

THE HEROES

WE LEARNED TO LIKE THE

BY PLAYING GLACIERS - WHEN A BC

AND TINDER - GUESSED - BY POWER

OF OPPOSITE - TO BALANCE OPP-

TAL



CONCRETE VISION

A LOCAL TECH
ENTREPRENEUR
COMMISSIONS
FCSTUDIO'S JULIE FISHER
TO TRANSFORM A
FULL-FLOOR GOLD COAST
APARTMENT.

By Tate Gunnerson

Photography by
Tom Harris Photography

Echoing the angles in
the custom ceiling by
fcStudio, a chandelier
from Apparatus lights
a steel-and-walnut
dining table from Skram
Furniture Company and
modern chairs from
Morlen Sinoway Atelier.

Fur-upholstered swings designed by Dedon with the fur cover custom made by Recovered Interior bracket the main living areas, which are furnished with soft contemporary pieces with rounded edges. The bubble-like light fixture is from Apparatus.



Good design tells a story, and that definitely goes for the 7,400-square-foot Gold Coast home that fcStudio co-founder Julie Fisher reimagined for a local tech entrepreneur and his wife. The space was formerly two apartments with traditional finishes. Now it's a full-floor, loft-like pad with an open floor plan that includes numerous seating areas and a luxe bar area furnished with a pool table and a fur-upholstered swing—one of two that flank the main living area. "It's the story of the ultimate party," Fisher says.

To create the industrial look that her clients envisioned, Fisher and project manager Bob Quellos gutted the entire unit, exposing the concrete columns, ceilings and core. A steel-framed oak-clad ceiling element defines the large open kitchen, which has two islands made of custom-stained oak cabinetry with black concrete countertops, which were designed by fcStudio, as were the pool table, bar work and shelving. "This place has an urban grittiness with refined details," Fisher says.

Those details include a walnut and copper insert in the concrete island, leather upholstered doors throughout, and outlets, which are built right into the wall with no plates. "Our millworkers will never forgive us," Fisher jokes. That level of detail extends to a pool cue cabinet that, when not in use, slides into the wall behind the bar.

The rustic yet elegant loft-like milieu is an ideal backdrop for the owner's extensive art collection, which includes vibrant pieces by Keith Haring, Ed Ruscha, Richard Prince and Jeff Koons, who created the Hulk plant-holder. The splashes of color can be found in key furnishings as well, for example, the hot pink bar stools at the main kitchen island and the custom bright yellow computer desk.

The bold colors are balanced by plush pieces upholstered in more neutral fabrics, such as a quartet of curved-back chairs

One of many pieces by iconic artists throughout the interior, a large piece by Ed Ruscáha commands attention in the office, which also features a Boccí light fixture that doubles as a planter.



Pink bar stools and a bold yellow desk play off the colorful artwork throughout the raw, loft-like interior. The custom concrete countertops are by Kerr Concrete.



alongside a pair of soft-edge sofas underneath a cloud-like glass bubble chandelier. “There are a lot of hard edges in there, so we looked for soft touches,” Fisher says. “It was critical to ensure that the space felt warm.”

Lighting plays a crucial role in that endeavor. The steel-framed wooden ceiling has an illuminated perimeter-reveal; the underside of the bar is lit; and cabinetry glows throughout. Even the walnut-lined kitchen drawers light up when open. “The lighting really sets the mood,” Fisher says, pointing to the trio of custom handblown glass pendants by Lindsay Adelman over the pool table. “Getting the right balance was incredibly challenging.”

Located at the back of the unit, the spacious master suite feels just as swanky, with its custom headboard recessed into a niche that’s outfitted with a wall of custom steel shelving and built-in wooden side tables that have leather tops and drawer-fronts. In front of the windows, a modern sofa covered in a textural green fabric appears to float atop a black-and-white area rug.

Separating the bedroom and master bathroom, a bank of built-in metal shelving has glass backing, allowing natural daylight to flow into the interior space. With a touch of a button, however, the glass fogs over, creating a totally private space furnished with a teak vanity; a black PaperStone countertop; and graphic, colorful ceramic wall tiles by Tracey Reinberg of Kismet Tile. “Absolutely stunning,” Fisher says.

Even the ancillary spaces are packed with detail, Fisher notes, pointing to the whimsical media room, which features a cozy wood-lined reading nook and a built-in Murphy bed. Designed to join together, a set of colorful flat-weave rugs brighten up the wood flooring in front of a long comfy sofa and a plush orange chair. “The owners entertain a ton, so having flexible spaces was key,” Fisher explains.

Indeed, overjoyed with their posh new home, they held a series of cocktail parties to celebrate the completion of the project, serving rare and unique spirits and wine curated by the buzzy Logan Square hot spot Billy Sunday. The space flowed just as Fisher had intended, and she was thrilled to experience the space as a guest after such a long and complex project. “They did a lot of partying when they first moved in, and it was really fun,” Fisher says. “What architect doesn’t get joy out of seeing clients enjoying their spaces?” ■



DESIGN DETAILS

TYPE
High-Rise Condo

LOCATION
Gold Coast

BUILDERS
Top Line Construction
Renovations Inc.
toplineinc.com

DESIGN
fcStudio
fcstudioinc.com

CONCRETE FABRICATION
Kerr Concrete
kerrconcrete.com

MILLWORK
J & J Woodworking Co. Inc.
jandjwoodworkingco.com

STEEL FABRICATION
V.A. Robinson
varobinson.com
Crosstree
crosstreeinc.com

RESOURCES

APPARATUS
Lighting fixtures in dining
room, kitchen, powder room
and living area
apparatusstudio.com

DEDON
Swings
dedon.de

EXQUISITE SURFACES
Wood flooring and tile
xsurfaces.com

iD
Sofa, furniture in two guest
bedrooms, some bowls and
glass accessories
idchicago.com

MORLEN SINOWAY
Rugs, coffee table and dining
room chairs
morlensinoway.com

ORANGE SKIN
Master bed
orangeskin.com

SKRAM
Dining table
skramfurniture.com

In the master bathroom, handmade ceramic tile by Tracey Reinberg Surface Design from Kismet Tile pops against the neutral surfaces, which include a vanity made of teak and PaperStone. Flick a switch and the glass fogs, allowing both privacy and natural daylight.