

MODERN LUXURY

Interiors

INAUGURAL ISSUE

BOSTON



THE OUTSIDERS

CHIC FINDS FOR
LIVING EN PLEIN AIR

PLUS

INSIDE A SPRAWLING
ISLAND COMPOUND
A POSH PENTHOUSE &
A REVIVED COLONIAL
FULL OF MODERN FLAIR

Every element is carefully considered for both function and seamless presentation. The system panel, painted the same color as the wallpaper, is tucked unobstructively beside the fireplace. The drapery is inset into a track behind the soffit so there is no visible hardware. The tub chairs swivel to face the fireplace, the view, the conversation area or the television.

TOP of the GLASS

A penthouse in Millennium Tower reflects a luxurious ease of urban living.

By Marni Elyse Katz
Photography by Michael J. Lee

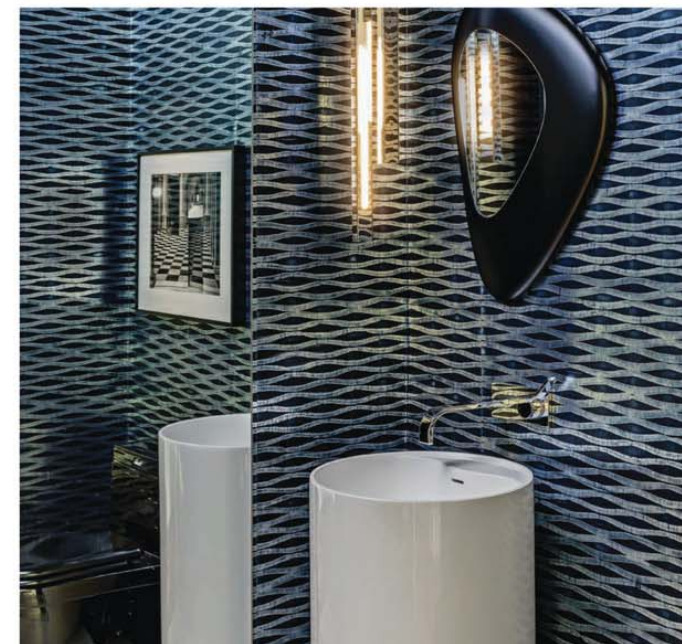


In the wife's bathroom, an abstract colorblock watercolor by Stephen Mueller, a bright spot against the muted wallcovering, echoes the colors and shapes of the city view. Opposite page, from top: Elms takes a reprieve from brass in favor of polished nickel on the kitchen cabinetry. The white glass pendants have satin nickel hardware while oil-rubbed bronze counter stools add contrast; Elms transformed a blasé powder room into a dramatic design moment. The checkerboard floor in the black-and-white photograph by Abelardo Morell, reflected in the wall mirror, adds another layer of rhythmic pattern.

Designer Dee Elms' clients didn't trade up from a pied-à-terre overlooking the Public Garden to a penthouse unit on the 56th floor of Millennium Tower because it wasn't working for them, but rather, because it was. The out-of-town empty nesters were so enthralled with Boston that they wanted to spend more time here. Bewitched by the brand-new 675-foot-high shimmering edifice, the couple purchased a 3,172-square-foot three-bedroom unit, ensuring plenty of space for visiting children and grandchildren. "The Boston design scene has exploded, rethinking the way we live and feel," Elms says. "We're excited to be part of the evolution."

The city beckons from the moment one steps into the home, which Elms retrofitted with wide plank walnut floors, square trimless recessed lights and custom-designed 10-inch baseboards that speak to the massive scale of space. By delineating the foyer with a cloudlike ceiling covering and an artful brass pendant, and concealing the opening to the kitchen with a sleek arrangement of wall panels, Elms effectively funnels visitors into the main living space, where floor-to-ceiling windows present the never-ending view of the city.

A lustrous sapphire chenille sectional by Holly Hunt defines the seating area. It is anchored by a gas fireplace, which Elms relocated from a less conspicuous spot on an adjacent wall that now hosts the TV. The dark and light tones of the black silk marble and travertine echo the tension of its offser positioning and asymmetric floating hearth. The composition also provides prime real estate for Brooklyn-based artist Kasper Sonne's vibrant splash of color. The black markings of the painting, rendered in ash, relate to the fireplace in both color and material. "A unit with so many walls literally devours art," Elms says. "It is essential for personality."



Venetian plaster warms up the 10-foot-high ceiling while an organic Lindsey Adelman chandelier floats across the top of the room. A trio of Holly Hunt tables in burnished metal, mirror and walnut lead the eye around the lower portion of the space. A pair of swivel chairs allows flexibility and a Lee Broom hanging hoop chair offers a fun place to gaze at the view. "I love the architecture of the double brass ring," Elms says. "It's a whimsical touch in a polished environment."

In the kitchen, Elms specified pale gray paint for the Christopher Peacock cabinetry, picking up the veining in the Calacatta countertops. She traded uniformity for drama by declining the developer's matching marble backsplash in favor of glamorous antique glass mirror tiles. Oil-rubbed bronze counter stools repeat the patina on the other side of the island, which is swathed in a waterfall edge.

For the dining area, Elms designed a banquette with an integrated steel shelving unit with a bronze mirror back that plays off the bronze base of the ebonized, maple-topped pedestal table. An abstract oil painting by Portland, Maine-



The base of the shelving unit in the dining area is actually a storage cabinet accessed by the hinged front panel. The monochromatic effect of the vegan leather upholstery and wallcovering allows the artwork to pop. Opposite page: In the guest room that doubles as an office, the desk area presents a striking tableau, with free-floating walnut shelves against a very textured grasscloth wallcovering.

based artist Elise Ansel brightens the neutral tableau with broad brushstrokes, while a triptych by Boston-based artist Bill Thompson pulls out corresponding colors. A vintage brass sputnik chandelier with white enamel shades bursts from above. Elms notes, "Pieces from the past inject a new building with a cool vibe."

No room is cooler than the theatrical powder room, where wallpaper with an undulating pattern is a bold backdrop for a backlit full-length mirror. Elms swapped chunky fixtures for groovy ones—a free-standing tubular sink and glossy black toilet—hung a pendant of illuminated vertical rod and added a sculptural mirror she spotted in Paris last year. "It's a bathroom you won't forget," she says.

The mood lightens but remains lyrical in the master bedroom. Sumptuous wool drapes tucked discreetly behind soffits frame the view. Custom

cabinetry anchors the wall facing the contemporary leather platform bed with a channel-tufted mohair headboard, and a chair on each side of a spindly cast-bronze side table offer a private moment.

His-and-her en suite master baths (yes, there are two, along with three walk-in closets) are serene retreats warmed up with artwork, new hardware and lighting. In the wife's oasis, a free-standing oval tub is positioned in front of floor-to-ceiling windows and an ethereal cluster of handfrosted glass orbs ministers a soft glow.

The design is practical yet wows at every turn, with a layout and furnishings that function equally well for the couple when they are on their own as when they are surrounded by friends and family. Elms says, "Good design means blending the energy of the city with a natural, comfortable way of living." ■



DESIGN DETAILS

TYPE
Condominium

LOCATION
Boston

INTERIOR DESIGN
Elms Interior Design
elmsid.com

RESOURCES

APPARATUS STUDIO
Master bathroom light fixture
apparatusstudio.com

CHRISTOPHER PEACOCK CABINETRY
Built-in cabinetry throughout
peacockhome.com

HOLLY HUNT
Living room sofa and tables
hollyhunt.com

LINDSEY ADELMAN
Living room light fixture
lindseyadelman.com

LEE BROOM
Living room hanging chair
leebroom.com

PAGANI STUDIO
Master bedroom table lamps
paganistudio.com

PHILLIP JEFFRIES
Wallpaper throughout
phillipjeffries.com

JOHN POMP
Master bathroom table
johnpomp.com

RALPH PUCCI
Foyer light fixture
ralphpucci.net

