walls and

trim. “My views of the lake and park became so much more vibrant once we calmed down the wall color,” the homeowner says. Ms. Rose then added pieces the homeowner and her husband had collected over the years. “The art pops on the more neutral walls,” the homeowner says. Total price for paint, wallpaper and labor: // **Price:** \$32,000