

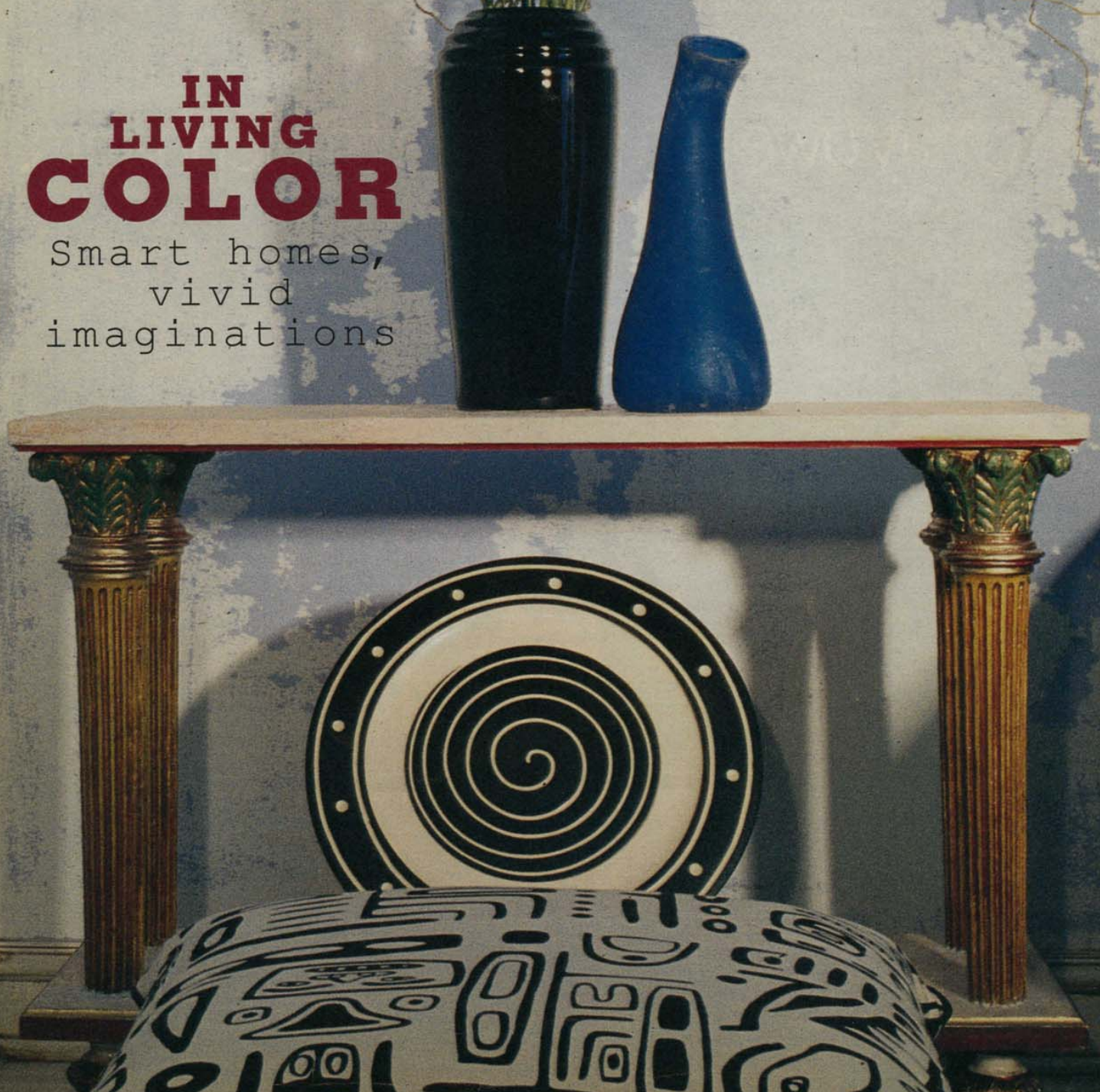
Chicago Tribune Magazine

HOME DESIGN

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IN LIVING COLOR

Smart homes,
vivid
imaginations



Sensory delight

Resourceful rehab transforms a perfume factory into a visual treat

BY
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RIGHT: A SPIRAL STAIRCASE WAS ONE OF THE ELEMENTS THE OWNERS WANTED IN THEIR HOME.



AN OLD CHICAGO PERFUME FACTORY IS NOW DEFUNCT, BUT ITS STRUCTURE STILL EMBODIES THE SWEET SMELL OF SUCCESS, THANKS TO A REMARKABLE REHAB. A

COUPLE RECENTLY PURCHASED THE CRUMBLING plant and transformed it from a malodorous eyesore into an imaginative urban oasis.

"It had such an incredible stench when we bought the property," the husband says, "that it's hard to believe we could ever live there." But we wanted a building we could alter in some very specific ways," the wife adds, among them adding interior courtyards, a spiral staircase and lots of glass.

To eliminate the odors, the couple ultimately had to re-

move the roof and chemically wash the brick walls. And to "explode the space" and define it, they hired Chicago architect Richard Gibbons and Glencoe interior designer Carol Wolk. Now the boxy industrial building is gone, transformed into an airy and elegantly engineered architectural edifice. Its singular façade fronts an inventive interior filled with eclectic furnishings shrewdly selected for color, shape and size.

Soaring ceilings, extensive skylights, several interior courtyards and undefined divisions between some of the rooms stretch the spaces to give the residence an expansive ambience.

The metamorphosis began by "turning the front of the house on a grid slanted at a 15-degree angle in relation to the street," the architect explains, "separating it both psychologically and physically from the busy urban en-

COLORFUL FURNISHINGS, IN RED, CHARTREUSE AND BLUE, UNIFY ECLECTIC OBJECTS THROUGHOUT THE HOUSE, SUCH AS THOSE IN THE DINING ROOM (ABOVE) AND THE KITCHEN (ABOVE LEFT).