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It's All in the Details

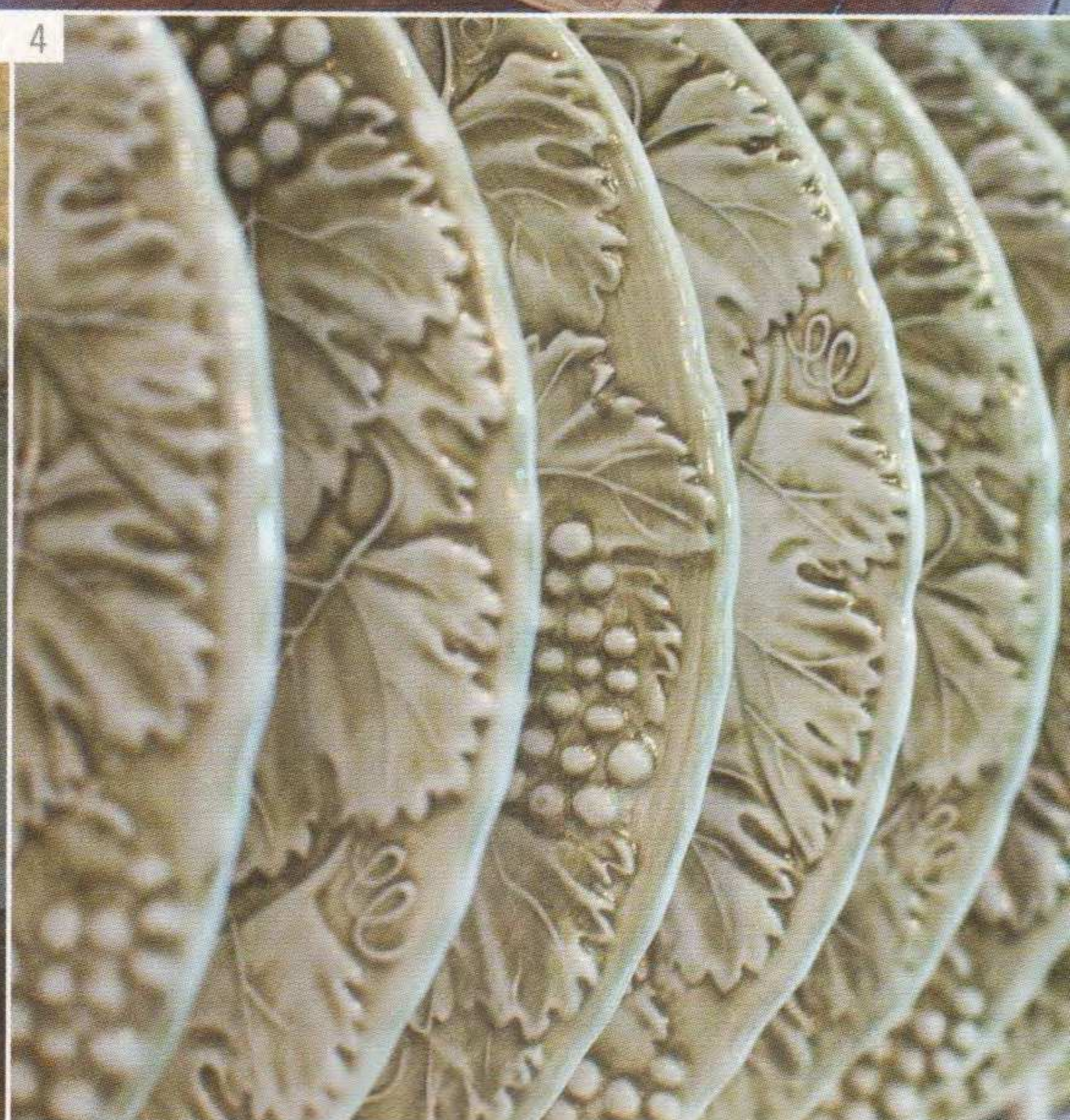
A Hinsdale couple finds no shortage of luxurious details when they choose to make their home in a smaller space

Hinsdale Central kicks off football season with new head coach

Back-to-school fashion with a preppy twist

"Autumn is a second spring where every leaf is a flower."
— ALBERT CAMUS

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It's All in the Details

The Thomas family finds home in the details of their newly constructed space.

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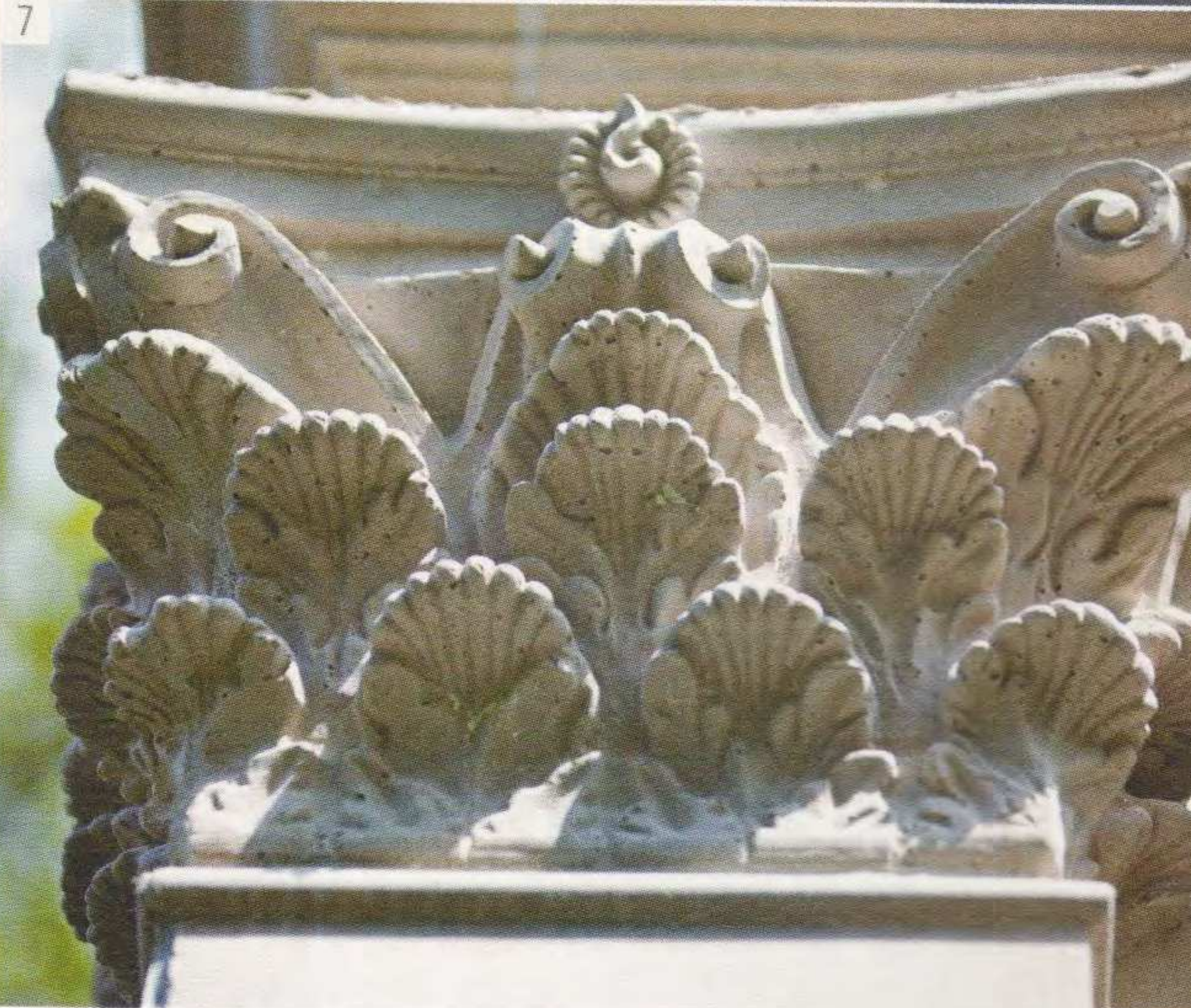
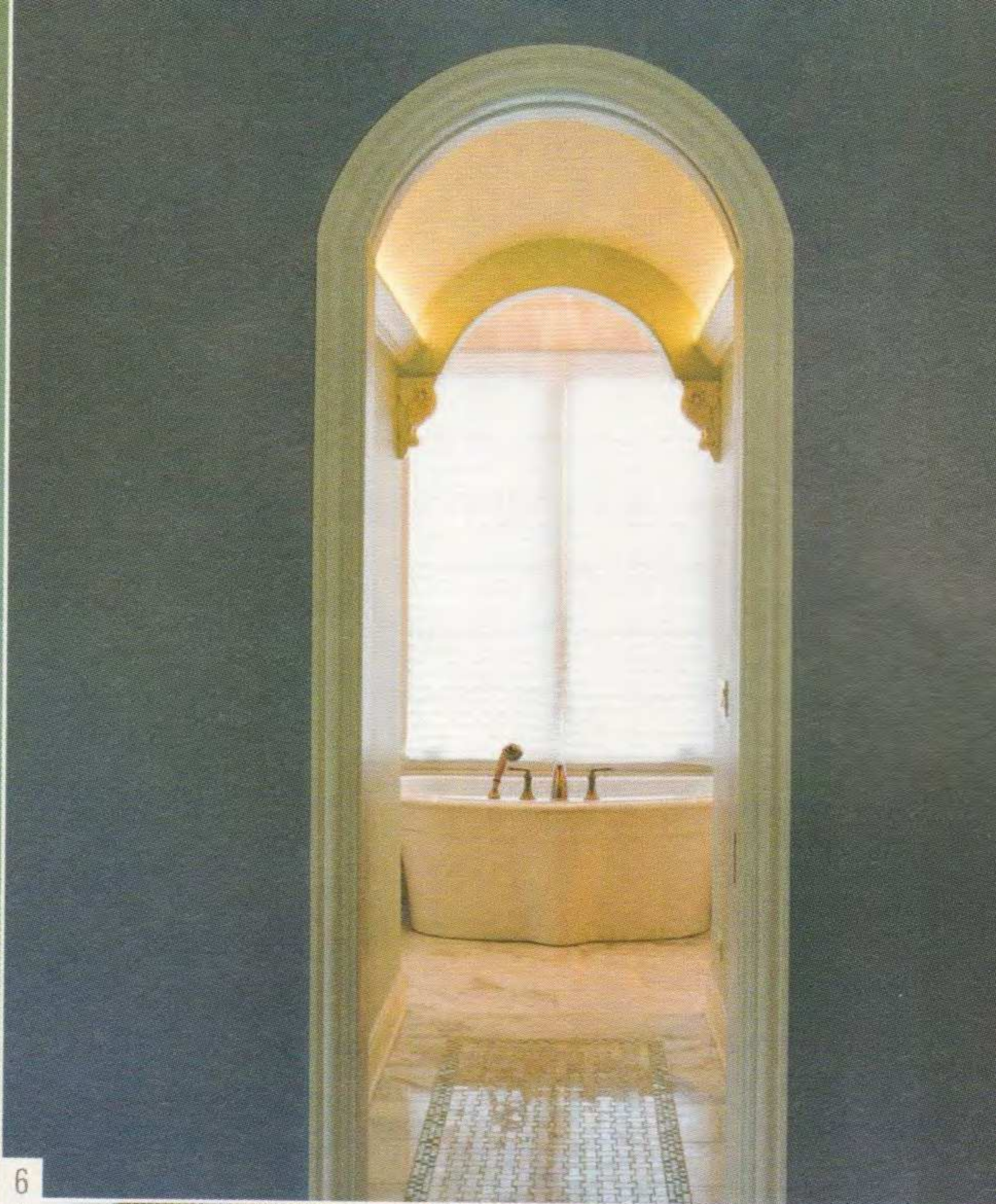
When Kim Thomas and her husband decided to build a house, they knew exactly what they wanted. This is because the Thomases, who love architecture, regularly took advantage of Hinsdale's home tours and discovered a common theme—they were both drawn to homes designed and built by Orren Pickell.

A self-proclaimed Francophile, Kim wanted a French provincial home built with modern flair, which is exactly what she got. "Orren brings a European look into a modern home," Kim says. After moving from a large country lot to a "city lot with an urban vibe," the Thomases hoped to fit the luxuries of their former home into a smaller space. "We wanted a big kitchen with a large center island so that when we have parties—we

can have large buffets there," Kim explains. "And we wanted lots of light throughout." The home's color palette also creates a feeling of open space. "(Kim's house) has everything you need," Orren says. "It has an incredible level of finishes in it." This is something Orren says is a current trend in home building: big details in smaller spaces.

For nearly 40 years, Orren Pickell Building Group has been creating luxury dream homes for clients with a specific vision. "People can pick anyone they want to build their homes," Orren says. "To me, custom home building is constructing someone's dreams on their property."

In his career, Orren has built more than 800 homes—not including remodeling and addition projects—in Illinois,



1. Custom carvings adorn the home's limestone and stucco exterior. 2. Hand-hewn walnut floors allow for maintenance-free luxury. 3. The well-appointed kitchen was styled by Andreys + Olson Interiors, LLC of Hinsdale 4. The kitchen's custom storage solutions boast fashion and function. The island is Orren Pickell Signature Collection custom cabinetry with a custom cottage finish with glaze on maple. 5. The dramatic staircase features a rod iron banister with a maple cap that conveys an aged bronze façade. 6. Masterfully crafted archways are a Orren Pickell Building Group signature. 7. A limestone and stucco exterior with a slate roof satisfies the homeowners desire of easy, maintenance-free living.

“Our house really does look like it was plucked from of the streets of Paris.”

Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin. After beginning his career as an independent painting contractor, Orren had the opportunity to build a house in 1975 and hasn't looked back. “The first eight houses I built—I pretty much did everything myself,” Orren adds. “People aren't designing homes with rooms they don't use anymore,” Orren says. “I tell my clients to live in 100 percent of their homes.”

And because the Thomases believe this will be their final

home, they wanted a house that was maintenance-free. The exterior of their home is limestone, one of the most durable exterior stones. They also used an exterior aluminum railing that is rust-free. One interior wall of the home boasts a Venetian plaster treatment where paint is mixed with plaster from Italy that is supposed to last 20-25 years without being retouched—all in an effort to keep the home elegant, yet low-maintenance.

When asked what her favorite room of the house is, Kim pauses. “Wow, that's a good question,” she says. “Right now, I would say it's the kitchen. It has everything I wanted—nice space, a huge wooden island. But I could change my mind over time and pick another room!”

Passersby also fall in love with Kim's home. “One thing we notice,” Kim says, laughing, “is that people stop in front of our home to take photos of it. Our house really does look like it was plucked from of the streets of Paris.” ■