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GOLDEN GIRLS

A decorator and a fashion fanatic join forces to take a Gold Coast high-rise home on a five-star gilt trip

BY LISA CREGAN | PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRIS DAVIS AND ERIC HAUSMAN

Kelly Golden's expertise is fashion, and Cindy Galvin's is interiors, but when the two got together to design Golden's new Gold Coast home, tucked into a curvy, glass high-rise designed by Booth Hansen, they spoke exactly the same language.

"I think tastes in fashion and interior design definitely overlap," says Galvin, "at least they do in my world." She was browsing the racks of Golden's chic Winnetka boutique, Neapolitan, last year when she got an unexpected question. "Kelly asked if I could recommend a decorator," she recalls. Though Galvin has worked on countless high-profile projects since launching her firm, Bardes Interiors, Golden knew her only as a friendly customer whose fashion style happened to be uncannily similar to her own. The two were delighted at the opportunity to work together. "Everything I love in my closet, Kelly has found for me," says Galvin. Lanvin, de la Renta, Valentino, Missoni. Those are the kinds of covetable confections offered up by Golden and her business partner, Missy Hebson, and the four-year-old store has proved an irresistible draw to local fashionistas.

With the project underway, frocks and fashion quickly receded to the background. Galvin's first step was to create a set of detailed floor plans for the 4,500-square-foot space. "She might be dressed to the nines, but she can talk building codes, electrical standards and plumbing just like a guy," laughs Golden. Galvin insisted on braving the precarious scaffolding and bone-chilling February winds to get a preview of the then-half-finished skyscraper. "It was freezing cold and there were no walls, but I had to see it all in person. I had to see those cement columns for myself," Galvin recounts. She immediately resolved to hide the columns' rough surfaces beneath some

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Cindy Galvin (left) and Kelly Golden in the dining room of Golden's Gold Coast home. Chairs are upholstered in Fortuny. The crystal chandelier is Italian and a pair of lamps made from rounds of ancient coral rest on a pair of parchment chests.

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"THE BEDROOM IS LIKE OUR CAVE," SAYS GOLDEN. "WE GO THERE TO HIBERNATE."

Above: In the master bedroom, sky-blue and green Manuel Canovas damask window treatments play off wheat-colored Hinson grass-cloth walls. Custom linens from Léron, and sunburst mirror from John Rosselli. *Opposite page:* The dining banquette is upholstered in a Jim Thompson silk and embellished with nail heads to give it texture and pattern. The large paneled mirror, designed by Galvin, is antique glass, gold gilding with a gray wash frame.

PHOTO BY CHRIS DAVIS



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"THE RUG BECAME THE SOUL OF THE ROOM. LIKE A LITTLE FABERGE EGG OF EVERY COLOR AND PATTERN IN THE HOME," SAYS GALVIN.

PHOTO BY CHRIS SAVAGE



...CONTINUED ...cozy silk wallpaper and, as usual, she and Golden were on the same page. "My biggest concern was that it be homey and warm," says Golden. She and her husband, Mike (co-founder of @Properties), have a toddler daughter and are expecting a second child this fall. The contractor-spec-ed marble floors were out of the question, deemed inadequate in the kid-friendly department. "I called Kelly from Florida one day and said I just saw a house with a floor in the most gorgeous shade of chocolate brown," says Galvin. A Prada brown, perhaps? You can imagine the conversation. Floors were soon laid in a deep brown mahogany.

Today, mother-of-pearl wallpaper sparkles on a living room wall like crystals sewn into the train of a Neapolitan evening gown, and swathes of silver dapple a Cowtan & Tout paper, picking up the glow of sunset over the nearby Newberry Library. "At night that wall of windows goes to black," says Galvin. "Then those silvery accents act as an architectural

element, balancing the window frames opposite." As an offset to the shimmering walls, Galvin applied some bold strokes of color. "I think punches of Chinese red and coral are great colors to live with," she notes. She chose a pair of striking coral-hued, seaweed-shaped sconces to cast warm light onto an Asian altar table in the living room, while a collection of tomato-red Chinese wedding baskets adds drama to the family room.

"Cindy literally traveled the world for us," says Golden, who does a fair amount of globetrotting herself to fill the shelves at Neapolitan. As a result, exotic items crop up throughout the space, from an unusual cat-shaped antique Chinese headdress to vintage European posters to an extraordinary dining table that seats twelve. "I looked for three days in the Paris flea markets for the perfect table base," reports Galvin, who shops Europe as casually as most decorators hit the Merchandise Mart.

The pair's passion for design and luxury is evident in countless little touches. Items as mundane as office files get couture details like bespoke leather pulls and the media room walls are covered in a faux alligator, yet somehow the pair's *je ne sais quoi* fashion sense keeps it all grounded and balanced. Who knew a groovy Serge Mouille ceiling fixture would mix so well with side tables of ancient petrified wood? "You can't dress entirely in Chanel and be interesting," says Golden, putting it in language her clients might understand. "You need to wear that one edgy piece to make the look your own, to make it unique."

These days Golden is commuting from one Bardes Interiors designed space to another. It seems Neapolitan recently needed a little re-vamping. Who do you think got the call? ■