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City Living

Designer Gil Melott delivers a West Ridge refuge that's equal parts Chicago loft and sleek high-rise dwelling.

BY ELIZABETH HARPER

From top: The Flotar sofa from Gil Melott Bespoke has pride of place in the living room; artwork by Colt Seager sourced through Studio 6F.



Searching for a practical yet visually appealing apartment in Chicago, Gil Melott, principal at Studio 6F (studio6f.com), had three points on his wish list: proximity to his Logan Square studio, adjacent to the conveniences afforded by public transportation and a view of the skyline. “That’s not easy to come by,” he recalls. “But I found the one-bedroom, one-bath with just enough windows to feel twice as large.”

This aesthetics-driven mind, though, wouldn’t be satisfied with builder-grade finishes. “I always start projects with an end goal and mine was [for it] to be a place of solace,” Melott notes. Here, that culminated in “a minimal, curated place of things that I really want around me.” The finished product is a home that takes full advantage of every square inch of storage



PHOTOS BY SEAN HENDERSON

“I have always felt that a space to call your own is important. The size is relative. The elements inside, the intent of its use, the ability of the space to make you feel refreshed or humbled and to welcome others is critical.”

—GIL MELOTT

and is packed with personality.

To amplify his cityscape backdrop, Melott took cues from the view beyond his floor-to-ceiling windows. “I chose pieces that were substantive but appropriate in scale that reflected the colors and mood of the changing skyline,” he says. Throughout the apartment, subtle silver-blues, deep greens and browns simultaneously complement and contrast with the sky’s watercolor hues. “I wanted to feel that the place represented me and I could live in it,” he says. As such, Melott created a curated, collected feel with Gil Melott Bespoke furnishings (“I’m lucky because I get to use myself as a bit of a guinea pig,” he says. “Crazy, right?”), including the Uvalde coffee table made from red Mexican travertine and handhewn ash; decor sourced from Dial M For Modern, Vern + Vera, The Golden Triangle and Circa Modern; fabrics from Fishman’s Fabric; significant works from artist Colt Seager; and a more sentimental touch in the image of a snowstorm painted by Melott’s grandfather Bill Ferrell for his birthday in 1972. “It is one of my most prized possessions. It is one of those nonnegotiable design pieces,” he says.

While the home reads modern with its steel-encased windows and concrete columns, the mix of texture, strategic use of color and found objects breathe life into the otherwise stark surroundings. Says Melott: “It’s a never-ending search for the elusive ‘find.’ That’s part of the DNA of designers. Whether a home is filled with new things, vintage pieces or a combination, if there’s a cohesiveness to them, it makes it compelling.” ■



Clockwise from top: Gastone Rinaldi dining chairs surround a faux bois dining table from 214 Modern Vintage in furnishing mecca High Point, N.C.; in the bedroom, art by Melott, a custom handmade mud cloth quilt by Ruthie Seager and 1970s studio craft lamp through Alchemy Art & Antiques in Michigan; art by Joe Boudreau through Las Manos Gallery in Andersonville hangs above a minimal craft chair from Studio 6F.

