



A luxurious contemporary home atop downtown Denver's Four Seasons Hotel represents an adventurous new direction for stylish empty nesters

Living the High Life



BY NANCY RICHMAN MILLIGAN
PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVID PATTERSON

For this Texas couple, all signs pointed to big change. First, a job-related relocation brought the couple to Denver. Next, their youngest child made plans to head to college. Then, these soon-to-be-empty nesters opted for the biggest change of all: high-rise city living. "Their previous home was very traditional, colorful country French," says interior designer David Hintgen, who was hired to design the new space. "I worked primarily with the wife and she wanted to take a completely different approach and live in a contemporary home with neutral colors. She was adventurous in seeking something she had never tried before."

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—Interior Designer David Hintgen

The designer came in early on the project, when the couple's future home, a penthouse atop Denver's Four Season's hotel, was still 5,000 square feet of raw space. He designed an open living plan that includes a spacious living/dining area, kitchen, three bedrooms, five baths, an office and a media room. “A lot of detail and thought went into creating this custom home, from the lighting plan to the furnishings to the finishes,” Hintgen says. He even helped the homeowners select art, such as the three-dimensional sculpture in the entry hall and three aerial photographs of snow-covered trees that read as abstract art.

(previous page) A custom wine storage unit serves as a wall to create a sense of enclosure for the bar/lounge area. “Something was missing when you walked into the entry space,” says designer David Hintgen, who designed the see-through wine storage wall to extend the entry. “The wine cabinet serves the purpose of a wall but gives a hint of what's to come.” Hintgen selected iridescent velvet upholstery for the curved chairs; a carved alabaster light fixture echoes their shape.

(right) A subtle herringbone fabric covers the custom sofa/chaise in the living room, repeating the pattern of the oak herringbone floors. Large accent pillows and a silk Belgian rug add softness and comfort to the room where the homeowners gather most evenings.





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In one of many purposeful design moves, Hintgen strategically located a custom glass wine storage wall to mark off a bar/lounge area for relaxing and enjoying a sip. The unique wall also helps establish a dramatic sense of entry: “I wanted to extend the entry a little farther before you turn into the heart of the house, where an expanse of west-facing windows opens to breathtaking views of the mountains,” he says. Located on the 42nd floor with two large balconies, the home has what Hintgen says are “the best views I’ve ever seen in this town.”

Neutral shades of gray and a variety of textures bring depth and sophistication to the design, which encompasses luxury at every turn. Hintgen designed much of the furniture, including an oversized sofa/chaise in the living room, an intricately tufted velvet upholstered bed in the master bedroom and a stunning steel-and-teak dining table. In addition, he selected pieces from high-end brands such as Bolier & Company and Barclay Butera Home.

A two-inch-thick acrylic sideboard offers just the right amount of separation between the living and dining spaces. The custom-designed dining table features a curved steel base topped with a teak slab finished in high gloss automotive paint. The fireplace is wrapped in an unusual blue-and-gray travertine.



The finishes throughout are exquisite—lustrous slab onyx on the entry floor and master bath island, marble-wrapped bathrooms, a travertine-encased fireplace, herringbone oak floors, mahogany vanity drawers, high-gloss lacquered cabinetry, metallic grasscloth wallpaper, seashell mosaic tile, silk shag rugs, and luxe upholstery fabrics—proving Hintgen’s belief that contemporary need not be cold or hard-edged. “Most people say ‘contemporary’ with a sense of caution. They appreciate a lot of aspects of contemporary, but they want comfort,” Hintgen says. “A warm, comfortable contemporary is right in my wheelhouse.”

Lustrous marble countertops are a striking contrast to high gloss lacquered cabinets in the kitchen. Upper cabinets with glass doors recall the transparency of the wine wall. A repetition of materials creates harmony in the kitchen, where marble appears on the countertops, backsplash and range hood. Likewise, the lacquered finish of the cabinets repeats on the wall behind the shelves. Hintgen describes the striking silk and polished chrome pendants as “something fun and out of the box.”



(opposite) Yellow onyx encloses the monolithic island in the master bathroom. An egg-shaped tub sits in the window, high above the city. (this page, top) The master bedroom, with its unparalleled views, offers soothing elegance and a mix of traditional and contemporary elements. A magnificent tufted velvet bed imparts luxury while glossy white furniture offers crisp, clean lines. The chandelier from Visual Comfort combines traditional form with contemporary square crystals. LED strip lighting in the soffit reflects off metallic grasscloth wallpaper. (above, left) Elegant porcelain tile lends the look of marble in the master bath, where glass shower doors are frosted for privacy. The steam shower has a seashell tile floor. (above, right) A wall covering of a historic map of Paris serves as the backdrop for Hintgen's custom designed white lacquer platform bed and luxurious faux-fur bedding in the daughter's bedroom.

Working closely with their designer, these adventurous homeowners found themselves in sync with his ideas and vision. As for Hintgen, who spent more than a year dedicated to every detail of the design, "I think of this home as my trophy project—this is what I would do in my own home." □

DESIGN DETAILS

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