

## MANSION

## ANNOTATED ROOM

# A Night Out at Home

This basement remodel gave a young couple an intimate retreat in the convenience of their own house

By VAISHNAVI NAYEL TALAWADEKAR

Since buying their Hinsdale, Ill., home for \$1.7 million in 2018, one couple—a physician and a health-care project manager, aged 36 and 37 respectively—had made many changes. The only thing left on their checklist was a basement refresh. They decided to tick that task off the list in 2022, tapping interior designer Laura Chappetto Flynn of Element Design Network, with whom they had previously collaborated on other areas of the home. She helped them turn the lackluster 850-square-foot space into an entertainment haven.

As parents of two young children, they wanted to create an escape equally ideal for marvelous cocktail parties and quiet date nights. “We wanted the feel to be that of a luxury speakeasy, to give the feeling of being out at a chic bar, even if just escaping to the lower level,” says the wife.

In a bid to maximize function, Chappetto Flynn compartmentalized the layout to include a striking wine cellar, a high-gloss bar area, a built-in leather banquette, and a spacious lounge with a recessed TV and floor-to-ceiling porcelain for the fireplace. She also designed a clever passageway to seamlessly connect the adults’ space with the children’s den on the same floor.

For colors, the homeowners were keen on monochrome. The challenge was muting the color without muting the character. “Adding just enough texture, tonal variations, and bits of décor was key to creating the right amount of visual interest,” says Chappetto Flynn, who opted for materials such as velvet, leather and wood to give the space a tactile edge.

Gone are the days when the homeowners would need to plan days in advance for a swish soiree or a no-curfew movie night. “The basement makes anything possible,” says the husband.

Here are some design elements that make up this \$244,000 basement remodel.

**1.** The fireplace was inspired by a boutique hotel lobby that had left the homeowners enchanted. “The clients had gone out of town at the beginning of the renovation process and loved the experience of walking into a hotel lobby and being cocooned in marble. They felt like they were somewhere special,” says Chappetto Flynn. To recreate that feeling, she opted for an Antolini Tech Calacatta Lincoln porcelain slab for the surround. The fireplace is a Woodland Direct design. // **Price:** \$18,600 excluding surround

**2.** A 72-inch Machinto coffee table by RH anchors the room. “The chic, modern design is effortlessly luxurious and was the perfect option for this space,” says Chappetto Flynn. // **Price:** \$3,860

**3.** Maddox Sofas by RH, upholstered in Performance velvet, bask in the glow of the fireplace. // **Price:** \$6,900 each

**4.** RH’s Wren Swivel Chairs in a Perennials textured linen weave provide a welcome spot for solo lounging. // **Price:** \$3,700 each

**5.** A Kane Relaxed Carpet in the color Premium underpins the seating area. “It’s a durable, stain-resistant carpet that will look perfect for years to come,” says Chappetto Flynn. // **Price:** \$10,550 including installation

