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BY THE EDITORS



SONOMA IN THE CITY You can take the outdoor-loving homeowners out of California, but you can't take the California out of them. So it was no easy task when clients of dSPACE Studio requested that their long, narrow backyard in Lakeview reflect Sonoma more than Chicago. "Their vision was to transform the yard to promote a gracious, open-air lifestyle that reminded them of California wine country, where they have roots," says founder Kevin Toukoumidis. Having a whopping width of 16 feet to work with (after the clients acquired an additional 10 feet of space by purchasing the neighbor's lot), Toukoumidis and team, which included Goldberg General Contracting (ggcinc.com), went to work creating four distinct zones: a spa terrace; an elevated dining area and outdoor kitchen with Kalamazoo appliances and black steel-surround fireplace; a TV lounge; and a side play yard for the clients' children. Each is connected by several steps, which create fluid transitions and ease the height difference between the home and yard. Materials such as Brazilian walnut, black steel and stone-look porcelain were selected for a warm, modern palette. Additionally, plantings, lowered sunshades and a pergola filter sunlight and offer privacy. "Mission accomplished," Toukoumidis says. "They have an urban oasis tailored perfectly for relaxing, playing and entertaining." 2920 N. Lincoln Ave., 773.423.2920, dspacestudio.com