



1 Once lime green, the **living room sofa** was reupholstered in silvery velour. The leather shag pillow came from HomeGoods.

2 **Curtain rods and draperies** in the right shade of gray were inexpensive scores at Ikea.

3 A pair of **Victorian-style chairs** upholstered in leather contrast with the clean lines of the other furnishings. The juxtaposition, says Ashman, "takes the edge off the room."

4 On either side of the fireplace, lamps sit atop tall polished chrome Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams **tables** that have a sculptural quality. "We wanted a way to bring light into the room that was a departure from the typical side table next to the chair," says Ashman.

5 The **fireplace hearth, surround, and mantel** are made of Caesarstone. "We removed the traditional painted wood mantel and brick hearth and used the continuous solid surface to create a modern Bauhaus look," says Ashman.

6 An **art installation** of 56 individually handcrafted birds in flight draws the eye upward. A wedding gift to the homeowners that sat unopened for a decade, the piece took Ashman three hours to hang.

7 A **gray shag rug** and round glass coffee table trimmed with chrome made the move from the couple's previous home and went perfectly with the new aesthetic.

8 The **oak floors** are stained weathered gray. The walnut **mirror** is from Ikea.

9 A slim West Elm **shelf** by the front door offers a spot to stash keys and space to display a few accents.

10 An Eames **dining chair** serves as an easy perch.

STYLE WATCH

From Bland to Glam

IN A JAMAICA PLAIN LIVING ROOM, GENERIC FINISHES GIVE WAY TO SLEEK COMFORT

BY JACI CONRY

When the homeowners purchased this four-bedroom 1960s ranch in Jamaica Plain, it had been renovated recently yet was devoid of detail and character. "It had the standard developer finishes, cream walls, and bland floors," says Louis Ashman, a Boston designer. Ashman stepped up to give the home a clean, sophisticated look, working with simple materials and a tight budget. Walls and trim throughout were repainted crisp white. Gray tones and silver finishes add dimension, and most furnishings have a mid-century vibe. "It feels very high style," says Ashman. "But comfortable and not over-the-top."

