

PALATIAL PIED-À-TERRE

RICH AND RUSTIC MEETS WARM AND ELEGANT IN THIS REMODELED DOWNTOWN AUSTIN RESIDENCE

By MAURI ELBEL | Photography by PAUL BARDAGJY

The high-end residences soaring from Austin's downtown blocks often adhere to a certain aesthetic: modern, clean-edged, and occasionally, unapproachable.



But leave it to designer Mark Cravotta and builder David Wilkes to create a stunning space that effectively marries modern and traditional with a brilliant balance of custom creations and vintage finds.

"I'm the first to admit when it comes to design, I'm not a purist," says Cravotta. "I love to mix styles. I'm a fan of the unexpected. I never want a room to look too new. Ideally, I want it to look as if it were carefully collected and curated over time — even if it was not in actuality."

When a semi-retired bachelor purchased a 4,208-square-foot home as a pied-à-terre in the Four Seasons Residences, the downtown Austin high-rise designed by architect Michael Graves, he wanted a place that felt like home.

The sprawling three bedroom, three-and-one-half bathroom home complete with a media room boasts spectacular panoramic views of Lady Bird Lake and Austin's iconic downtown from balconies connected to the main living area and master suite as well as floor-to-ceiling windows wrapping the spacious condo.

Inside, the design is a surprising mix of traditional ranch-style elements and modern finishes, resulting in space that is unapologetically masculine yet elegant and timeless.

"I love the way it feels warm, rich and artful yet totally comfortable and accessible," says Cravotta. "This is a place where you want to plop down in every room of the home."

The client's primary residence is a ranch outside of Austin where he spends the majority of his time, but he also enjoys the arts and entertainment scene a downtown lifestyle affords.

"This client has lived all over the world and has sophisticated taste so I wanted to design a home for him to not only reflect his personality, but also the new cosmopolitan vibe that's starting to arise in Austin," says Cravotta. "The most important

