



MADE TO ORDER

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SOMETIMES THE ONLY WAY TO GET WHAT YOU TRULY WANT IS TO BEGIN WITH A CLEAN SLATE. Designer Daniel Du Bay and his rather selective client, a North Shore commodities trader looking to make a move to the city, came to this conclusion after an exhaustive search to find that just-right high rise. "We looked at places in every major luxury building in the city, but they all needed total gut jobs in order for him to get what he wanted," says Du Bay.

INTERIOR DESIGN Daniel Du Bay, Daniel Du Bay Interior Design		
ARCHITECTURE Paul Benigno, AIA, Turn Collaborative Architecture + Urban Design		
HOME BUILDER Michael Mariottini, McGrath & Marcheschi and Geoffrey Rogers, DeWindt Corporation		
BEDROOMS 2	BATHROOMS 3	SQUARE FEET 4,800

PERFECT PRIMER
To give the expansive space cohesion and a chic contemporary aesthetic, Chicago-based designer Daniel Du Bay clad all the floors in sumptuous, wide-planked Santos mahogany stained bittersweet chocolate.



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“I wasn’t prepared to settle or pay to right lots of wrongs,” quips the owner, who was looking for a great location, spectacular views and an interior that would be “sleek and soothing, but not sterile or cold.” The unit he and Du Bay ultimately found, a construction phase half-floor in a building just off North Michigan Avenue, offers every amenity imaginable, as well as superb views the trader calls “the most perfect visual surround-system. I can see north, south, east and west, and, on the 44th floor, I’m high enough so there’s nothing to block the view.”

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS
Attention-grabbing artwork—such as the rugged life-sized sculptures the home-owner calls “my three wise men,” and a trio of vibrant Murano glass race cars—adds personality to the rigorously minimal lines of the dining room table and chairs.

STYLE SELECTION

A vintage mid-century chair that Du Bay found in an antique store received a 21st-century update with a swathe of lime suede.



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The big challenge of the project was all the special ingredients it took to fulfill the trader's seemingly standard order. "The developer's plans were completely different than ours, and turning a three-bedroom into a very spacious two-bedroom unit caused a lot of issues," acknowledges Du Bay. "The apartment is a giant U, and it was difficult to spider out all the mechanicals in a graceful way." Du Bay brought in a solid team to tackle the job: architect Paul Benigno, AIA, principal of Turn Collaborative Architecture + Urban Design, and contractors McGrath & Marcheschi of Itasca and the DeWindt Corporation of Chicago.

Benigno, who worked on many architecturally significant projects during a stint at the heralded Los Angeles design-build firm Marmol Radziner, was initially hired by Du Bay solely to help with permitting. But the two professionals proved to be such a complementary match that they shared input on the schematics.



GREEN DESIGN
Large and small hits of lime—on walls, upholstery and even in the art—bring warmth and unity to the study, which gets cool northern light and mixes upholstered pieces from a variety of sources.

ROUGHING IT

Du Bay counterbalanced a rough-hewn cast resin sculpture of a tree branch with a lustrous aluminum stool finished with metallic car paint.



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“It’s a big space, and we wanted to make it as interesting as possible and to play off all the angles. But the subs had heating ducts and sprinkler outlets everywhere. So we came up with structural changes and details that let us open up the layout and mask the mechanicals,” says Benigno.

The designers used special “disappearing” grills and vents to create the streamlined demeanor the client desired; an open layout and clear or frosted glass doors maximize sightlines and natural light. “I learned a few tricks from Tom Ford,” confides Benigno, who worked on the designer’s London pad when he was with Marmol Radziner. And the contractors learned a few tricks from Benigno.

HIDDEN ASSETS

Detail-rich finishes that bring complexity to the streamlined kitchen include etched mirror panels behind the sink and matte corrugated aluminum under the cook top.



NICHE MARKET

In the master bedroom, gracefully scaled, recessed wood-lined alcoves clad in a burnished gold catalytic finish eliminate the need for space-taking extras, such as a headboard or freestanding mount for a large-scale sculpture.



STRIKING DISTANCE

Straightforward, impeccably edited elements with a geometric theme are greater than the sum of their parts and create a handsomely dramatic space in the powder room.

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“Minimalist spaces are ultimately much more difficult to navigate because there are fewer individual components. Each one is visually important and must be perfect,” says McGrath & Marcheschi president Michael Mariottini. A case in point was an expansive, arduous-to-execute granite-encased wall between the living and dining areas. “There was no tolerance for shifting grout lines, uneven edges and adhesive blemishes, so perfecting it took two tries,” confides DeWindt Corporation president Geoffrey Rogers.

STYLE SELECTION
French designer Hervé Van Der Straeten's pod-like stool has enough personality to raise the style quotient of its surroundings, and it rivals rarities of an earlier era found today at auction. *Tabouret Capsule*, price available upon request; ralphpucci.net



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But getting the furnishings right was a breeze since the owner selected from options refined by Du Bay. “We varied the color palette to play to the light, using cooler greens and blues on the apartment’s sunny south side and warmer golds and greens on the dimmer north side,” he explains. Yet Du Bay also kept the hues relatively muted so nothing would compete for attention with his client’s evolving and colorful contemporary art collection.

And thanks to that collection, which includes three roughly hewn life-sized figural sculptures, the trader isn’t lonely in his spacious new place. “I call them ‘my three wise men,’ and I talk to them when I’m lonely,” he kids. Like his design pros, they are perfect listeners who always deliver. **L**



BREAKING BARRIERS
By replacing the structural walls of a balcony that juts into the main living area with glass, the design team turned the space-guzzling feature into an asset that marries both spaces and maximizes the stunning views.