

"I think I'd be bored if I moved into a new house," Chris admits.

There's certainly nothing boring about this spacious, family-friendly residence, a four-square style punctuated by a striking two-story bay that overlooks a flourishing magnolia tree.

From the vibrant colors favored by Chris and 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."

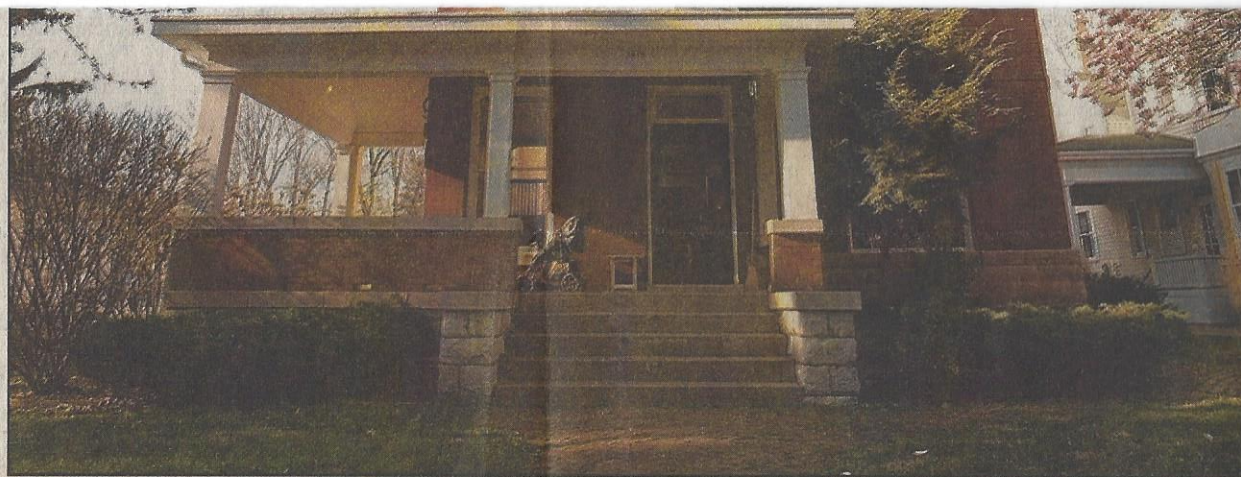
Seven sets of French doors and a large sun porch that serves as Julian's playroom add to the bright and open feeling.

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 ver-



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.

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