

## Designer finds her 'dream' home

By **Diane Cowen** Published 3:04 pm, Wednesday, April 25, 2018



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Designer Laura Umansky stands in front of her North Boulevard home as it is readied for a tour benefiting Preservation Houston. Umansky is in the process of moving into the home, that was built in 1925.

A photographer had just finished taking Laura Umansky's picture in front of her Boulevard Oaks home when the dynamic founder of Laura U Interior Design quickly shed her chic black jacket.

She hurried inside, where workers were scurrying from room to room with occasional bursts of drills and hammers. She kicked off her shoes and spun around to survey the progress.

The countdown is on to her Boulevard Show House project, the renovation of a 5,700-square-foot 1925 Tudor Revival home that she and her husband, Michael Umansky, and their twin daughters will live in. For the next two weekends it will hold her home furnishings and special pieces from vendors, things used to stage the house to be over the top for the tour.

Proceeds will benefit Preservation Houston, a nonprofit that advocates for the protection and restoration of architecturally significant buildings.

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When the tour is over, the Umanskys move into their home in the historic district known for its spacious boulevards and canopy of live oaks.

l. "I feel like the home is a study in mixing time periods."

dining room, whimsical polka dots in the mud room, and a variety of other  
ntion to the bathroom with cheetah wallpaper; it might just drive you to

In the front yard, a privacy wall that created a courtyard and obscured the view of the home from the street was removed to take it back to its original design. In back, the swimming pool installed in the 1950s was restored as well. Its pool house got a complete update inside and out.

### More Information

#### Boulevard Show House

When: noon-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and May 5-6

Where: 1644 North Boulevard

Tickets: \$20; [blvdshowhouse.com](http://blvdshowhouse.com)

Benefits: Preservation Houston

Inside, there's plenty of take-away for tourgoers looking for design inspiration. A variety of vendors will be on hand to answer questions about everything from appliances to floor tile and counters.

Umansky's own staff will be in the home to meet visitors as well.

If you've ever wondered how to successfully mix metals, you'll get examples throughout the home, and you'll see great combinations of floor and counter tiles in the kitchen, bathrooms, utility room and foyer.

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