

HOUSTON

SKY HIGH

Step inside a Houston couple's art-filled city pied-a-terre, impeccably designed by Teri Pugh.

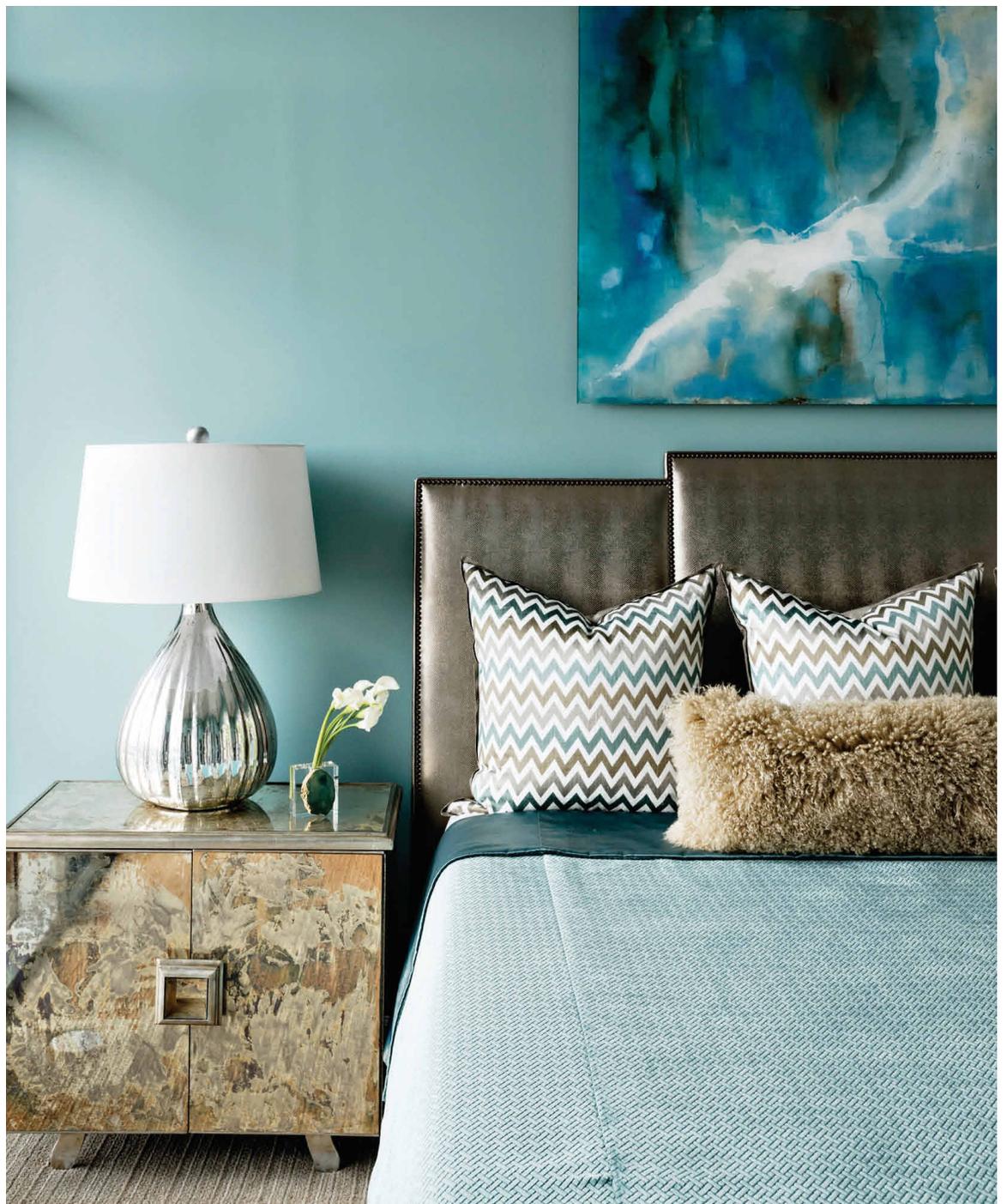
By Becca Hensley Photography by Jack Thompson

Seventeen floors above the buzz of Houston's uptown, this urbane pied-a-terre makes its residents feel like they're experiencing the city from atop an ethereal cloud. Designed by Teri Pugh of Teri Pugh Studio, known for her emphasis on livable, functional design with a chichi flair, the two-bedroom, 1,963-square-foot second home was created for clients of more than a decade. "This sophisticated couple has lived and traveled all over the world," says Pugh. "And collecting art is one of their passions." With a large home located in a gated community about an hour from Houston, the couple had wished for a city hideaway to accommodate them for long weekends and to allow for contrast from their main residence. Evoking the grace and grandeur of Houston's rich art scene and the tony atmosphere of uptown, the flat has bright white walls and panoramic windows with nominal treatments to showcase the glittering skyline. With an open floor plan that combines the dining,

SERENE SCENES

From top: A white-on-white, 3-D sculpture by Matt Devine hangs above the television, while a playful, multicolored rug with a sea of teal and taupe grounds the family room arrangement; gallery-like white walls are the perfect companion for a pair of Meredith Pardue paintings.





living and kitchen areas, the residence has high ceilings that underscore the sensation of calm and the notion of floating just far enough above the whirl of downtown. “It is the best of both worlds,” says Pugh of the atmosphere and the design, which she calls “minimalistic and transitional, without going too modern.”

Working with the clients, Pugh chose furniture and fabrics from her studio that adopted the clean and modern mindset desired, but still presented a sense of Hollywood glam. She achieved a swankiness and allure with smatterings of bright color such as aqua and teal (two of the clients’ favorites), which appear throughout the residence, especially in the master bedroom where the walls are painted a faint turquoise and the bedding and headboard boast oceanic aqua tones. Above the bed, a one-of-a-kind painting by Katherine Houston pulls the room together. White swivel chairs bring softness and a burst of brightness to the room, reflected by mirrored nightstands that suggest a midcentury-chic vibe.

Testing out colors she had never used before, the client chose yellow, taupe and gray for the second bedroom. The result is masculine and earthy, in contrast to the more feminine and regal master bedroom. Connecting the open living area with the bedrooms, snow-white hallways display paintings by Austinite Meredith Pardue. Her work, poetic and abstract with botanical themes, was chosen from Houston’s Laura Rathe Fine Art for the way each painting elicits the sense of peering into the clouds to watch the sky reinvent itself—a reflection of the scenes the residents can spy from their oversize windows. Colorful and bold, Pardue’s work breaks up the gallery-like walls and complements the colors that Pugh uses to vivify the tranquil home.

It’s a city high-rise that not only allows its residents easy access to Houston’s heady vibe but also provides a sense of cossetting and calm. A stylish retreat that’s at once comfortable and au courant, it sets a new standard for eclectic, bespoke design. ■

EARTH TONES

Clockwise from top left: The clean stainless steel and gray wet bar features an encaustic piece of art by Rosemary Barile; the imagery of Katherine Houston gives the master suite an ethereal mood; designer Teri Pugh shows off the couple’s sleek and stunning family room.