

GRAND HOTEL

A venerable former hotel suite at the Knickerbocker on the Lake is refashioned into a delightful office and pied-à-terre.

STORY BY COLLEEN HEATHER ROGAN // PHOTOS BY DAVID BADER

It was anything but love at first sight when **LISA MOY** first saw the condo that would become her office and occasional hangout. "With dingy shag carpeting, drab walls and crappy furnishings, it took two visits and a good friend to convince me of its eventual potential," Moy says.

The price didn't hurt, either. "It was a real steal," she admits. In a slow real estate market 20 years ago, Moy got the condo for just \$50,000.

Yet the transformation of the former hotel suite didn't happen overnight. "I needed to live with the space awhile to understand what felt right for it," she says. Grabbing ideas in home magazines and taping them to the walls as inspiration, Moy eventually decided to highlight rather than hide the hotel's vintage character. Soon, walls came down and shag carpeting gave way to gleaming dark wood floors ideal for reflecting the glow of crystal chandeliers, candles and amber uplighting. Moy also worked closely with contractors, designing built-in bookshelves and cabinets to look original to the building. To make the most of day and evening lake views, mirrors of all sizes were strategically placed to create the illusion of additional windows, light and space. →



GUITAR GAL

Keeping furnishings to a minimum, Moy chose an Italian custom-made leather sofa to sit at window-sill height, hid the flat-screen TV she uses in the course of her video production work behind an antique, framed French poster, and prominently displayed a guitar she purchased shortly after joining the acoustic rock 'n' roll band Fat Pig "just because it's pretty and silver."



VIVE LA FRANCE

After falling in love with the bathroom of her Parisian honeymoon hotel, Moy sought to re-create it inexpensively by covering walls and encasing a sink and oversized claw-foot tub with slabs of white marble purchased at a local liquidation center. The glass shelves of a custom-designed bibelot cabinet are softly lit to showcase artfully displayed linens, imported perfumes, bath oils in crystal bottles and scented soaps wrapped in beautiful papers.

A DESIGNER'S TOUCH

Working on local, national and international corporate identities and ad campaigns for her company, Moy Creative, Moy sits in a lyrical wrought-iron chair at a desk featuring three metal pedestals bearing the weight of a 500-pound slab of granite. Both pieces, created by local metal artist Kendall Polster, sit beneath an antique chandelier in front of a mirror so huge that it had to be created on-site.





FAVORITE THINGS

A vignette of fresh flowers, clocks and photos of Moy's beloved terriers softens a kitchen counter space. "Being able to look around and see the many things I love, like stacks of antique Limoges plates, graphically interesting packaging, childhood family photos, cute toys and Christmas ornaments," says Moy, "just makes me happy."

PARTY PREP

With no real need to prepare meals at the office, Moy's kitchen became a beverage center for entertaining. Cabinets and countertops showcase crystal glasses, ice buckets and all sorts of fun, quirky and elegant items that, as an artist, Moy can't resist collecting.





“Being part of this historic building, getting to know my neighbors and all the waiters and waitresses at The Knick and Osteria del Mondo [two restaurants located on the hotel's first floor] over the years has been awesome,” says Moy. She even met husband Paul Westphal, director of a financial advisory group at Robert W. Baird & Co., in the hotel's laundry room and later exchanged wedding vows just outside the hotel on Juneau Avenue before their reception at Osteria. “It feels like a small town, yet with all the activity – a 24-hour front desk, hotel guests checking in and out, limos arriving, people showing up for dinner or drinks – there’s also lots of big-city energy. It’s just a great place to be.”

EYE CANDY

Moy has an extensive reference library of design, typography and interior design books, and lots of children’s literature, including a copy of *A Merry Christmas for Grover & Boomer*, a book she designed and wrote about her own two fox terrier/poodle pups. Vintage wire baskets hold the countless national and international magazines Moy may consult for ideas or for pure enjoyment.

