





EUROPEAN MODERN – AMERICAN OUTRÉ

A penthouse in the prestigious Streeterville neighborhood in Chicago offers modern elegance and style with a close proximity to Lake Michigan, expansive views, and is a moment away from high-end shopping on North Michigan Avenue.

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KITCHEN
 GAGGENAU - Cooktop and Oven
 SUBZERO - Refrigerator
 BOSCH - Dishwasher
 GREENFIELD CABINETRY - Cabinetry
 ELEMENT DESIGN - Upper Cabinet Doors and Pantry Sliders
 CRAFT ART - Island
 HAFELE - Hardware



How can you make a spacious penthouse with breathtaking views of the lake and of the nearby urban landscape even more appealing? You hire designer Scott Dresner.

With a European couple as his clients, Dresner was charged with making an American home in an American city look more European in style and feel. And if that were not enough of a challenge, Dresner also had a strict nine-month deadline from start to finish for the \$750,000 project (not including furniture). The homeowners needed it to be completed two weeks before they were to host a 50th birthday party with a guest list of 150.

“A lot of Americans don’t understand proportions,” says Dresner. “Here in America, cabinetry can all be customized to whatever size you want so there is more room for error in proportions. In Europe, only certain sizes are available that work proportionately, cabinets are bigger. In this project, we used larger

cabinetry and all equal proportions so it feels more European.”

Beginning with the kitchen the couple wanted a sleek, contemporary look with modern storage solutions throughout – an American-made kitchen that looked European – for a pair that enjoy being in their own food preparation and a gourmet environment.

Dresner is especially proud of the massive 600-pound black dyed solid walnut top he designed for the island in the dramatic gourmet kitchen. He also custom designed the stainless steel counters with recessed storage canisters for the homeowners who desired their cutlery and spices to be within easy reach.

The island features storage on both sides for larger items, and Dresner purposely designed the cabinetry in proportions that keep cooking essentials handy while not obstructing the spectacular views. Other storage solutions include open shelving, flip-up cabinetry and a pantry with a sliding door.







MASTER BATH
GREENFIELD CABINETRY - Vanity and Medicine Cabinets
GLASSWORKS - Mirrors
GROHE - Plumbing
TOTO - Toilet
KOHLER - Sinks
SILESTONE - Countertop
ANN SACKS - Wall Tile



“Views are everywhere,” says Dresner of his minimal kitchen design. “You can’t escape the view. Even when blinds are down you can see the view. Everything was designed to maximize the view.”

In order to display small family treasures that the couple has collected during their travels, Dresner created a shelving tower in the area between the living room and the kitchen. He also designed open wood shelves for some of their larger keepsakes and their cookbooks.

Dresner integrated the appliances, a Gaggenau cooktop that can double as a prep space when not in use, and a stainless backsplash into his kitchen design.

Another challenge for Dresner as a designer was the penthouse’s master bathroom. The bathroom is small for such a large home, and the fact that one wall is entirely made of glass seemed to limit storage options.

Once again, Dresner aimed to maximize city and lake vistas. For example, the

bathroom layout includes a European frameless shower that faces the glass curtain wall and offers unobstructed views. Frosted glass tape over the shower door from shoulder height down creates a sense of privacy without obstructing the view.

With the addition of oversized drawers in the floating vanity, built-in medicine cabinets, and recessed niches in the shower, a graceful simplicity was achieved. The charcoal and white palette along with the chrome plumbing and trim details complement the glass curtain wall, and the teak floor in the shower provides a spa-like ambience. Towel warmers, radiant heat flooring, invisible plugs that are mounted flush to the wall and cabinetry with mirrors that reflect the urban landscape and lake views, provide a seamless look for this luxurious retreat.

From the selection of the finest materials to meticulous detailing, Dresner accomplished a balance between serene unity and utility – melding European and American style. ✈