

Leigh to the variety of fascinating spaces that their son, Julian, loves to explore, the home is filled with life, energy, and plenty of works in progress.

"We're big color fans," Leigh says. "We very much live in color and texture."

While living in a sprawling Chicago loft, the pair discovered the use of paint to define individual "rooms" in a space without walls.

"We learned to be very precise," Leigh says, "and we discovered that contrasts make colors more powerful."

In their current home, a light chocolate brown in the foyer and living room sets off a deep sky blue, and a red panel in the kitchen adds sizzle to avocado green. Leigh especially appreciates watching how the rich blackberry tone in the dining room changes with the light at various times of day.

"We can use darker colors because we have so much light," she explains.

A picture window fills one wall of the dining room, and another in the living room faces Maine Street.

"A sumptuous amount of light flows through the window on the landing of the front stair," Leigh says. "When we first saw the house, it was dark and gloomy, but when we pulled up the blinds the light just poured in."

Seven sets of French doors and a large sun porch that serves as Julian's playroom add to the bright and open feeling.

Hardwood floors and skillfully carved butternut woodwork highlight the large welcoming foyer, where a cozy seating space is built into a massive staircase.

A tapestry brick fireplace is topped by an Arts and Crafts era mantel; open wood beams and fleur de lis medallions in the window transoms underscore that style throughout the living room.

In the kitchen, a pressed tin ceiling features a basket-weave pattern with egg and dart molding.

A back stairway is a source of great interest for Julian, and a finished attic offers potential as a play area as well. Featuring a high ceiling, fully paneled walls with lots of closet space, and a built in bench in the bay overlooking Maine Street, it offers a versatile area for a growing family.

"Older houses can be kid-friendly," Leigh says. "They don't have to be stiff, formal places filled with antiques."

The Mackenzies have decorated their home with personal touches, including original oil paintings by Chris and photos taken on their travels. Folk prints and wall hangings reflect Leigh's birthplace in



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Chris and Leigh Mackenzie renovated several other residences before moving to 2049 Maine. The couple, with son, Julian, are shown above. An external view of the home can be seen at center and the view from an upstairs window is at top.

Panama, and beaded lamps in the foyer were made by a Chicago friend whose creations are featured in upscale restaurants.

The home is frequently filled with friends of the couple, many of whom are renovating their own residences. They trade help with challenging projects and offer tips for such frus-

trating efforts as removing five layers of wallpaper interspersed with paint.

"I almost quit so many times on that one," Chris admits.

"It's really easy to entertain here," Leigh says. "I can't wait until Julian is bringing home his friends for cookies and milk."

Meanwhile, renovation has its own satisfactions.

"This is a house that so appreciates anything you do for it," Leigh says. "It shines back every improvement you make."

Chris agrees enthusiastically.

"I have a feeling we will be here for a long time."