

BOSTON MAGAZINE'S

HOME

& GARDEN

33 pages of inspiring
local homes

NEWTON • NEW HAMPSHIRE • BOSTON HARBOR TOWERS

Fresh Looks

Spring Style for Your Table,
Kitchen + Garden

PLUS: YOUR
BEST LAWN EVER
PAGE 141

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A photograph of a modern apartment interior. Large windows with sheer white curtains and heavy orange curtains are visible. A white armchair is in the foreground on the right. The floor is made of light-colored wood.

A top-to-bottom
redesign turns
a Boston Harbor
Towers apartment
into a city escape

VIEW FROM THE TOP

By Christie Matheson
Photographs by David Carmack

THE VIEW HAD ALWAYS BEEN SPECTACULAR. High above the city, enormous windows look out onto this old maritime port, where today, hotels and condos survey the waterfront as ferries bustle in and out of the harbor. Inside, however, this Boston Harbor Towers apartment was dated, reminiscent of 1971, the year it was built. But the owner, a physician originally from Europe with an intensely packed schedule, wanted a beautiful place to come home to, both inside and out.

"I wanted a home that was serene, uncluttered and inviting, with a modern, contemporary look. And I wanted to see the water. I love the water," says the owner.

Her first job in this renovation was to find a compatible decorator. "My tastes are not traditionally Bostonian, and it took quite some time to find the right person. Everyone I met with

ART MATTERS

A Tamara de Lempicka portrait, bought from the artist by the owner's mother, inspired the placid colors in this chic city dwelling, including the leather Roche-Bobo sofa. Turn to page 146 for additional information.



HOLY ORDER

A 16th-century wooden sculpture of Saint Cornelius is a family heirloom from Europe that now overlooks the living room.



"She wanted to open up the space and **capture the views of Boston Harbor.** She wanted a clean, modern scheme. We completely gutted it and started over."





SUPPER CLUB

A twisted metal lighting fixture from Brookline's Italian Design illuminates the sleek dining room, which enjoys a stunning view of Boston Harbor.





BAR CODE

Bronze-flecked black galaxy granite creates plenty of counter space for entertaining; mod stools from Design Within Reach line the matching granite bar.

kept suggesting French style with moldings and chair rails. There's nothing wrong with that, but it's just not me."

She finally met her match in a team led by designer Heather Wells, owner of Heather G. Wells, an architectural interiors firm with offices in Boston and Chicago. "I showed Heather the book of images I'd collected over the years, and she showed me an apartment she had designed in Chicago," the owner says. "She got it."

Wells assembled a team to renovate the apartment that included Amy Finch Williams, who was Wells' classmate in architecture school at Harvard, as the project's architect, assistant designer Tatiana Armstrong, and general contractors from Boger Construction in Chelsea, led by project manager Deb Thurmond. The all-female team worked closely with the client to construct a space that would be both warm and contemporary.

OPENING ACT In the old layout, the best vantage point to see the water was obscured by walls. The team decided that deconstruction would be the first step toward reconstruction.

"The apartment was dark and divided, so she wanted to open up the space and capture the views of Boston Harbor in her main living space," says Williams. "She wanted a clean, modern scheme. We completely gutted it and started over." *(continued on page 134)*

LIGHT BRIGHT

A silk-covered floor lamp glows down the hallway from the kitchen to the master bedroom.





SLEEPING BEAUTY

Pale green with hints of tangerine set the tone of this minimalist bedroom. The Charles bed comes from Montage in Boston.