



Penthouse Perspective

Lauren Collander Interiors takes a soaring Streeterville condo to a new level of luxury with a dramatic design transformation.

by KAILA STANG

photography by PICTURE PERFECT HOUSE

Floor-to-ceiling windows flood the great room with natural light and frame stunning views of Lake Michigan, opening up the home with an airy feel.



From top: The rooftop bar beckons with comfortable seating and abundant greenery; a sleek coat of Sherwin-Williams' Gauntlet Gray on the client's existing cabinetry gives the space its stylish backbone.

THE CLIENT

When a business-savvy bachelor decided to take a yearlong sabbatical from his demanding career, he set out to completely reset his life and home. The client saw his luxe Streeterville penthouse as not just a residence, but as the foundation for a more intentional way of living. This vision led him to Lauren Collander of Lauren Collander Interiors (laurencollanderinteriors.com), whose business-minded design approach immediately resonated. “[He] had a plan to set up his life for success,” says Collander, “and we wanted to help him achieve this life dream.”

THE PRIORITY

At the heart of the project was the client's goal to host friends and family in his

penthouse—a place to slow down, have dinner parties and enjoy life with loved ones. Achieving that meant designing with both lifestyle and long-term value in mind. “As much as we were focused on helping him love his home, we were also focused on balancing design elements with their investment and making sure that balance aligned with priorities,” explains Collander. “We asked a lot of questions and listened to the clients wants, needs and dreams for the property.”

THE CHALLENGE

Designing a city penthouse demands more than style; it also requires strategy. “This [home] is in an amazing location, in a historic building,” shares Collander. “Living there is incredible, but the logistics

are hard.” From navigating a tight spiral staircase to reserving the elevator and coordinating with building staff, the team had to plan carefully to overcome the everyday challenges of designing in the sky.

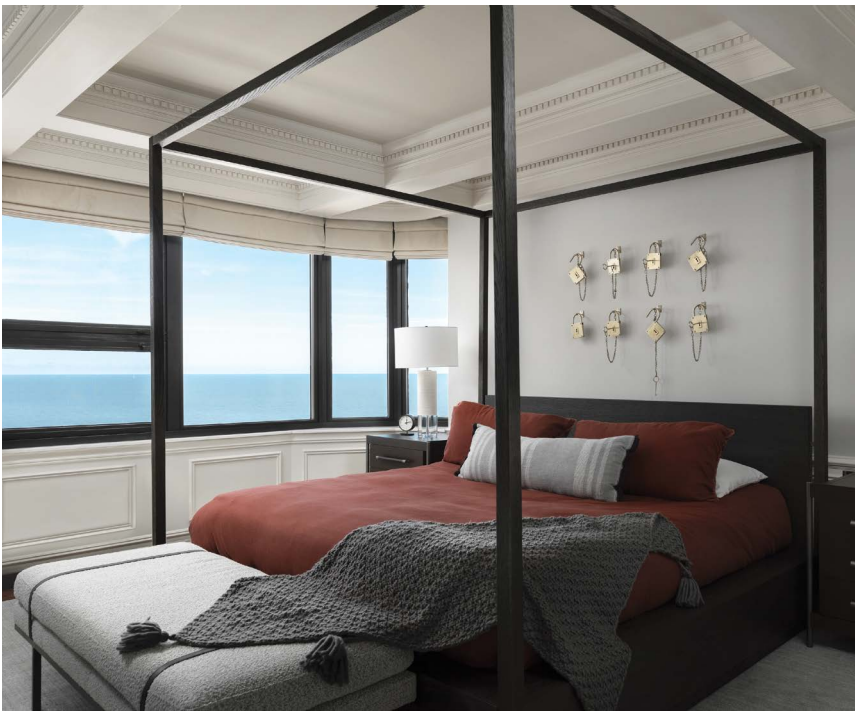
THE DETAILS

“The penthouse was previously very Versailles-opulent and had a lot of rich architectural elements that not every client would necessarily appreciate,” explains Collander, who took the time to understand their significance to the client even though others had recommended removing them. “Hearing his story and learning that these details symbolized success and felt like a reminder of the life he had built with hard work, we embraced them as well.” The team crafted a striking contrast within the space, preserving traditional architectural details, such as a coffered ceiling, elaborate trimwork, wall paneling, wainscoting, crown molding and a sweeping spiral staircase, while layering in chic, contemporary touches. She shares, “We celebrated the details that made his soul happy.”

THE OUTCOME

On the final day of the project, the client arrived at his completed home with Champagne, and Collander’s team were among the first to toast the new space from the rooftop. Sums up the designer, ”To be able to see his dream of connecting with great friends against the backdrop of stunning lake and city views, and to design a space where each detail takes into account how people will feel welcome and connected, was such a joy.”

From top: Artist Jessica Matier’s “To Keep Things The Same” draws the eye above Four Hands’ Ludwig sofa in the great room, where original wainscoting has been preserved and painted in Sherwin-Williams Peppercorn; Global Views’ Classic Padlock artwork hangs over the client’s existing bed, with a Harris accent bench in Knoll Domino by Four Hands delivering sleek style and function.



In the dining room, a Xavier chandelier by Troy Lighting for Hudson Valley Lighting Group floats above the dining table, adding sculptural interest alongside Swiss-born digital artist Monica Carvalho’s “Free Your Imagination” and Phillip Jeffries’ Scorched wallpaper in Maple Pine.

