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YOU'VE GOT MALE

A Vancouver design team offers a fresh take on the bachelor pad, and not a TV tray in sight. *By Celeste Moure*

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Mention the phrase "bachelor pad" and images of 72-inch plasmas and a freezer full of TV dinners take hold. But when the unattached Peter Blitz bought his condo, what really excited him was the opportunity to create a modern, austere living space that would frame vistas of downtown Vancouver. He found the vistas easily enough. Unfortunately, they were attached to a cluttered, claustrophobic space entirely lacking the openness he imagined.

"It was all chopped up," he recalls of his initial viewing of the space. "But we were able to visualize that if you took out all the

walls, you had these great water views—from the entryway, from the kitchen, from everywhere."

Blitz hired Sharon Halpin and Kelly Reynolds of Fruition Design and the pair set out to entirely recreate the condo. "I wanted it to look masculine but not cold," says Halpin.

Halpin's first visit confirmed that she and Blitz were on the same page in terms of the wholesale changes that needed to be made. "The original apartment was dark and the floor plan rendered it somewhat unusable for Peter's needs," she recalls. Entire walls came down, while the enclosed staircase was stripped down to the bare bones and encased with stainless-steel railings and



LIGHT BOX

The rooftop deck of this Vancouver condo offers a two-way treat: great views of False Creek, and a pretty peek back into the suite.



THE MAN, HIS DOG

The homeowner, Peter Blitz, with his dog, Lollie (left). Blitz admits to not being much of a cook, so he left all the kitchen decisions to his designer, Sharon Halpin (below). The walls of the bathroom are clad in Porcelanosa Zebrano tile with subtle stripes in it, lengthening the space (bottom).

risers with glass panels—light from the rooftop deck can now penetrate to the floors below.

The ceiling was raised to expose concrete, which was buffed, coated and polished to great effect, and two small bedrooms with limited closet space were turned into a spacious master bedroom, which now features a walk-in closet, office space and an ensuite bathroom. The condo might have once resembled a rabbit warren, but now features only two interior doors—one on the walk-in closet and one on the powder room.

Blitz also gave the designer complete freedom to choose everything from the custom-made cabinetry to the floor tiles and carpeting. "By using a large-format tile on the floor of the main level with the polished concrete ceiling," says Halpin, "we offset what could have been a sterile effect by installing a wall of warm oak veneer in a charcoal stain to match the kitchen cabinetry and the floating bar." And like a true bachelor Blitz also left all the kitchen decisions with Halpin. "I don't cook that much," he says. "So as long as it looked good, that's all that mattered."

More interesting was the incorporation of modern cast acrylic pieces that he designed himself, which pair seamlessly with minimalist furniture from Koolhaus—like the two occasional armchairs of soft faux mink—and add depth to the texture of the room. For storing the bachelor trio of the stereo, CDs and books, Blitz purchased large stackable wooden cubes from Wonk that are at once functional and decorative.

Blitz has scant memories of the mess of rooms that this condo used to be. "The space became much more functional once we opened it up," he says. "You know you love the place when you like it more after living in it for a year." CONDO See SOURCES, page 90.

