

HOMES & GARDENS[®]

BRIGHT OUTLOOK

HOUSES FULL OF
LIGHT & COLOUR
GREAT RENOVATIONS
- SEE HOW THE
EXPERTS DO IT
GARDEN DESIGN
TRENDS FOR 2021
TRAVEL WISH LIST -
WHERE TO GO & WHY

A TOUCH OF CHRISTMAS

SIMPLY BEAUTIFUL
DECORATING IDEAS
FESTIVE FINDS FROM
INDEPENDENT
BRANDS

CHEF SKYE
GYNGELL
SERVES AN
INDULGENT
WINTER FEAST

LOOKING FORWARD



JANUARY 2021

GALLERY

Glossy ebonised floors reflect the light from the decorative windows. The bold dark tones show off Michael's sculptures to their best advantage.

Walls in Dragon's Breath, Benjamin Moore. Limestone coffee table and wood and rush chairs, all from a Paris flea market. Camel head sourced on 1stDibs





A PIECE OF HISTORY

Michael Bruno, the founder of 1stDibs, knew this historic house would be the perfect home for his collection of antique and vintage finds

WORDS JULIET BENNING PHOTOGRAPHS ERIC PIASECKI/OTTO



EVENING SITTING ROOM

Chic grey walls are warmed by the wood, suede sofas and rich gold chandelier.

Wallpaper, Ralph Lauren Home. 1970 **sofas** by Milo Baughman; find at 1stDibs. **Tristan chandelier,** Lucca Studio. 1950s **armchairs** by TH Robsjohn-Gibbings in upholstery from Windsor Smith Home

In the foothills of the Ramapo Mountains lies Michael Bruno's Tuxedo Park home. The road to it winds around a frozen lake with the snow-covered pine trees reminiscent of an Alpine landscape. Only a half-hour drive from the edge of New York City, the extraordinary community of Tuxedo Park is where the entrepreneur and founder of 1stDibs has finally settled. 'I typically like to move every eight years so that I can redecorate and I've looked around but I can't find another house that makes me as happy as this one does.'

Michael's original motive in finding a new home was to move closer to his office in the city. 'I lived 40 blocks away and it could take forever to get there,' he says. Tipped off about the historic houses in Tuxedo Park, Michael viewed five in one day, returning to buy one a week later. 'Tuxedo has so many beautiful old homes it's almost like living in a historic house museum park,' he says, laughing. He now shares the house with Alexander, his partner of 20 years, and two handsome retrievers, Boris and Natasha.

Built by the notable American architect John Russell Pope, the red-brick mansion is credited as one of his first domestic works. 'It's like owning a great piece of history and architecture at the same time,' says Michael. 'The house has a very modern floor plan for one built in 1901. There's a lot of circulation and connecting doors as well as doors to the outside.' Much of the house's appeal was that it retained its original state with only the kitchen and two bathrooms altered. Famous for his aesthetic sensibility, Michael determined that the kitchen had to be gutted immediately. 'I couldn't even live with it temporarily, but I didn't get to finish the new kitchen for two years, as I was busy with other things. I created a temporary kitchen that was rustic and more my style. It gave me the feeling that I was camping,

which I always like when I move into a new house.'

Underneath the modern cosmetic alterations, Michael was delighted to discover original windows, floors and doors. 'I peeled back this layer of bad make-up and the house sprung back to life,' he enthuses. 'For the floor, I went for an extremely dark ebony finish as it disguised the nail heads where it had been sanded over the years.' The house was initially such a riot of colour and pattern that Michael painted everything white introducing colour gradually, asking his friend the interior designer Windsor Smith to contribute ideas.

One of Windsor's epic challenges was working out where to place each of Michael's beloved pieces of furniture from his collection. 'I'm a compulsive buyer but I buy without considering where things might go. When I was developing the market place for 1stDibs, I would meet dealers all over the world. If I saw something I really liked, I couldn't help myself. I thought, if I'm asking them to be one of my customers, I should be one of their customers, too.' Consequently, pieces of Michael's haul are shifted and moved, some going into storage. 'We move things around constantly because I get bored and like to switch things out,' he explains.

For conjuring a festive mood, when surrounded by snow, the house is difficult to beat. 'It's an amazing place to be for the holidays. We typically get snow in December and over half our Christmases have been white. We light many of the fires.' With the two retrievers basking in front of the roaring flames, a meal on the table and the house decked out in its finery, this sumptuous home summons the mood of Christmas in breathtaking splendour. 📸

■ 1stDibs, 1stdibs.com; Windsor Smith Home, windsorsmithhome.com



KITCHEN

There's a luxurious sense of space in here, which is exaggerated by the use of pale colours.

20th-century table, sourced in Antwerp. Pair of vintage bronze **wall lights,** Laurin Copen Antiques.

The **worktops** are Italian marble; source similar at Amarestone. **Blinds,** The Shade Store

**INSIDER INSIGHT**

Michael Bruno shares his style inspiration and loves

GREATEST SUCCESS Getting the house in the first place. I made a very low offer and I was surprised they accepted it. That was hard to beat.

SECRET ADDRESS Red Chair on Warren in Hudson (redchair-antiques.com). It's an amazing place to shop for vintage chopping boards, hotel silver and beautiful vases.

BIGGEST INDULGENCE I bought an extra 80 acres adjoining the property. It's forest with a brook and a waterfall and wonderful to walk in and look at but unnecessary in any other way.

GO-TO COLOUR Dragon's Breath by Benjamin Moore

DESIGN HERO Jean-Michel Frank. I bought his pieces when I lived in Paris. He truly was the first to create original design in furniture. His aesthetic still looks fresh 100 years on.

LAST PODCAST DOWNLOADED *How I Built This with Guy Raz.*

WORDS TO LIVE BY My friends often make fun out of me for regularly saying 'You'll see...'. It's when I see something crystal clear that others can't and try to explain it to them.

INSPIRATION



KITCHEN

Slimline panelling, Italian marble and beautiful objets enliven the neutral scheme.

Italian early-20th-century Murano glass tortoiseshell **chandelier** purchased from a dealer in Paris. Hexagonal **mirror** sourced in a Paris flea market. Find hexagonal **floor tiles** at Tiles Direct



ENTRANCE HALL
 With so much light coming in, Michael was undaunted to use a dark colour. The original red tiles are the perfect partners for the rich charcoal walls. Walls and woodwork in Wrought Iron by Benjamin Moore. The naturally shed horns came from the Black Forest. Antique bell jar candleholders; similar antique umbrella stand, all 1stDibs

ENTRANCE FOYER
 White walls and woodwork offer a sharp contrast to the ebonised wood floorboards. The bronze chandelier is original to the house. Antique table from Paul De Grande Antiques, Bruges

KITCHEN
 The antique display shelving and storage box are characterful additions. The wood panelling came from trees milled on-site. The serving platter rack was sourced in an antiques store in Southampton, New York



BEDROOM

Purple-pink walls give the antiques a lively backdrop.

Walls in Pale Iris by Benjamin Moore. The 19th-century bird **prints** were found at an antiques fair in Brussels. British colonial **bed** from Tod Donobedian Antiques, available through 1stDibs



MASTER BATHROOM
Mirrored panels deliver subtle glamour to a refined period-style scheme that features a free-standing bath and antique furniture. Walls in Hunter Green, Benjamin Moore. Bath and fittings from Kallista. Find a similar 18th-century ladder-back chair at 1stDibs