

HOME GALLERY

ART SCENE

A local art lover turns her home into a showplace for an impressive collection.

By Kaitlin Madden | Photography by Tony Soluri

Talk about pressure. When interior designer Eva Quateman of Eva Quateman Interiors (evaquateman.com) took on the gut renovation of a high-rise apartment, she wasn't just working for the homeowner, Jeanne Ettelson. She had Marilyn Monroe, Sarah Bernhardt and Liz Taylor to answer to. These screen sirens were in two-dimensional form, but still so full of personality that the entire apartment design CONTINUED...





... CONTINUED centered on them.

"Jeanne loves pop art and has quite the collection, so we based everything around that," says Quateman. "It was all about making the art stand out."

"Most of my collection is representational," adds the homeowner, a retired attorney who is heavily involved in Chicago's art scene. "If you have to put a word on it, I have a lot of icons, both from screen and history. We were able to use a lot of neutrals because pop art is colorful and the prints are pretty large, so that kind of introduces a lot of the color into the rooms already."

Quateman chose a palette of whites, black and gold, which is understated but with an appropriately old-Hollywood twist. What accent colors do make their way into the design were plucked straight from the art in Ettelson's expansive collection. The purple-hued details in the living space, for example, were inspired by one of Ettelson's favorite pieces, Andy Warhol's "Sandro Botticelli, Birth of Venus, 1482," which hangs directly above the cream-colored Baker sofa. Perhaps one of the most important details is the framing of each piece, all done by Armand Lee & Company (armandlee.com).

If there was a secondary impetus CONTINUED...

GOLD STANDARD

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Clockwise from top left: In the
dining room, Andy Warhol's
"Annie Oakley 378" and "General
(luster 379" world over the
table, a custom design through
the deAurora showroom, while
an 18 arm modern chandelier by an 18 arm modern chandelier by John Boone is a worthy centender for the focal point of the space; the bor area features custom cabinetry and gold pulls by O'Brien Harris; "Marilyn Crying (El Centro Purple)" by Russell Young hangs in the front hallway above a 51. Regis cobinet by Truex. "Liz Taylor," also by Russell Young, is visible in the living roem beyond.





... CONTINUED behind the design, it was the building's unique architecture. "The high-rise was built in the '70s and was one of those original luxury condo buildings that still had units with a separate dining room and living room, a butler's pantry and a proper entryway," explains Quateman. "They were built with the layout of pre-war apartments, but with lower ceilings and more modern architecture."

While the apartment required a complete gut rehab (finished with the help of architect Tony Hurtig and builder Gary Quateman, who is also Eva's husband), the building's heyday inspired Quateman to create a space that felt contemporary, midcentury and luxurious at once, and to maintain the unit's original footprint. From start to finish, the project took just under a year.

In the end, even with the home's A-list inhabitants, the apartment design suits Ettelson completely.

"Jeanne spends her summers on Fire Island, N.Y.," tells Quateman. "This year, when she came home, she called me and left a message that said, 'I just walked into my apartment-I forgot how beautiful it is. It's such a wonderful place to come home to.' It made me think that we really did it right."