



Bit by Bit

A Chicago-based photographer fixes up his Greektown loft by taking his time and stripping down.



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Story by Cate West Zahl

Photography by Andreas Larsson

Andreas Larsson is a man who knows exactly what he likes. In no rush to reach perfection, he patiently and thoughtfully collects pieces one at a time.

“A lot of people feel like you have to buy everything at once. They confuse ‘want’ from ‘need’ and end up with regrets,” says the Swedish-born photographer.

What Larsson needs is a simple, functional living environment that doesn’t include things that aren’t important to him. “I get stressed out when my house is cluttered by things that I don’t care about. I am so much more focused when I only have things around me that are important and beautiful.” In fact, Larsson prefers to rotate his objects and furnishings and often puts some in storage.

Larsson searched a long time for his “ideal” loft in Chicago’s Greektown neighborhood. After extensive scouring back in 2006, during which he thinks he “drove his real estate agent insane,” Larsson decided to go with a 1,000-sq.-ft. fixer-upper. It only took a month and a half of work, most of which he did on his own, including painting everything white and installing new fixtures. Then, he furnished the space slowly, making steady, intentional choices. Today, because of Larsson’s stewardship, his loft demonstrates the efficacy of restraint.

PREVIOUS PAGE: The stainless steel kitchen includes Akrum cabinets and drawers from IKEA. The Super Elliptical table is by Piet Hein and Bruno Mathson. Larsson made and wired the pendant lights himself using basics bought from Chicago’s Bright Electric Supply. **OPPOSITE PAGE:** His prized possession: an original Florence Knoll desk. **In Larsson’s stripped down bedroom,** a Hans Wegner nightstand is paired with a Florence Knoll bed and headboard; an Eames plywood chair flanks the bed. **THIS PAGE:** A George Nelson coat rack and a vintage farmer’s cabinet from the Kane County Market greet visitors. **The self-installed white steel storage door from Steel Building is Larsson’s proudest DIY accomplishment.**





📍 The loft as it stood upon purchase. Tan walls, wooden floors, and exposed red brick dominated the dark interior space. 📍 Now light and airy, the living room exhibits the power of paint, post-renovation. White walls and ceiling offer a contrast with the shiny black floor; Havana sofa from DWR complements an original Eames rocker.

EXIT

