

LUXE

INTERIORS + DESIGN





Architecture: Marwan Mohammed, ODADA
Interior Design: David Oldroyd and Tomás Machuca-Grebe, ODADA
Home Builder: Ken Baxter and Melanie Pratt, Baxter Construction

No Limits

WHEN DESIGNER DAVID OLDROYD AND HIS TEAM ARE GIVEN FREE REIN IN A SLEEK HIGH-RISE BUILDING, THEY DELIVER ART-LIKE RESULTS.

WRITTEN BY MARY JO BOWLING | PHOTOGRAPHY BY MATTHEW MILLMAN



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he owners of this luxurious dwelling on San Francisco's waterfront kept their remodeling directive simple: "Make something amazing." For a designer, it's an order that's both exciting (possibilities are endless) and intimidating (expectations are high).

Combine all of that with the limitations of working in a high-rise building, and you have a high-stakes situation. However, when the request came to designer David Oldroyd and his team, they were ready for the task. "When dealing with constraints, we do brilliant work," he says.

The firm's reputation for highly detailed, artistic spaces that are modern and refined attracted the clients, a couple who also reside in a traditional house in Atherton. They envisioned their new San Francisco home (located on the Embarcadero in One Steuart Lane, a building designed by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill) as an urban retreat and let the design team know it was a place where there would be "no kids and no pets." With that in mind, Oldroyd, designer Tomás Machuca-Grebe and architectural designer Marwan Mohammed set about creating an adult haven for two, filled with beautiful elements.

When he began the project, Oldroyd took the building itself into consideration. Although it was just finished in 2021, its distinctive form resembling an irregular stack of multipaned boxes has already made the structure a landmark. "The exterior, the lobby and the amenity spaces are beautiful," Oldroyd says. "But what most appealed to the owners are the massive glass doors in the unit that roll aside to make a 9-foot-wide corner opening between the living room and the generous outdoor terrace. The views and connection to the water here are unparalleled." To maximize those views, Oldroyd reimaged the residence as a one-bedroom dwelling with an expansive open plan. With general contractor Ken Baxter, he took most of the condominium down to the studs and started over, rebuilding it to the same high standards as the building's public spaces and turning the guest bedroom into a cozy den designed for "putting on slippers and watching television after

a night out," Oldroyd notes. When guests are present, a discreet Murphy bed offers a comfortable spot to settle in.

In addition to moving some walls, the design team removed many of the doors, opting for crisp, casement-free portals that "allow the spaces to meander together and let the eye fly right through to the view," Oldroyd says. Now, tucked-away pocket doors keep the plan open while allowing for the creation of more intimate spaces when desired. In one notable case, Oldroyd did opt to add a wall—albeit a translucent one. Behind the bed in the primary suite, the designers installed illuminated panels of partially fused glass rods. The feature adds glimmer to the room and will mirror the soon-to-be reinstated Bay Lights, the monumental Bay Bridge light sculpture by Leo Villareal that's about to be visible through the window once again.

Art is also on display within, thanks to a collection Oldroyd curated for the owners. "I selected abstract works by important artists," the designer says, noting that assembling pieces by people like Ellsworth Kelly, Peter Alexander and Robert Mangold was akin to living in someone else's dream.

Although the spaces are mostly white, the team kept them from feeling stark by giving them delicate texture and pattern. "The walls are either plastered, lined with a linen or silk wallcovering, or paneled with wood," Oldroyd explains. "We wanted to add a certain softness, a counterpoint to the strict, powerful lines of the architecture."

Washing the vertical surfaces with light makes those subtleties come alive. Concrete ceilings made conventional recessed lights impossible, but the team found what Oldroyd describes as "super tiny, super thin" fixtures that fit into the 2-inch cavity allowed in the overhead plane. When switched on, they not only provide illumination, but they also read as a constellation-like array.

The new space may not be home to the under-18 and four-legged set, but that doesn't mean it isn't welcoming. "The residence is clean and modern but also very intentional and personal," Oldroyd says. "Although it's highly curated, it also has a satin quality to it that makes it feel relaxed. When you are here, you feel invited." ■

Opposite: Peter Alexander's *Culebra* injects color into the living room. Throughout, dark notes, such as the black vase from Pelham Galleries Limited and accent table by Wendell Castle, add contrast.

Previous page: A pair of sofas designed by the team at ODADA and upholstered in a C&C Milano fabric curve around a bespoke fiberglass coffee table. Underfoot is a custom rug by Woven Designs. The vintage armchairs from Galerie Gastou wear a Mark Alexander textile.



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Above: David Oldroyd and his team designed stools that, when they slide beneath the kitchen counter, allow the feature to be read as a single form. Just beyond is a checkered artwork by Ethan Caflich.

Opposite: Designed by ODADA and crafted by Andrew Woodside Carter, the dining table is surrounded by Made in Ratio chairs. The artwork is by Andreas Brandt, and the chandelier is by Stahl + Band.





Above: For the primary bathroom, Oldroyd and team created a Tibetan wool-covered pouf. The shaggy upholstery adds a textural note to the backdrop of Carrara marble floors and counters.

Right: Set behind the primary bed is a custom glass screen fabricated by Bullseye Glass Co. Gubi armchairs and a Kravet-upholstered chaise provide seating. The rug is from Woven Designs, and the artwork is by David Simpson.



The living room opens wide to the terrace, where Vondom chairs offer the owners a comfortable perch from which to enjoy the stunning Bay Bridge views. The Saarinen table is by Knoll.

