

# aspire

design home

SUMMER  
DIVERSIONS  
TO SOOTHE  
OUR SOULS

# CURATED CHILL

SUMMER 2021  
SEEKING THE SUBLIME  
[aspiredesignandhome.com](http://aspiredesignandhome.com)

\$9.99US \$10.99CAN



13>

0 73917 64924 2

# HEART'S *DESIRE*



TEXT **TATE GUNNERSON** PHOTOGRAPHY **SEAN HENDERSON** INTERIOR DESIGN **GIL MELOTT / STUDIO 6F**



AFTER *suffering*  
a severe HEART ATTACK,  
*multidimensional artist,*  
*designer and entrepreneur*  
GIL MELOTT  
STREAMLINED *his*  
*entire* LIFE,  
STARTING *at* HOME

7





## CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

**F**or Gil Melott, home isn't just a spot to hang one's hat but a laboratory of sorts – a place to perfect his own furniture designs before offering them for sale at his gallery-like boutique, Studio 6F, which he opened in a bright and airy Logan Square corner storefront nearly six years ago.

A clever reference to FFFFFFFF, the code for white in HTML, the aptly named studio is a blank palette for Melott, who toiled away in a stressful, spiritually unsatisfying corporate gig for more than two decades, all the while envisioning a more fulfilling way of life.

After he had an often-deadly type of heart attack that's been dubbed a "widow maker" while out walking his bulldog, Champ, in May of 2015, he vowed to shake things up.

"It was an awakening," he recalls. "I wanted to manifest a new life."

In the ensuing months, Melott overhauled his diet, ditched his stressful corporate gig to open Studio 6F and downsized from an overly decorated two-bedroom Andersonville unit to a lofty fifth-floor one-bedroom with 14-foot ceilings and expansive windows in Logan Square.

Before he made the move, he ruthlessly jettisoned anything that didn't inspire joy or have deep personal meaning, a process he compares to finally taking off a sweltering winter coat. "It was cathartic," he explains.

In contrast to his overly decorated Andersonville home, Melott's new space has a minimalist vibe rendered in warm colors inspired by the world outside the floor-to-ceiling windows.

Covered in a sumptuous olive-green mohair, for example, a tailored sofa coexists peacefully with a hand-hewn ash cocktail table with a Mexican red travertine top in the light-filled living area. Both are part of the Gil Melott Bespoke collection available at Studio 6F.

1

White walls create a gallery-like backdrop for a pair of abstract paintings by Chicago artist, Joe Boudreau, in this fifth-floor Logan Square apartment.

2

Unexpectedly paired with vintage Gastone Rinaldi chairs covered in linen from Holland & Sherry, a faux bois table base with a glass top from 214 Studio in North Carolina references the leafy city streets of Logan Square.

3

Melott placed the industrial stainless-steel restaurant table (providing much-needed additional storage for Calphalon cookware and utensils) against the west-facing windows so he can enjoy the sunset while he prepares a heart-healthy dinner.

4

Part of the Gil Melott Bespoke collection is a hand-hewn ash cocktail table with a Mexican red travertine top.

5

Housed in a niche, the modern flat-front kitchen cabinetry plays a supporting role in the fifth-floor one-bedroom Logan Square dwelling, which Melott uses as a sort of laboratory, seeing how his custom pieces "live" before offering them for sale at Studio 6F.

6

Covered in a durable yet luxurious olive-green mohair – the tailored, custom Flotar sofa from designer and homeowner, Gil Melott's furniture line can easily stand up to wear and tear from his bulldog, Champ.

7

Currently overseeing a bevy of upscale residential design projects and preparing for the imminent launch of his design gallery's new and larger Bucktown location, life is often a blur for Studio 6F founder, Gil Melott, pictured with Champ, in his Logan Square apartment. The artwork is by Colt Seager.

8

Paired with a crucifix and small artworks, a snowstorm scene painted by Melott's grandfather and gifted to him on his ninth birthday is one of his prized possessions. "I was fascinated by my grandpa's routine, and the smell of the oil paints and the paint thinner," Melott reveals. "He had a huge impact on me."

9

Illuminated by a sculptural 1970s studio craft lamp, the streamlined bed is covered with a mud cloth by Ruthie Seager. The abstract painting is by Gil Melott. Used in place of a quilt, artisan Ruthie Seager's mud cloth adds depth and dimension to the light-drenched bedroom. Her work is represented by Melott's Studio 6F.

10

A cholla wood end table from Dial M for Modern plays off the clean-lined mohair-covered Flotar sofa from the Gil Melott Bespoke line of furniture and lighting available at Studio 6F.





Another nod to the natural world can be found steps away in the open dining area, where curvaceous vintage Italian chrome chairs covered in a Holland & Sherry linen surround a tree-trunk-like faux bois table base with a glass top.

“Even in the most modern settings I will infuse natural elements because it humanizes an environment,” he explains. “My aesthetic will always be to mix materials and time periods without hesitation, but it’s done with a sense of reverence, not to surprise or shock.”

Its sleek flat-front cabinetry housed within a wall niche, the minimalist kitchen suited Melott’s needs with only minor tweaks, but he added a practical yet stylish stainless-steel restaurant table against the west-facing windows – a lovely spot to prepare dinner every afternoon around sundown. “It’s all there for effect, but it’s an effect I want,” he shares.

The same could be said about the artwork throughout. One of his own abstract paintings hangs prominently over his bed, which is covered with a hand-sewn textural mud cloth by Ruthie Seager, whose work he represents. A gift for his ninth birthday in 1972, a small snowstorm scene painted by Melott’s grandfather is perhaps his most prized possession.

“Every place I’ve lived has been lovely and well-appointed, but this one is authentically me,” he explains. “It has a sense of refinement and rusticity that suits me, and it involves the artists and craftsmen I cherish and work with on a daily basis. I couldn’t be happier.”

It’s not because his new life is more laid-back. In addition to overseeing several interior design projects and debuting a new lounge chair to his growing furniture collection, Melott is busily preparing to relocate Studio 6F from its longtime storefront location to a new showroom nearly thrice the size in Bucktown.

“Business is good,” Melott notes. “Every day is a pretty good day, even the relatively bad ones, and that’s a completely new feeling.”