

# Above and Beyond

*A high-rise L.A. condo with traditional style gets a modern upgrade as cosmopolitan as its location from its new designer owner.*

BY NICOLE HOLLAND  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JIM WRIGHT

*A sheepskin rug warms the spacious living room, while a gilded 19th-century statue of Buddha acts as an unexpected element of interest.*

Stained ebony flooring throughout the condo exudes masculine appeal, while a crystal chandelier overhead softens the look with a touch of elegance. (Opposite above) Shades of ivory and pearl decorating the living space are offset by the dark Empire desk. (Opposite below) The broken lines of the overstuffed sofa provide visual interest and serve to partially separate the living room from the rest of the space.



# W

With a panoramic view of the downtown skyline, this classically styled 17th-floor condo tucked away in Los Angeles' posh Wilshire Corridor exudes comfort without sacrificing style. Both the resident and designer of this L.A. condo, Tom Sudinsky purchased the space, which was done in the late '80s with a relatively traditional design. He quickly discovered it desperately needed a modern and more masculine twist, so he enlisted the help of Karan Brady, sales professional of the home collection at Ralph Lauren Beverly Hills. "I had always lived in a very contemporary environment, and I wanted something that was a little more comfortable and a little more homey," says Sudinsky. For starters, the original blond oak floor was replaced with an inviting stained ebony and then topped with eye-catching rugs, which bring a sense of harmony and warmth to the condo. A large zebra rug sits in the study, a sheep-skin rug lies in the living room, a calf-skin rug is under the desk in the living room, and a custom wool rug hugs the floor of the master bedroom. The spacious living room is bathed





in shades of ivory and pearl and decorated with contemporary accents. A four-tier bookshelf holds an eclectic collection of items, and to its left sits a flat panel television with a fireplace mantel below. Overstuffed cushions grace the sleek seating area, and a large window allows a gracious view of the patio, which houses a bevy of potted plants in stark white pottery. Nearby, the Ralph Lauren dining room table is surrounded by four paper-white, high-back dining chairs, a classic complement to the ornate chandelier hanging above it. Framed art placed around the room adds personal panache to the space.

By separating a large chunk of square footage into specific spaces of interest, the style may be continuous but the functionality can vary completely for each area. The office area at the rear of the living room features a stunning Empire desk, with two Monteverdi-Young chairs to one side of it. A russet leather chair sits directly across from the pair. In the corner, lush greenery mirrors the verdant plantings seen outside through the

sizable window. The Empire-style desk was purchased online from an auction in Maryland, where Sudinsky finds many worthy elements for his designs. "I often take risks on pieces, stuff that looks interesting. I will buy it and reupholster or refinish it," he says. One particular piece of interest is the 19th century Buddha. Gilded in gold, this beautiful statue was found at an auction and now rests as a stunning focal point of the wall. A large framed mirror sits above it. Directly across from this aged piece sits the modern living room.

These sorts of juxtapositions can be found throughout the home, as Sudinsky sought to "use more contemporary artwork, more traditional furniture" in the overall design. In the master bedroom, vintage Monteverdi-Young club chairs, upholstered in their original orange fabric, provide ample seating. Produced in the 1950s, these chairs contrast with the modern artwork that surrounds it.

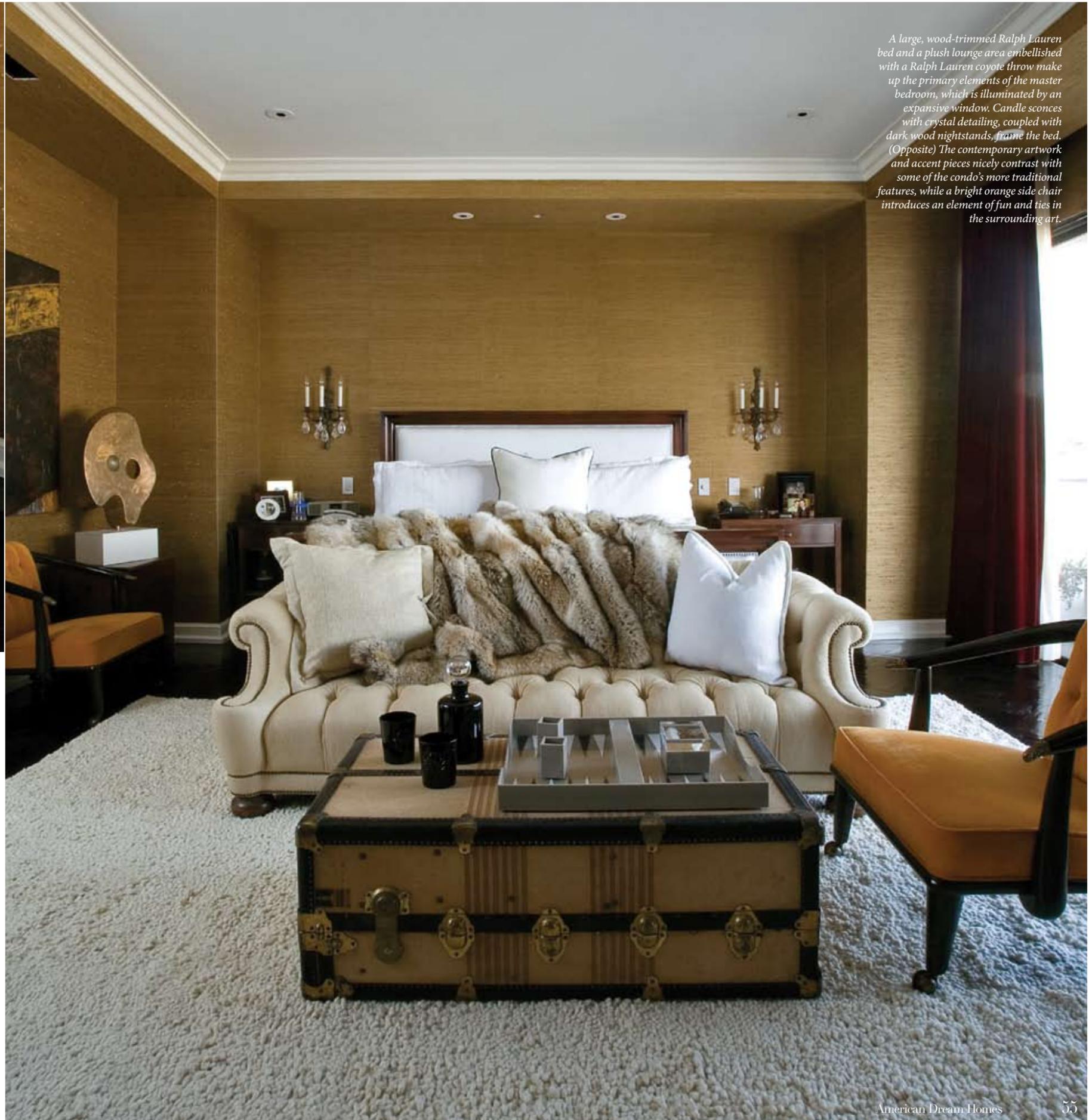
A large bed by Ralph Lauren sits in the middle of the master bedroom, a beautiful white couch



*Acting as a contrast to the rest of the house, the study's light-colored floors provide a beautiful canvas for an exotic zebra rug. (Opposite) The dark cabinets and countertop of the bathroom paired with crystal-accented lamp sconces give the room a stately elegance.*

To update and open the kitchen, Sudinsky chose a bright white for the cabinets and installed under-counter halogen lighting. He also replaced the the hardware with polished nickel hinges and knobs and put in warm honed limestone countertops. And a little creativity was used to remove two upper cabinet doors to create an area to house the television. With the help of Navarro Construction, the result was an avant-garde kitchen befitting the exclusive address. Photo by Alison Hahn.





*A large, wood-trimmed Ralph Lauren bed and a plush lounge area embellished with a Ralph Lauren coyote throw make up the primary elements of the master bedroom, which is illuminated by an expansive window. Candle sconces with crystal detailing, coupled with dark wood nightstands, frame the bed. (Opposite) The contemporary artwork and accent pieces nicely contrast with some of the condo's more traditional features, while a bright orange side chair introduces an element of fun and ties in the surrounding art.*

sitting at its feet. A coyote throw, also by Ralph Lauren, drapes the back of the plush sofa. The headboard is framed to either side by candle sconces, while nightstands in dark wood provide an area to display books and curios. The wide window lets in the sunlight, illuminating the room. A Ralph Lauren attaché acts as a table at the foot of the bed.

The study harbors dark, rich woods offset by the light-colored flooring. A collection of books fills the dual shelves on either side of a gallery area, which displays a collection of artwork. A creamy Karl Springer desk sits above the twin ottomans, which complement the tawny couch across from them, providing plenty of space to catch up on reading or just relax in solitude.

The kitchen also needed quite an update, as brass hardware and blue granite countertops would not match the current design of the

space. With Navarro Construction on board as the contractor, the floors were stained a dark ebony to play up the contrast with the light-colored cabinetry, formerly done in a satin finish. The countertop was replaced with a toasty limestone, which is carried to the backsplash to give the entire space a dignified and classic look. To provide lighting without the glare of overhead lamps, under-counter halogen lights brighten up the area.

At the entrance to the kitchen, two vintage chairs sit in front of a large window, accentuating the correlation between a bygone era and the latest amenities. Blending contemporary style with traditional elements created a truly unique ambiance, and the condominium was transformed from a dated space to an airy, modern dwelling that reflects all the comforts of home.