

CALIFORNIA HOMIES

THE MAGAZINE OF ARCHITECTURE
THE ARTS & DISTINCTIVE DESIGN

California CONTEMPORARY

PACIFIC PALISADES
SAN FRANCISCO
LA JOLLA

PALM SPRINGS
MODERNISM WEEK
FEBRUARY 12-22, 2015

Historic in
Santa Barbara

DISPLAY UNTIL MONTH 00, 2015
\$5.99US/CAN WINTER 2015



0 74470 95900 7

Along with the art collection, Ghielmetti made the condo's view the focal point of the design concept. A pair of Holly Hunt Cubist swivel chairs at the living room window allow for maximum enjoyment of Nob Hill's vistas. **OPPOSITE** Laurie Ghielmetti, interior designer and art consultant, photographed at one of her favorite places, the Hamon Observation Tower of the de Young Museum.

WOW

CREATING THE

Factor



LAURIE GHIELMETTI
BALANCES
TIMELESS
WITH THE
UNEXPECTED
ON
NOB HILL

TEXT BY KENDRA BOUTELL
PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROBERT WHITWORTH



“**H**OW DO YOU WANT TO FEEL when you walk through the door of your home?” San Francisco interior designer Laurie Ghielmetti posed the question during an initial client interview. The couple responded with two words, “wow,” and “timeless.” With those opposing terms, Ghielmetti allowed the Nob Hill condo’s collection of contemporary art to wow while making its backdrop of furnishings timeless.

As not only an established interior designer but also a well-respected art consultant, Ghielmetti was uniquely suited to the challenge. Starting with the couple’s existing art collection she and her assistant Kelley Matusiak developed their design concept. The clients downsized from a larger home but needed the new one to be functional for entertaining. An open plan living and dining room provided both intimacy for private gatherings and space to host political events.

Six animated images by artist and social activist Keith Haring dominate the living room. Juxtaposed with the pops of color, a

As the couple entertains frequently, Ghielmetti added occasional seating to the living room. Two square Gregorius Pineo Etienne ottomans upholstered in a bold wave pattern play off of the Keith Haring art. **OPPOSITE** During the project Ghielmetti became good friends with her clients. Now she enjoys sharing a toast with them while reveling in the beautiful views of the condo from within and without.





On the dining room buffet, a wenge sculpture, "Four Pieces Out and Up", by Wiil Clift soars against Africa's barren landscapes. Clift, a Santa Fe native, magically assembles wood elements without using glue or nails.



For the extensive gut and remodel of the unit, Ghielmetti enlisted the help of contractor Bruce Binder and Abacus Builders. "It is unique to have such a solid team from the very beginning of the project to the end," the designer observed.



streamlined sectional from Holly Hunt upholstered in a greige textile and ebonized wood trim offers ample seating. Continuing the neutral color scheme a distressed rift oak and black iron waterfall coffee table from Gregorious Pineo joins the conversational grouping.

To bridge the living and dining areas, Ghielmetti displayed Manuel Neri's white marble figurative sculpture on a black iron pedestal. She echoed the stand's material in a geometric iron lantern illuminating the Parsons style dining table and transitional chairs. Surmounting a modernist buffet from Robert Marinelli, Nick Brandt's haunting black and white photos document a vanishing Africa.

In the master bedroom Ghielmetti flanked the massive Holly Hunt Sorraia walnut four-poster bed with a pair of Glimmer pendants from McEwan Lighting Studio. Composed of Czech clear glass beads trapped in steel wire cloth, each fixture casts an ethereal glow. **OPPOSITE** Donghia's Cantilever Tub Chair mingles with an evocative Edwige Fouvry portrait. Ghielmetti boldly upholstered the chair in a zebra striped fabric. A lyrical Holly Hunt Butterfly bench is conveniently placed at the end of the bed.

For the restrained master bedroom, Ghielmetti integrated the clients' collection of Diane Arbus photos with a large oil portrait by Edwige Fouvry. While Arbus' images confront the viewer with raw realism, Belgian based Fouvry's art dances between abstraction and representation. Together they create the wow factor in the couple's otherwise timeless retreat. **CH**

