

Design Community

ASID New England
Chapter Magazine

Issue Number 16
Fall 2011



AMERICAN
SOCIETY OF
INTERIOR
DESIGNERS



NEW ENGLAND

Contemporary Style Inspired by Tradition

By Jeanne Finnerty, ASID

An international couple from upstate NY now calls Boston home. Inspired by her clients' modern style and sentimental art collection, Lisa Buyuk of Buyuk Interiors, designed a second home at One Charles in the Back Bay neighborhood of Boston.

The spaces combine a contemporary style and Middle Eastern heritage. The simple curved lines of the contemporary furnishings are set against a pale and serene background. It creates a nice contrast to the homeowner's traditional objets d'art.

Dark-stained rift-sawn oak wall cabinetry is a focal point in the Living Room. It is creatively designed between an existing column on the left side and a hidden floor-to-ceiling cabinet on the right side. It's multi-functional as a display cabinet and TV cabinet as well as a fireplace. In keeping with the homeowners added storage request, drawers are incorporated below the display shelves.

Traditional Syrian furniture incorporates the use of mother of pearl inlay. A modern take on this old tradition is seen in the shimmering mother-of-pearl wallpaper in the foyer. The wall surfaces dissolve and the space opens up in reflective light. The floating console highlights a sterling silver incense burner made of traditional Syrian metalwork.

Other traditional elements are incorporated in the second bedroom. The homeowner's quilting hobby required a guest room to double as a sewing



room for making and displaying quilts. A small sleep sofa was paired with an adjustable height coffee table for sewing. The custom felt rug has a "random square" design that echoes a patchwork theme. A Middle Eastern motif is used in the brightly patterned pillows and textural curtains. The hydrangea watercolor painting inspired the color scheme throughout.

Of course, this simple and beautiful finished space had its challenges throughout the design process. As with all commercial buildings, condo boards and bylaws guide and approve design decisions. Existing infrastructure and access to utilities can limit the placement of fixtures and architectural elements.

Initially, the homeowners wanted a gas fireplace in the living room. The existing natural gas lines in the building were directed to the kitchen stove in each unit. The bylaws dictated that any additional gas lines would result in an increase in condo fees for every homeowner in the building. As an alternative, they specified an EcoSmart fireplace which runs on ethanol. This

clean-burning fuel requires no venting and can be filled simply by pouring fuel into a slot at the bottom of the unit.

Lighting was another challenge. The ceilings in the space are made of solid concrete. The homeowners did not want to drop the ceiling, so any fixtures with concealed wiring could not be used. The dining room chandelier was installed with a visible cord that runs along the ceiling, keeping



with the urban feel of the existing architecture. Throughout the space, sconces were hard-wired into the walls. Other ambient lighting was provided with floor and table lamps.

Lisa Buyuk reflects on this project. "I took my cue from the small details that were revealed to me by the wife. I embraced the contemporary taste of her husband as a way to highlight the crafts that the wife admired, much in the way that a museum might curate a show. I liked the way that contemporary furnishings and clean lines enhanced the details of the wife's personal objects."



Since 1995 Lisa Buyuk has been helping clients create their dream spaces. Lisa launched Buyuk Interiors in 2002 after working with two nationally recognized Boston design firms. She holds a Masters of Interior Design degree from the New England School of Art and Design, as well as a BA in Art History and French Language and Literature from Boston University. Lisa is an Allied Member of American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) and holds a certificate in Italian design from the Nuova Accademia delle Belle Arti in Milan, Italy. In 2005, Lisa participated in the Devon Nicole House Project at

Children's Hospital, Boston. The project was awarded ASID's Community Service Award for those whose community service best exemplifies the spirit of bringing design to life in the service of others.

The designer would like to thank the contractors, Bartell/Stroud Associates; home theater consultants, Riordan Brothers; and window treatment specialists JM Custom Design for their work on this project.

Photo Credits: Michael J. Lee Photography



DUX[®] The Bed For LifeSM

Where Comfort Meets Quality

The DUX[®] Bed offers the most comfortable night's sleep you will ever experience. Thousands of supportive springs cradle your body in a natural resting position, keeping your spine aligned. As you move throughout the night, the unique DUX spring system moves with you, distributing your body weight evenly to maximize circulation.

You wake up refreshed and truly relaxed. DUX—legendary comfort for the perfect night's sleep.



DUXIANA[®]

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY IN SLEEPING
DUXIANA.COM 800.498.1543

BOSTON

173 Newbury Street 617.426.3441

NEW YORK BOSTON CHICAGO ATLANTA
DENVER SEATTLE BELLEVUE