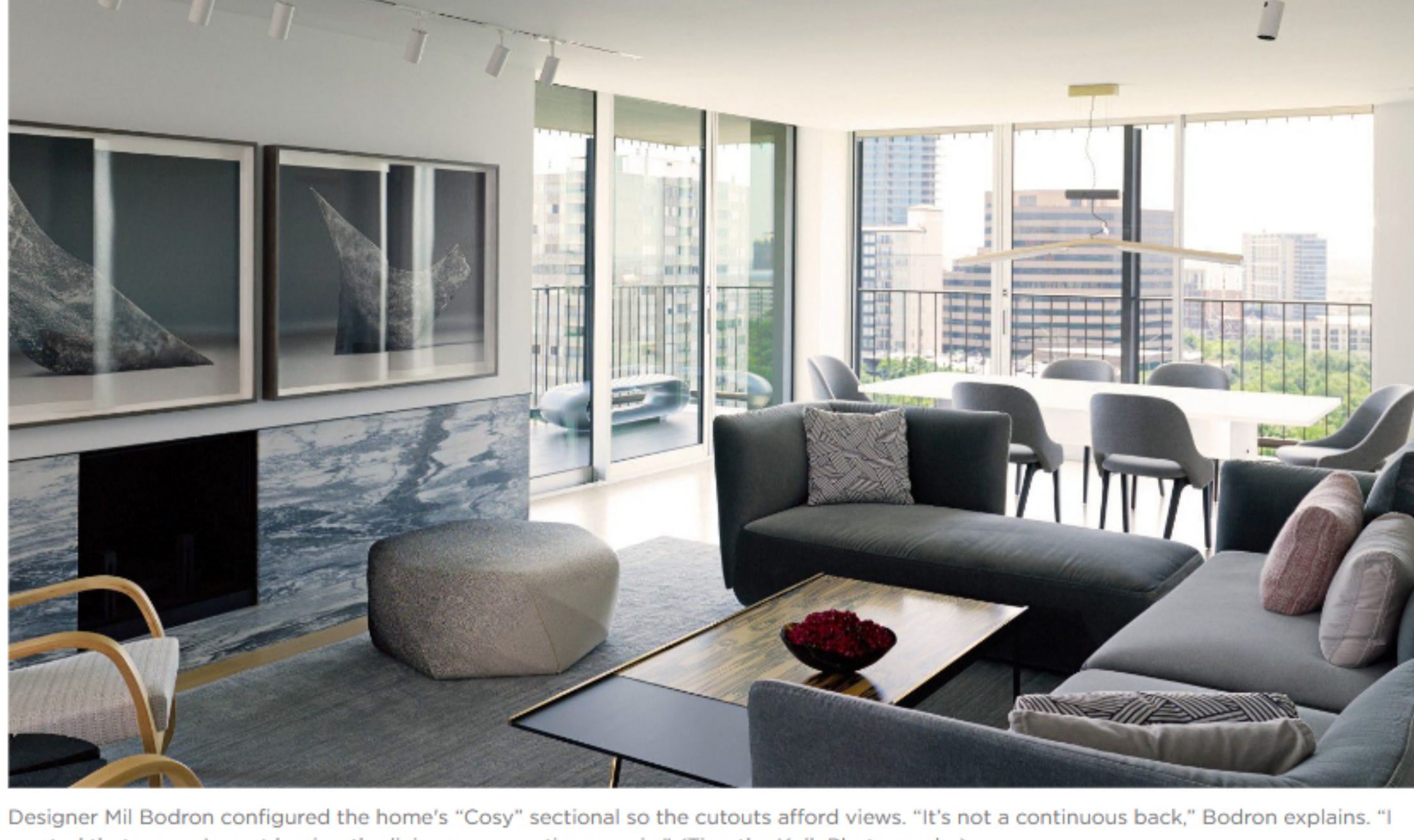


Dallas couple take Turtle Creek penthouse to the studs for a truly fresh start

The high-rise residence, designed and renovated by Bodron/Fruit, now features an artful mix of midcentury-inspired furniture in addition to the stunning view.



Designer Mil Bodron configured the home's "Cosy" sectional so the cutouts afford views. "It's not a continuous back," Bodron explains. "I wanted that so you're not boxing the living room seating area in." (Timothy Kolk Photography)

When two empty nesters who had dated long distance for 15 years decided to move in together, they wanted a big change. They had raised their children in traditional homes — he in an M Streets Tudor, she in various residences in Houston. When they consolidated their lives in Dallas, they were ready for a “grown-up” space where they could walk to restaurants and sporting events, ditch the yard care and entertain in grand fashion. “I always wanted a little jewel box,” says the former Houston resident, whom we’ll call H. “I don’t like the feeling of a big empty house.”

Save for a beloved collection of records and books and a few bedroom pieces, the couple started fresh. “We decided to sell everything we had and buy a new place to make it ‘our’ place,” says H. They landed on a high-rise penthouse in the Park Towers on Turtle Creek, which offers magnificent views of Reverchon Park and downtown. The midcentury building spoke to their love of modern design as well as the ease of high-rise living. But the condo itself didn’t offer the feel the couple wanted.



The couple loves to collect art. Hanging above the fireplace is “Figures (no. 1), 2019,” an archival pigment print by Erin Shirreff acquired in New York. A pair of vintage Alvar Aalto chairs from Polyedre and a Moroso “Brook” ottoman from Scott + Cooner offer seating near the fireplace. (Timothy Kolk Photography)

At the advice of their realtor, the pair hired Dallas-based interior design and architecture firm [Bodron/Fruit](#) to renovate and design the space. Mil Bodron, head principal and designer, was a resident of the building at the time, and he knew the bones well. “It’s a 1960s high-rise that has been through a lot of upgrades and changes,” he notes. This particular penthouse condo was designed with heavy crown molding and paneling, quite the opposite of the homeowners’ clean-lined style. “I looked at [Bodron] and said, ‘If I buy this, can you make it beautiful?’ and he said, ‘Yes, I can,’” H. fondly recalls.

Bodron and Svend Fruit, the firm’s head principal and architect, were charged with redesigning the condo from scratch. The project quickly moved to demo mode, with nothing left but concrete floors, the ceiling and support columns in between. From there, Bodron and Fruit — along with firm architect Michelle Tarsney, firm interior designer Dustin Penney and lighting designer Steven Byrd of [Byrdwaters Design](#) — started creating an updated, airy space. “We would all work together,” explains H. “They were great as a team. It was fun and easy.”



Bodron and his team created a “ying and yang” design between the living space and library. The rooms are continuous, but have visual hints — like the bookshelves and opposing sectionals — that create separate zones. The home’s florals, by Haile Wossen, bring additional life to the space. (Timothy Kolk Photography)

They transformed the two-bedroom, 2,700-square-foot penthouse into a light and bright modern home, which includes an open-concept living, kitchen and dining space. Part of that living area is a library/music room, where the couple likes to watch movies and listen to records. Bodron designed the library so that it’s a part of the living room while offering visual distinction. “We didn’t want to chop the spaces up into two specific rooms,” Bodron explains. “We wanted a lot of the same finishes and pieces with one continuous space but with different zones. I think that was a strong maneuver from an interior design standpoint.” That approach can be seen in the living room and library’s opposing configurations of the same “Cosy” sectional by Francesco Rota for MDF Italia, as well the mixed-and-matched Dedar and Holland & Sherry fabrics on the throw pillows. The rooms echo one another while serving different purposes.



The homeowners “wanted an ample but fairly minimalist kitchen,” says Bodron. The Pietra Viva stone bar serves as the centerpiece. Bodron/Fruit designed the surrounding cabinetry to accent the marble’s natural beauty. (Timothy Kolk Photography)

For the kitchen, Bodron/Fruit came up with a design to showcase the bar’s Pietra Viva stone, which is repeated around the fireplace in the living room. “Those were always going to be the key architectural bookends,” explains Bodron. “Because of that, the rest of the cabinets in the kitchen are white.” The team even tucked the appliances, oven and other kitchen fixtures behind a wall so they are out of sight from the living room. The setup allows the couple to entertain with the utilitarian pieces concealed.



The dining room features a Tori Golub “Vapor” table, Caste Design “Fleecer” dining chairs from Holly Hunt and a Fort Standard for Roll & Hill “Counterweight” pendant light from Scott + Cooner. (Timothy Kolk Photography)

Bodron kept a warm and neutral palette in the dining room. “It was about the view out and the colors of the trees and park beyond,” he says. Bodron chose a Tori Golub “Vapor” dining table with a natural-colored resin. “It is somewhat translucent during the day, and the sunlight on the window illuminates the table,” he shares. The Caste Design “Fleecer” dining chairs allow the couple to lounge and enjoy the view. “We sit here all night and talk,” H. says of the dining room. “It’s comfortable and chic.”

The Bodron/Fruit team consistently considered the light and views, using those elements as part of the interior plan. From the library to the dining room, hardly any walls impede the sweeping cityscape. Sliding glass doors and windows surround the wood-burning fireplace, and the bedrooms have their own views. When the sun starts to set, the owners like to turn out the lights and let the skyline illuminate their home. “You feel like you’re in a movie,” says H. “It’s amazing.”



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