





high
Glamour

DESIGNER: CANDACE CAVANAUGH

TEXT: "DE" SCHOFIELD

PHOTOGRAPHY: MATTHEW MILLMAN





"MY CLIENTS WEREN'T EVEN IN THE MARKET FOR a new home," says San Francisco designer Candace Cavanaugh. "But the wife noticed the 'open house' sign and couldn't resist taking a peek." One look at the light-filled space—which occupies one floor of a venerable Art Deco building in Pacific Heights, with views of every San Francisco landmark from the Golden Gate Bridge to Alcatraz—and they were sold. They quickly acquired the property, hiring Cavanaugh to achieve their vision for a quietly elegant décor that called focus to the views and provided a suitable backdrop for their abstract art collection.

A common bond of art and fund raising brought designer and clients together several years ago. The husband, a high-profile financial services executive, and his wife, an active volunteer in the San Francisco arts community, met Cavanaugh through their involvement with the Modern Art Council of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

Despite its many attributes, the apartment had not undergone any renovation in nearly 40 years. Working in collaboration with architect Gary Jerabeck of Architectural Development and contractor Andrew McHale of Design Line Construction, Cavanaugh transformed the space from bland to spectacular. While the original footprint was left intact, the project entailed a complete remodeling, including new fixtures, tile, hardware, moldings, lighting and wallpaper throughout. Cavanaugh also raised the ceilings in the foyer, living room, dining room and library, creating architectural interest that is further embellished with hand-wrought detailing and moldings.

The apartment's signature feature, lavish bay windows, cued the designer's light touch. "The view and the art are key, so everything else is kept quiet and reserved," Cavanaugh says. Utilizing San Francisco's legendary sunsets and ethereal rolling fog as a constantly changing backdrop, she composed a quiet palette of soft grays, golds and charcoals and translated them into opulent finishes and textural fabrics, with artworks and accent pieces providing pops of color.





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ANTIQUITY
Places of the Past

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ANTHONY
DAVID HAYES
ANTHONY

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CHANEL
ANTHONY

Stack of books
CHANEL
ANTHONY

Stack of books
CHANEL
ANTHONY



de Kooning
SAN FRANCISCO MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
de Kooning paintings 1960-1980











GLAMOROUS ROOMS JAN SHOWERS

KELLY WEARSTLER DOMICILIUM DECORATUS

KELLY WEARSTLER DOMICILIUM DECORATUS







UPON ENTRY, THE FOYER IS AWASH IN SHIMMERING light and tactile finishes; the walls are clad in luminescent pewter-toned wallpaper, and the coffered ceiling is embellished with custom cove moldings. The addition of an alcove niche faced in hand-rolled antiqued mirror tiles provides fitting display space for one of the owners' favorite paintings by Emerson Woelffer, which is placed above a gold-leafed console and a bench upholstered in hair-on-hair leather. The original hardwood flooring was newly finished with a light oak stain and detailed with a custom hand-painted star motif by artist Willem Racké.

In the living room, a more casual seating arrangement is grouped near a riveting print by Richard Serra. A sofa by Ironies clad in dove-gray mohair is paired with the bench and chairs from the collection, as well as a Gregorius Pineo bamboo-frame chair. This setting precedes the main conversation area, where a stone fireplace with a pewter-wrapped mantel provides a handsome contrast to a painting by Grace Munakata. Cavanaugh updated a pair of rams-head side chairs from the owners' former home with contrasting fabrics by Rose Cummings and Nina Campbell, all atop an Oushak carpet.

The panoramic bay views are the main attraction in the formal dining room. "The building's other units all feature breakfast areas in the kitchen, but we created one here to extend the dining room and provide a multipurpose space that encompasses the view," Cavanaugh explains. A graceful Niermann Weeks chandelier cupped beneath a custom crown molding illuminates the space. The dining arrangement includes a pair of host and hostess armchairs dressed in custom slipcovers and embroidered with the couple's monogram.





THROUGH ETCHED-GLASS FRENCH POCKET DOORS, the homeowners can pass from the dining room to the butler's pantry and into the kitchen, where a gallery of satiny-black cabinetry with antique mirrored panels frames another scenic bay view. Cavanaugh's choice of opulent finishes, such as the glossy black subway tiles by Waterworks, imparts glamour, while her deer-leg bar stool design is the unexpected wink in the room.

Cavanaugh repurposed a guest bedroom into a cozy library and home office for the husband. With its distinctly masculine Neoclassical theme, the space bears the hallmarks of a gentleman's retreat: custom cabinetry finished in a black "wash" to allow the wood grain to show through; library shelving in a classic X-motif; strong, statement fabrics—zebra-patterned linen velvet by Ralph Lauren and mohair by Christopher Hyland. The focal point artwork, a pastel by John W. Wood that Cavanaugh selected specifically for this space, is flanked by a pair of custom sconces by Jean de Merry.

Custom painted wallpaper evocative of a Rorschach test provided an artistic starting point for the black and gold powder room. The custom vanity with an onyx slab countertop is illuminated by dramatic Jonathan Browning sconces that echo the repetitive lines of the wallpaper design.









