

# METRO CHIC

A designer lets stunning views do the talking in a Chicago penthouse  
72 floors above the ground

Never underestimate the power of height. When Timothy DuPont of Blue, a Design Company, Inc. in Miami Beach, was tapped to tackle the design of a 3,500-square-foot condominium in Chicago's Water Tower Place, he let location dictate inspiration. It was hard not to. The residence is on the 72nd floor and boasts 270-degree views of the Windy City and Lake

Michigan. "The city itself was the inspiration," says DuPont. "The clients were trusting of our design and let us go with it and have fun."

With the carte blanche go-ahead, DuPont set out to create a clean, transitional space with urban chic personality. While the condominium serves as the family's part-time residence, DuPont still wanted to make it as comfortable as



**DESIGN BY TIMOTHY DUPONT**  
**PHOTOGRAPHY BY TROY CAMPBELL**  
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a year-round home. The designer wisely chose to incorporate touches from the 1930s to late 1940s (Deco to Moderne) with bold colors and textures. Metropolitan elegance saturates the space, which is undeniably city-chic in tone.

DuPont called upon sources at DCOTA in Dania Beach, the Miami Design District and Chicago's own Merchandise Mart for the





furnishings. Chocolate brown leather sofas and chairs impart an infusion of color, which is balanced by red and orange pillows and caramel-colored rugs. As expected, all window treatments were kept minimal in the form of solar shades that hide into the ceiling. Lighting here, as throughout the rest of the residence, is adjustable and recessed. "Whenever we absolutely had to use surface mounted lighting, we did it in as minimal a way as possible," adds DuPont.

Particularly striking and sculptural in their execution are the doors that lead to many of the home's different rooms. All are of a classic Deco design and made of solid walnut and stained ebony. Some, like the one that leads to the library (which houses an impressive collection of sports memorabilia) have glass panels that allow subtle glimpses into the rooms behind them.

Over in the semi-circular kitchen, mosaic

tiles, granite countertops, stainless steel appliances and existing Wood Mode cabinetry that was refurbished make up a fusion of elements that work seamlessly together.

While mostly stress-free, the project did have its challenges, namely ceiling height. "Even though we had attic space, we could not reclaim it as it housed too many mechanical systems," says DuPont. "So we kept most of the furniture purposely low to maintain a clear and unobstructed view through the unit to lead the eye outward." This approach, combined with the strong vertical elements of the window systems and the dozens of skyscrapers in view, worked to the designer's advantage to create the illusion of height.

"The most memorable thing about this project has to do with the fact that you are truly above the clouds," says DuPont when prompted

for an interesting anecdote of the experience. "One evening, right before sunset, there was this incredible lightning storm that moved in right when the sky turns that luminous color of blue. It was an amazing light show that lasted for over an hour and several of us just sat by a window and watched like it was a movie." Good thing the show inside is now just as entertaining. □

Below: The library houses an impressive collection of the homeowners' sports memorabilia and features spectacular views of Chicago. Opposite: The living room solidifies the idea of metropolitan elegance with furniture that's chic yet comfortable.

