

# WINDOWS TO THE WORLD

A minimalist aerie  
places city and skyline  
at center stage

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**Airy Abode** Against a backdrop of glass, Arne Jacobsen's Swan chairs in black leather and a Vladimir Kagan sofa in a Great Plains fabric from Kneeder | Fauchère flank a vintage Infinity coffee table by Knut Hesterberg. See Resources.

**Hidden Charm**  
The mahogany-paneled den can be closed off for privacy. The custom sofa bed sectional is upholstered in a Rubelli fabric from Doghia. Ottomans covered in Jerry Pair leather double as coffee tables. See *Resources*.



When you can see four bridges, 10 church spires, mountains, ocean and most of San Francisco's architectural landmarks from your 17th-floor apartment in Russian Hill, the sky's not the limit—it's the starting point.

"This is a 1960s tower where all the exterior walls are floor-to-ceiling windows, so the owners wanted something indicative of its place," says David Oldroyd, a principal at Orlando Diaz-Azcuy Design Associates. "They asked for a crisp, clean modernist box—something light, airy and silvery—to be seamless with the city, the sky and the moodiness of the fog."

In collaboration with architect John Maniscalco, Oldroyd designed the interiors to maximize the 270-degree views. "You can see Coit Tower from bed and look through the den to see the Transamerica Building," he notes. Yet the see-through vistas and open floor plan do not sacrifice privacy. Tricked out with mahogany panels, pocket

**Contemporary Cool** Above the fireplace, a flat-screen TV is integrated into a slab of bronze. Eva chair by Kerstin Horlin Holmquist is upholstered in an Osborne & Little fabric. Drum table is from Dieter Kuhnert Restorations, Inc. **Sheer Genius** (below) In the dining room, acrylic chairs with cushions wrapped in Romo fabric surround a custom table created from a slab of marble mounted on a lacquered pedestal. See Resources.



**Island In The Sky** In the kitchen, a custom brass lighting feature is suspended above an island of white Caesarstone. Bar stools are from Design Within Reach. See Resources.



doors and translucent glass panels, the internal walls evoke the shifting concealments and reveals of a puzzle box: The den and master suite can be closed off for intimacy, and the kitchen appliances disappear behind blind bifold doors, all fitted with minimalist hardware.

"The apartment feels completely different, depending on whether the doors are open or closed," Oldroyd adds. "Being able to hide any clutter behind them keeps the space quiet and ethereal." So does the serene palette of materials and colors. The bathrooms and kitchen island are clad in minimalist white Caesarstone. Bleached white oak plank floors with a gray finish transition to the dusty matte white of the raked limestone terrace.

"There are several shades of white in the apartment, to get the right balance of light and dark, crisp and cozy," Oldroyd says of the paint choices. "The effect is to make the spaces look as clean as possible so that the views, the people and the objects are the center of attention."

To counter the "hard, linear architecture" of the white rooms, Oldroyd chose "sensual, informal furnishings that float on legs to get as much



**Bottle Shock** (ABOVE) A stunning custom floor-to-ceiling glass wine cellar helps delineate the space between the dining room and foyer. **Quiet Glamour** (OPPOSITE PAGE) In the bedroom sitting area, curvy Vladimir Kagan barrel chairs are covered in a cozy Rosemary Hallgarten cashmere bouclé from De Sousa Hughes. Scala Luxury Uovo accent table with brass base is from Coup d'Etat. Silk hand-tufted, tip-sheared rug is from Haigh & Haigh. See Resources.



light under them as I could." His selections were iconic: a contemporary leather-upholstered Italian bed with a movable headboard; an Eva chair by Kerstin Horlin Holmquist; Arne Jacobsen's Swan chairs in black leather; Vladimir Kagan chairs and a sofa in, respectively, silver-blue cashmere bouclé and taupe velvet. "We were going for something very elegant and boutique," he explains, "mixing decades and regions of vintage design with my own contemporary custom pieces."

In the paneled den, which "hovers like a wooden box in the white space," Oldroyd channeled Hermès to customize an upholstered sectional, ottomans and end tables with leather pulls. In the dining room, the designer mounted a slab of marble on a lacquered pedestal and created Mod-era chairs made from single sheets of acrylic. "I didn't want it to block the view," he says of the dining suite, "so it just hovers there in space."

As focal points in the living-dining space, Oldroyd incorporated two sculptural elements to transform less-than-desirable remnants of the building's original structural layout. In the place of what was once a corner fireplace, the designer set a hearth with an integrated flat-screen TV at a rakish angle. "It's a floating slab of bronze," he says, "An homage to the monolith in *2001: A Space Odyssey*." And in a nod to the owners, who are in the restaurant industry, the designer placed a floor-to-ceiling glass wine cellar between the dining room and foyer.

Though the space is flooded with sunshine and the sparkle of the San Francisco skyline at night, Oldroyd aimed to amplify the effects, placing up-lights in channels in the floor and LED-illuminated ceiling coves in the dining room and kitchen with a brass lighting fixture over the island that resembles a constellation map. "The way the apartment looks changes throughout the day and all through the seasons," Oldroyd says. "And at night, it always feels especially dramatic, like little slivers of city lights are shining through the house." ●

**Cloud Nine** In the master bedroom, the contemporary leather-upholstered DeSede bed is from Arkitektura-In-Situ. Lacquered bent-wood nightstands are through Dieter Kuhnert Restorations, Inc. Drapery fabric is from Coraggio Textiles. Bed linens are through Scheuer Linens. See *Resources*.

