



LAKE FOREST SHOWHOUSE

CHALLENGE

When The ABL Group—along with its affiliates DP Home Design and Dovetails Cabinetry—was invited to remodel the kitchen and breakfast room

of the prestigious 2020 Lake Forest Showhouse and Gardens, they turned to Street Level Studio to create a custom Beyond the Surface™ wall mural. A focal point of their artistic design plan for the

1906 Pullman mansion's family breakfast room, the mural had to echo the aesthetics of the home's historic center hall panoramic wallcovering while reinterpreting the painterly feel of classic chinoiserie in an airy, approachable, and unexpected way using digital technology.

▶ [Watch video](#)

SOLUTION



To capitalize on the breakfast room's natural light, we envisioned a scene with colorful birds soaring

across an early morning sky. Inspired by Audubon illustrations, our surface designer used a “digital hand-painting” technique, building up hundreds of layers with thousands of computer-generated brushstrokes to recreate the luminosity of the clouds and

the iridescent blues and greens of the birds' feathers in flight. A schematic of the room design—showing windows, doors, artwork, furniture, and fixtures—was created to assure precise placement of the graphics.

RESULTS

The finished mural consists of five, floor-to-ceiling panels—

each one unique—printed on high-quality imported matte paper using the latest large format digital printing technology. Once installed on the breakfast room wall, the panels seamlessly meld into an ethereal skyscape reminiscent of traditional Asian screens and embroidery, but with a lighter, more modern sensibility. Among the wispy clouds, the magpies—a traditional symbol of joy in Chinese culture—provide an uplifting and updated counterpoint to the solidity of the breakfast room's custom cabinetry and furnishings.

AWARD

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF INTERIOR DESIGNERS **ASID**

Design Excellence
“Chinoiserie Magpie”
Custom Textile
2021

HERMES
CREATIVE AWARDS

Platinum
“Chinoiserie Magpie”
Custom Wallpaper
2020