



Japanese textiles serve as art in the primary suite.

THE SLEEPOVER

Martin Young blends found pieces with asymmetric architecture in a Silicon Valley pied-a-terre.

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY
PHOTOGRAPHED BY JOSE MANUEL ALORDA



Some designers can look at 950 square feet and run for cover. Martin Young (martinyoungdesign.com) isn't part of this crowd. Instead, the designer embraced the challenge and created a gorgeous pied-a-terre for clients who live in the north side of San Francisco but work in Menlo Park. The small space on the Peninsula serves as a place to revive and spend weekday nights instead of enduring a long commute back to the city.

"My clients wanted to ensure that the unit felt like an extension of their city home—relaxed, a sense of space and surrounded by beautiful things," notes Young, who says he creates his projects by

From top: The kitchen mimics the minimalist aesthetic found throughout the home; beautiful Heath ceramics grace the dining room table.



defining structure and space, then marrying clients' aesthetic goals and day-to-day needs.

For this home—where the condo lacked architectural details—Young knew he'd need to apply a monochromatic color palette of shifting soft whites and deep charcoal to emphasize a sense of volume. "Painting window frames black draws eyes outward to augment the experience of openness and light," he says. "We focused on texture and attention to detail, deploying a mix of unique and handmade objects to inject pops of color and

reinforce primary focal points. Vintage handwoven textiles with color and pattern were combined with refined natural wood tones to create a composition of layered textures that were both visually and physically tactile."

The clients' appreciation of art inspired Young to use a mix of exciting pieces, ranging from an auction-bought painting acquired from Phillips (phillips.com) to a series of drawings from the homeowners' friend to the elevation of everyday objects. Standouts include Faye Toogood (fayetoogood.com)



vessels in the kitchen and Heath (heathceramics.com) ceramics on the dining table.

In the living room, Young designed four armchairs and two ottomans with a collection of vintage Turkish rugs—eight rugs were used in all. The idea behind this strategy was that the colors and patterns will look exceptional even when repositioned for entertaining. “Our clients can easily relax and lounge with their feet up, as a couple—or they can entertain larger gatherings simply by moving around the ottomans,” says Young. For the dining area, the designer incorporated a custom table, vintage bench and 1960s chairs into the sculptural space. He also brilliantly created graphic wall art by using antique French chalkboards.

“For the bedroom, we customized mainstream retail

furnishings and mixed them with unique elements,” says Young. “We used a vintage Turkish rug to upholster the bed, and we refinished RH (rh.com) nightstands with Farrow & Ball (farrow-ball.com) paint.” The team also used vintage Wim Rietveld lamps from Axel Vervoordt (axel-vervoordt.com) and an antique Japanese textile—known as a *boro*—that has been patched together, which joins mixed-media work by Cullen Washington Jr. (cWASHINGTONstudio.com). Notice a theme? It’s apparent throughout the magical space: The mood is relaxed, and the rooms don’t feel overcrowded or burdened by too many objects. Instead, the condo provides a respite and sense of buoyancy—a stylish elixir after a long day. ◦

The living room features ottomans covered in vintage Turkish rugs, alongside a rug from Vaheed Taheri and photography from San Francisco’s Serge Sorokko Gallery.

HOME DETAILS

- Home Type**
Condo

Location
Peninsula

Designer
Martin Young Design
martinyoungdesign.com
- RESOURCES**

1stDibs
Table lamp, living room
1stdibs.com

Axel Vervoordt
Vintage Wim Rietveld lamps; floor lamps, primary suite
axel-vervoordt.com

De Sousa Hughes
Throw, living room
desousahughes.com

Farrow & Ball
Paint finishes, nightstands, primary suite
farrow-ball.com

Fraenkel Gallery
Richard Misrach posters and photos, primary suite
fraenkelgallery.com

Heath Ceramics
Vases, living room
heathceramics.com

Karine Léger
Artist, living room paintings
karineleger.ca

Merida
Area rug, living room
merida.com

Peace Industry
Area rug, primary suite
peaceindustry.se

RH
Nightstands, blanket, primary suite
rh.com

Serge Sorokko Gallery
Photography, living room
sorokko.com

Vaheed Taheri
Rug, living room
vaheedtaheri.com



The designer transformed antique French chalkboards to create vibrant wall art.