

64 WATCHES Suss a peek at the most buzzed-about debuts from the Baseworld watch show.

66 SHOPS A Swedish retailer sets its sights on the Gold Coast; luxury lingerie draws inspiration from iconic-era TV tycoon; launches a fashion flagship.

DESIGN & REALTY

69 SPOTLIGHT Interiors icon Jeffrey Billender teams with de Gournay for a majestic collection of tableware.

70 PEOPLE New York-based designer Nick Obens comes to town with interior motifs.

72 HOME A remodel of a vintage condo in The Ritz-Carlton builds on beautiful architectural bones.

TRAVEL & RECREATION

725 SPOTLIGHT Regal beaches abound at Aohilani Resort on Hawaii's Waikiki Beach.

726 JETSET Take a trip to the Beverly Hills of the United Arab Emirates—in a private Emirates first-class suite, no less.

728 ITINERARY Minneapolis is a rustic-chic haven ideal for a relaxing weekend lakeside.

730 GETAWAY With the return of the Volvo Ocean Race, Newport, R.I., proves it's still the summer playground for the East Coast's upper crust.

732 Take a weekend to hit the links in Lake Geneva, Wis., which boasts challenging courses and luxurious accommodations.



72

733 DAY TRIP A charming escape is just an hour away in Geneva, which blends tradition with appealing upgrades.

734 RIDES Aston Martin releases the 2018 DB11 Volante drop-top in time for summer.

FOOD & DRINK

737 SPOTLIGHT Espino Champagne Room's wine director lets her sparkling personality shine.

738 REVIEW Beale One reinvents itself for a new generation of star-studded diners.

740 THE SPOT Moody lighting and beachy vibes accent Bar Biscay's delightful coastal cuisine.

742 BITES The minds behind Blackbird reflect on the West Loop pioneer's 20-year legacy.

744 GUIDE Your go-to guide for navigating Chicago's dining scene.

SOCIAL SCENE

755 SNAPSOTS Your invitation to more of Chicago's chicest soirees.

LOOK WHO'S TALKING

760 The founders of Shred 15 take their popular exercise studio franchise on the road with a fresh fitness retreat.



138



From top: Art by Lonney White sets the tone in the open dining and living area. Custom cabinetry continued from the kitchen wraps around and becomes a dry bar, complete with barstools and brass. So much light floods the space—it was a good omen/tantrum to do a dark kitchen," says architect Greg Howe. The custom island looks like furniture thanks to its unique metalwork.

BLACK & WHITE

A vintage condo in The Ritz-Carlton Residences is opened up and given new life by a dream team of designer and architect.

By Andrea Mills // Photography by Alissa Rosenheck

"When I say 'original finishes,' I'm talking 1970s stone-wrapped walls and lots of mirror with a very disco vibe," says designer Alexis Bednyak (alexisbednyak.com) of the condo in Water Tower Place she overhauled with architect Greg Howe of Searl Lamaster Howe Architects (searlarch.com).

Rumored to be one of the original units completed by renowned designer Bruce Gregg, its architectural bones are testament to the quality of the building that her client—then a bachelor in finance—had the foresight to invest in. "We have done a series of apartments in this building, and they are always fun because they are well proportioned and the building is well

thought out," says Howe. Both designer and architect agreed that the floor plan didn't need to change, but the dark, tunnel-like entry and closed-in kitchen desperately did. "A larger bathroom, an open kitchen with great views and an open living area were all that were really needed to make the layout current and relevant for 2018," explains Bednyak—that, and a clean, livable aesthetic that suits entertaining a stylish crowd for drinks, dinner or watching fireworks.

The first order of business for the design team was opening up the long corridor that spans the length of the apartment. "There were random door widths and heights so that visually it was cluttered, constrictive...





...CONTINUED as well as being dark," explains Howe. The ceiling was raised and ductwork rerouted to open it up, while LED lighting hidden in a cove floods the space with light. Trim was removed from the doors to eliminate shadow lines, and a gold metallic wallpaper on the ceiling by Holland & Sherry further reflects light.

Creating an open-concept kitchen and dining area that made the most of the expansive views meant there was an obligation for continuity, which the team followed through on with a multitude of built-in cabinetry. "There is this smoke-and-mirrors concept with the built-in cabinets where the functionality is hidden, which keeps the look really clean," says Bednyak.

Because so many of the appliances are concealed, there was room for a much larger island—a custom design by the team at Sean Lamaster Howe with metalwork detail on both ends, storage drawers and space for four counter stools from Haute Living—to connect the space with the living area. "You can be cooking dinner and your guests are right there," notes Bednyak. Jet-black oak cabinetry is paired with a light gray version that wraps into a box, connecting the kitchen to the living area, then turning into a dry bar on the living room side with a small refrigerator and glassware storage.

Stone flooring throughout was replaced with pale oak, and discreet roller blinds allow the expansive views to shine. About halfway through the project, their client got engaged so they had to "pivot slightly to give her equal representation in the apartment," says Bednyak. Luckily, his fiancée was on board with all of the plans and the black-and-white palette, so they added texture and warmth with textiles and some of the furnishings, such as drapery in the master bedroom. "I was being a bit more restrained, but as soon as she was added to the mix, I was able to add more of my female influence to it," explains Bednyak.

Two portraits of Mick Jagger by Andy Warhol, signed by both artist and musician, add a bit of rock 'n' roll to the space, while the encaustic was-and-metal artwork by Lonney White that hangs over the dining room sideboard weaves all of the apartment's themes—expansiveness, black, white and texture—together.

Howe says the new space "feels fitting for the building but also feels very much of our age. The sign of a good building is that it evolves with time." The space has evolved with the couple too. They recently had a baby and have hardly changed anything about the condo—a sign of good design. ■



Clockwise from top left: The study, behind a pocket door in the living room, offers space for the couple to display their art collection and travel accessories; works by Andy Warhol of Mick Jagger benefit from modern gallery lighting; the master bedroom features shimmering wallpaper from Mays Romasoff and a custom gray wool headboard; a custom shade in the master bedroom is paired with the FT3 floor lamp from Property in New York and drapery from Grand fabric through Dorigati.

