

INTERIORS

GRAND ILLUSION

AT HOME, STANLEY PAUL EXISTS IN HIS OWN FANTASY WORLD—ONE HE DEFTLY ORCHESTRATED



EVERY TIME STANLEY PAUL RETURNS HOME, he is transported. □ In the living room, the elegant rendition of Art Deco Paris would have pleased even Coco Chanel. □ Continue to the bedroom where the classic Moderne motif could be a stage set for a Fred Astaire-Ginger Rogers dance number. □ But this is 2003 and, to be sure, the home of Chicago's preeminent orchestra leader is firmly planted in the here and now. Yet the trappings beyond the penthouse doors hark back to another time. A life-long aficionado of the late '20s and '30s, Paul has created a striking residence reminiscent of these periods. □ "When I finish playing a party, I want to come home and get away," says Paul. "You walk in here and you are in a different world—a world of glamor." □ This is the fantasy of a man who began collecting when he was 10 years old. Paul grew up in West Chester, Pa., and would accompany his parents to auctions every

BY KATHY KAPLAN | TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY BILL HOGAN

Stanley Paul's living room—complete with velvet sofas, fireplace and fox throw—captures the romance of Paris in the late 1920s.

Opposite: The painted mirrored entry, inspired by the 1920s mirrors in Chicago's Women's Athletic Club, were done by French trompe l'oeil artist Thierry Adam.



Saturday. "They would give me a dollar or two and let me buy whatever I wanted," he says. As a youngster, he bought Depression glass, old recordings and even a Tiffany lamp. But it wasn't long before his taste turned to Art Deco.

Thirty years later, he was living in a triplex in Old Town where he wasn't able to do everything he wanted. After learning that a three-bedroom penthouse in the neighborhood was set for construction, he decided to purchase the raw space and, with the help of designer Michael Richman, create his own interior.

"I wanted a grand entrance," says Paul. The idea of a mirrored entry came from a beloved room with painted mirrors from the 1920s at Chicago's Women's Athletic Club, he says. "When I was in Paris a few years ago I found Thierry Adam, a trompe l'oeil artist.

"I sent Thierry Adam photos of [a room in] the Women's Athletic Club and he embellished it," says Paul. It took Adam and an assistant a month to finish the job.

A fiberglass dome was installed from which to hang a chandelier from the late 1920s that Paul already owned. He fashioned plaster borders for the room from architectural molds made for movie houses and apartment buildings in the 1920s. The presentation table, a replica of a 1920s design, was designed by Richman.

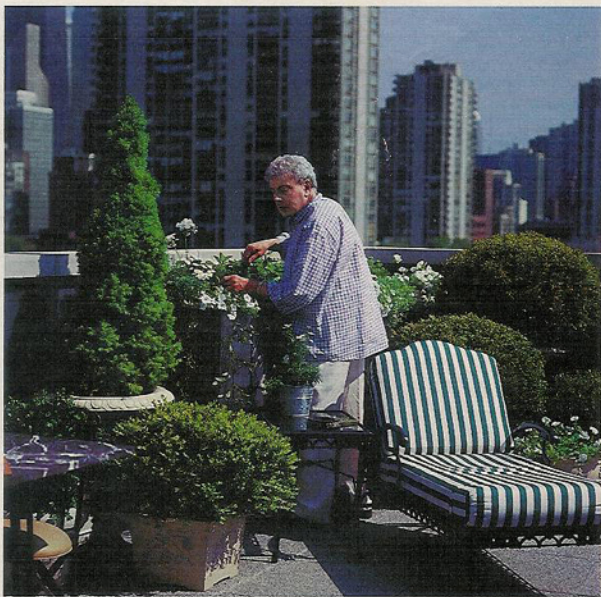
Paul took the idea of an angled, arched passage to the living room from movies of the late 1920s.

The living room captures the romance of a Parisian salon. A pair of Hollywood Regency sofas covered in panne silk velvet trimmed with fringe provide seating. A cocktail table covered in burgundy leather is laden with collections of crystal boxes with silver tops, Deco sculptures, silver cigarette cases and more.

In the corner, a Steinway baby grand piano in an Art Deco case holds more than 80 pictures of family and friends, many of them entertainers Paul has known over the years. "Bette Davis would sit at the piano with me at the Pump Room," Paul recalls. "She sent me that," he says, indicating a photo. "That was her first publicity shot." Edwardian frames hold photos of Douglas Fairbanks Jr., the Duchess of Windsor, Lauren Bacall, Lucille Ball, Ethel Merman, Sophie Tucker, Jimmy Durante, Judy Garland, Joan Crawford, Gloria Swanson, Pearl Bailey, Phyllis Diller and more mixed with pictures of his father and mother, aunts and uncles, grandparents and great-great-grandparents dating to 1870. Nearby, a Hollywood Regency break-front designed by Richman holds sets of the family crystal.

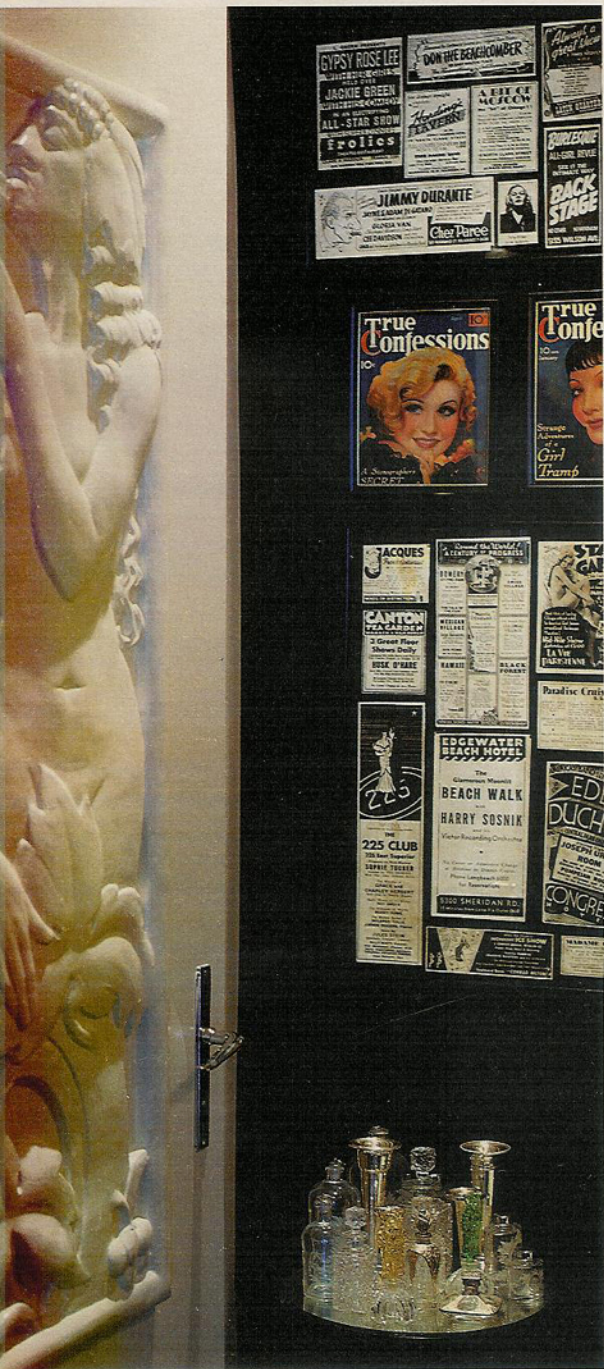
At the other end of the room, Paul

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From his terrace, Stanley Paul enjoys sweeping views of the city. **Below:** A Steinway baby grand piano in an Art Deco case holds more than 80 pictures of family and friends, many of them stars Paul has known over the years.





The powder room door panel was taken from a Chicago theater and reproduced in fiberglass. Inside hang old magazine covers (circa 1930s) and advertisements from nightclubs of the 1920s and '30s. Right: An antique French gilt mirror and reclaimed store fixtures from the 1930s appoint the hallway leading to the bedroom.

“WHEN I FINISH PLAYING A PARTY, I WANT TO COME HOME AND GET AWAY. YOU WALK IN HERE AND YOU ARE IN A WORLD OF GLAMOR.”

Illusion

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installed a sumptuous dining area inspired by his years at the Pump Room. "The Pump Room always had banquettes," he says. The square table is black glass copied from the tables at the Casino Club. A magnificent French screen circa 1925 is mounted on the wall above the leather banquettes.

Paul's collections of cocktail shakers, champagne and martini glasses, and crystal wine decanters are displayed on a three-tiered glass and chrome table.

French doors open onto a 1,000-square-foot terrace with sweeping views of the city.

Coco Chanel would have approved. □

RESOURCES Interiør design—Michael Richman, Michael Richman Interiors, Chicago. **ENTRY:** Trompe l'oeil by Thierry Adam—Adam Atelier, Paris; antique mir-

rors—Geneva Glass Works, Geneva, Ill.; Lalique chandelier and French sconces—personal collection, both restored by New Metal Crafts Lighting, Chicago; entry table fabricated by Murray's Iron Works, Merchandise Mart, Chicago; marble table top—Contempo Marble & Granite Inc.; flowers—Green Inc., Chicago. **LIVING ROOM:** Sofas and Russian blue fox throw—personal collection; painting by Thierry Adam—Adam Atelier, Paris; coffee table—through Michael Richman Interiors; area rug—Watson Smith Inc., Mart, Chicago; two Ralph Lauren Home Collection chests—Ralph Lauren; mirrors—Geneva Glass Works, Geneva, Ill.; fireplace screen design by Michael Richman—Michael Richman Interiors, executed by Laidlaw Art Fabrication & Restoration; crown molding design by Michael Richman, executed by Gschwind Cabinet & Design Co. **PIANO:** Steinway piano, silver frames and lamp—personal collection; silk flowers—Jonen Jeffreys Inc., Chicago. **TERRACE:** Furniture—Woodard Showroom, Mart, Chicago; plantings—Old Town Gardens, Chicago. **POWDER ROOM:** Door panels—reproduced by Orlandi Statuary Co., Inc., Chicago; magazines and crystal bottles—personal collection. **HALLWAY:** Antique mirror—personal collection; hardware—Clark & Barlow Hardware, Chicago; light fixtures—Red Eye, Chicago; door panels from Chicago Theater, circa 1930s—reproduced by Orlandi Statuary Co. Inc., Chicago.

Kathy Kaplan writes frequently about interiors for the Magazine.