

A glass act in Wicker Park

With two glass walls in the back and the look of a vintage firehouse in the front, the house, priced at just under \$2.2 million, is a unique home by distinguished architecture firm Liederbach & Graham | BY DENNIS RODKIN

PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN GLASS HOUSES shouldn't necessarily hang curtains, according to Mimi Novak, who built a house in Wicker Park with two transparent walls two stories high that she hasn't covered in five years.

"We didn't want to lose that connection to the outdoors," Novak says. Tall, dense trees in the backyard and the fact that there's no alley out back help maintain the indoors' privacy.

The combination of the night sky outside and a fire in the fireplace indoors "is magical," Novak says.

Designed by Michael Graham, a principal of noted Chicago architecture firm Liederbach & Graham, the house is filled with many handsome choices, including a fireplace wall of Chicago common brick whose texture contrasts with the glass walls, a street-front facade designed to suggest the house, though built new in 2016, is a repurposed vintage firehouse, and finishes like almost-black cabinetry, no-gloss wood floors and wood ceilings that also hark back to a time long before this house was built.

Novak, an executive in her father John's prominent firm Novak Construction, and her husband, John Rapp, who's in health care, are putting the four-bedroom, 3,500-square-foot house on the market.

The house on Marion Court is represented by Vince Anzalone of Dreamtown Realty. The asking price is just under \$2.2 million.

And if the next owner of this house wants more privacy, the walls' framing would support electric blinds.



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