



### Vintage Villa

Creating villa-style homes with both old French warmth and a spice of modern energy means striking the right balance with materials and furnishings. Great Room furnishings by interior designer Mary Susan ([ibms-design.com](http://ibms-design.com)), fill the 20-foot vaulted ceilings with parachute-sized drapes, damask rugs and vivid tapestries, layering an inviting oomph onto the stately base.

## Mancari & Associates

D'AMICO RESIDENCE INTERTWINES RUSTIC AND MODERN STYLE, VINTAGE WINE AND SURROUND SOUND, IN THIS MODERN VILLA HOME

by Alex Glenn

Finding a serene space inside the buzzing Chicago hive is no easy task. But it's just what the architecture and design team at Mancari and Associates, with their D'Amico Residence, an authentic villa-style construction intend to do. After all, how better to forget about the gridlock on the Dan Ryan Expressway than by coming home to a quiet table in the French countryside? This is Ray Haniacek's thinking, founder and owner of Mancari and Associates. He doesn't simply want his work to remind clients of a certain era—he wants that era to live and breathe anew. "I like when clients look at a house and can't tell how old it is," he says. "As if it could've been in a European village. That makes us proud."

Started 15 years ago, Mancari and Associates have earned a respected name across suburban

Chicago with exactly that type of custom, hands-on approach. In fact, what separates this company from many others is that it never schedules its next project until finished with the current one, allowing artistic inspiration to flourish and the clients' vision to take shape, distraction-free. "I want to be with clients," says Haniacek. "I want to go to the store with them, pick out materials, everything. Whether they want a chateau or-French villa, I want to make their vision happen, not leave them with a foreman and move onto the next thing."

Working this way, Mancari and Associates' homes can take up to 15 months to build. But one look at the D'Amico residence should convince you that the days spent waiting are worthwhile—and that not one of them gets wasted.

The floors, fashioned out of black walnut, are painstakingly hand-scraped to add to the creased book-cover character of the place. And adorning the floors in the foyer, hallway and laundry room is some roughly 2,000-year-old stone, Antiqued Dalle and Dijon Limestone, patiently lifted straight off the streets of France. Now if the bucolic materials don't remind visitors of simpler times, then visiting the massive wine cellar downstairs ought to: weather-worn cubbies carved from reclaimed oak timbers off a 150-year-old barn hang from the hand-carved concrete walls, stretching from ceiling to floor like ring boxes encasing their dreg-encrusted