

**ILENE CHASE:
THE ARTIST**

Ilene Chase grew up with artist parents, studied art history and textiles at Indiana University, and then became an artist herself, creating rugs and oversized murals for clients throughout the 1990s. She also worked at a kitchen and bath showroom, gaining hands-on experience in what she calls “behind-the-scenes functional design.”

“In design, every inch counts,” she says. “Perfect placement and spacing are requirements for all my projects.”

When her art clients started asking her to transform more than just the walls of their homes, Chase launched her own interior design firm 20 years ago. In a sense, she never stopped being an artist. “Almost everything I do for my clients, I make myself,” she says. “I only buy what I have to — I don’t

cookie cut. I love to take a room and texturize it, twist it and give it something unique.”

Whether engaged in a historic remodel of a landmark home in Old Town built after the Chicago Fire that involved numerous trips to Paris, or her most current project — a new construction 23,000-square-foot home in Northfield with a 55-foot pool and cabana in the backyard (not to mention a basement housing both a beauty shop and bar from the owner’s former hotel in Colorado) — Chase focuses her artist’s eye on creating unique, personalized spaces that meet her clients’ needs and never go out of style.

MODERN MIX: “Right now, industrial mid-century modern is taking over mid-century modern. We are leaning towards more natural materials and reclaimed woods, which adds an earthy warmth to cold modern glass and metals. I love pairing medias together!”



GOODBYE GRAY: “Gray and white color schemes, plastered over every single shelter magazine, no longer look fresh to me. There’s no individuality, no uniqueness, and no personality to them anymore.”

SCULPTURAL STYLE: “I can make a home look so much higher end with applied moldings. Picture molding gives dimension to flat walls, and great paint can make a piece of furniture look like it’s from Italy. Textures do the same thing. The wrong material can make a sofa look cheap and dated, but cover it in black velvet and suddenly it’s rich and dramatic.”

