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DECORATOR SHOWCASE

High-style condos

Four design firms transform 53rd-floor S.F. units into their fictitious clients' dream homes

By Janny Hu
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High-rise living doesn't always mean sprawling quarters, especially when it comes to actual living spaces. It's almost as if the taller the tower, the tinier the master bedroom.

Just because the square footage is limited doesn't mean the home-decorating ideas have to be.

That's the theory behind Design Above All, the latest showcase from the San Francisco Design Center that opened this weekend at One Rincon Hill.

Four design firms were tapped to turn awkwardly shaped units on the 53rd floor into eclectic, earthy — even whimsical — retreats for their hypothetical clients.

With two- and three-bedroom residences topping out at about 2,000 square feet, the challenges were universal: narrow hallways, small bedrooms, stock tiles and countertops. In some cases, walls were knocked down to create larger rooms. In others, closets were turned into offices or sitting areas. In every case, tricks abounded for maximizing space and drawing in the dramatic water and city views.

Many of the furnishings were sourced from the Design Center and, like the units themselves (priced from \$2.5 million to \$3 million), will be on sale after the showcase.

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Residence 5303

Designer: Mary Ann Schicketanz and Carissa Duncan, Carver + Schicketanz

Client: Atherton couple downsizing from large suburban home.

Result: Ansel Adams meets the Bay Bridge

Breakdown: Schicketanz tore down multiple walls, creating a foyer and refined master suite with sitting room.

The unit is filled with the couple's black-and-white photography collection — including works by Richard Avedon and Vik Muniz — and the muted color scheme is a nod to Adams, who believed that saturated gray provided the best backdrop for black-and-white photos.

Highlights: Michael McEwen's mica pendant lighting fixture pairs dramatically with a Berman Rosetti dining table and built-in banquette.

Design trick: The ceilings are painted with a high-gloss finish to "lighten and heighten" the unit, while the white CaesarStone countertops build continuity and help extend the spatial perception.



Photos by Zabrina Tipton

HOME

DECORATOR SHOWCASE

High style despite limited spaces



Photos by Zabrina Tipton

Residence 5304

Designers: Donald Fugina and Karen Calija, Donald Joseph Inc.

Client: Single corporate executive

Result: Architecture meets nature

Breakdown: No walls were altered here, with sustainability as one of the key themes. Instead, succulents, cork and petrified wood are among standout furnishings. Wallpaper is used generously to punch up the bathrooms, and thick Kravet drapery hides unsightly tubs and closets.

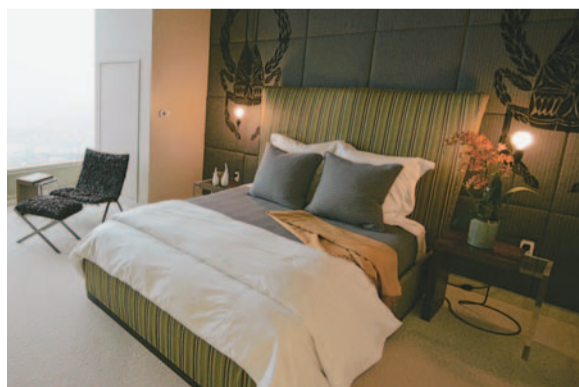
Highlights: The panoramic aquarium in the entryway is the perfect complement to Sloane Miyasato's Fishes wall-covering and silk organza in the guest bathroom.

Design trick: The acrylic kitchen table (DWM Interiors) and chairs (Skaar) allow for continuous, unobstructed views of the water.



Design Above All

A showcase of high-rise luxury living presented by the San Francisco Design Center continues through Nov. 1 at One Rincon Hill, 425 First St., San Francisco. Hours are 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays. Tickets \$20, available at the door (One Rincon Hill Sales Center) or at brownpapertickets.com/event/70807. Proceeds benefit PAWS (Pets are Wonderful Support), At the Crossroads and Food Runners. For more information, call (415) 490-5800.



Residence 5301

Designer: Leslie Bamburg, Labexperiment

Client: A single Google executive

Result: Computer geek meets modern elegance

Breakdown: Bamburg kept the original two-bedroom structure and walked the line between boyish and masculine decor. Storm Troopers are featured on the backs of bar stools, while the master bedroom has a sleek gray-pinstripe upholstered wall.

Highlights: The entryway is filled with old skateboard tops collected by Ryan Francis, who also painted the living room columns with blue-and-white abstract art.

Design trick: Bamburg used glass mosaic tiles by Erin Adams to draw attention away from the original granite countertops in the kitchen and bathroom.



Residence 5302

Designer: Eugene Anthony, Eugene Anthony and Associates

Client: Empty nesters

Result: Paris meets Manhattan

Breakdown: Anthony converted one of the bedrooms into a small family room — complete with a bar off to the side — and added an electric fireplace to give the living room some pizzazz.

The decor is similarly eclectic: Dark kitchen cabinets were painted apricot, and an 18th century settee from Garden Court Antiques mixes with Venetian lamps and Greek-style columns.

Highlights: A spare bathroom was converted into a charming powder room, while Larry Lubow's "Falling Rings" sculpture evokes the image of a staircase between the kitchen and family room.

Design trick: Mirrors adorn an entire wall and surround the specially built fireplace to lend an airiness to the unit.