



High SHINE

A bachelor pad above Manhattan gets a glamorous makeover

By Jorge S. Arango



LIKE THE DULL-BROWN CATERPILLAR that emerges from its chrysalis a shimmering blue Morpho butterfly, so a vanilla box with maple floors inside New York's Trump International Tower at One Central Park West was transformed into a gleaming bachelor pad.



David Gross, a founding partner at GF55 Architects, says the location was impressive, but the interior screamed "generic." His client, Dan Tyler, a single man from a prominent Oklahoma family and a descendant of John Tyler, wanted it to register as "sexy," so Gross and his design team—GF55 partner Leonard Fusco and senior associate Suzanna Takayama—deployed extensive architectural details and glossy finishes. "Everything has a shimmer to it," says Gross. "It goes from high gloss down to satin, but nothing less."

Art Deco ocean liners such as the *Ile de France* were the designer's main inspiration. Proportionally (the apartment is a fairly modest 1,400 square feet), the liner idea fits. And, like a cabin, it is paneled, though here the woods are a more luxurious Macassar ebony and ribbed mahogany. The living/dining area, study and bedroom all frame quintessential New York skyscraper views. At night, the city's twinkling lights add a dazzling sparkle to the reflective surfaces.

Previous pages: Exotic woods and reflective surfaces complement the Art Deco living room. Warhol's portrait of Judy Garland hangs in the study. Left: A two-way mirror in the dining room lets Tyler check on guests from the kitchen. Below: The foyer has black granite floors and lacquered doors.



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In the living room, Gross added a custom sofa and chaise upholstered in fabric the color and luster of freshwater pearls. Since all the public spaces flow into one another, the room is bracketed by two Lalique screens, which also serve to separate it from the dining room. Gross paneled the column concealing the duct system, which rises between the dining room and entrance hall, in Macassar ebony. He also built illuminated glass display cases into the sides of the column for Tyler's collection of glass paperweights.

Based on the firm's experience with apartment redesign, Gross knew that open spaces were hiding above certain sections of the ceilings, which allowed him to manipulate ceiling heights in theatrical ways. “Renovation is almost like a detective novel,” he says. In the dining area, he hung an Art Deco Baccarat chandelier, but rather than simply suspending it from a flat ceiling, he opened a small dome overhead and lined it with gold leaf, creating a spectacular foil for the fixture. He also ended the walls a foot from the ceiling and gave them crown moldings, behind which he concealed more cove lighting. In the bedroom, Gross was able to push the ceiling up far enough to create a barrel vault.

Essential to any Deco interior, of course, is lacquer. Here it appears on black-lacquered doors throughout, which are grooved and gold-leafed in a diamond pattern characteristic of the era. In the bedroom, a wall of cabinetry is lacquered in shades of silver and taupe.

Gross' client had entered into the process with few furnishings apart from the Lalique screens, his paperweight collection, and a round mirror, which ended up in the entry hall. Gross rounded out the apartment's Silver Screen chic with a leopard-print carpet and a Warhol portrait of Judy Garland.

“It's a small apartment, but a precious one,” says Gross. Indeed, it is the perfect place for a bachelor to bedazzle his guests. ■

Silver lacquered walls and a barrel vault ceiling in the bedroom are tempered by an upholstered wall swathed in “the most luxurious mohair,” says Gross. Furnishings from J. Robert Scott.



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