



High Style

A Minneapolis couple feels right at home in a condo above the city lights.

BY JOSH HWAY

For two years, Karen and Bill lived the Parisian lifestyle, surrounded by sidewalk cafes, chic boutiques and incredible cuisine. That is until the couple moved back to Minnesota and Bill retired from the job that sent them to France in the first place.

"We loved living in Paris," says Karen. "It was such a unique place, and we knew we wanted to return to city living some day."

That return to an urban lifestyle began after a long search yielded the perfect skyline setting. Karen spent years diligently scouring listings until a top-floor unit in the Cobalt Condos, situated in Minneapolis's historic St. Anthony Main

neighborhood, popped up. "Bill wasn't so sure at first," she recalls. "But then he saw the view of Minneapolis, and he was sold."

The couple purchased the unfinished, 4,000-square-foot space, which Karen describes as an empty shell with concrete floors, exposed beams and no walls. They assembled a team led by architect Thomas Whitcomb to help them complete a project of this scale and scope.

After an initial meeting with Lisa Peck, ASID, owner and principal designer of LiLu Interiors, Karen was convinced that the award-winning firm would make a great addition to the team. Along with colleague LuAnne Silvia, ASID, Peck collaborated with the homeowners to enhance the

contemporary architecture of the condo. They weaved together an eclectic tapestry of timeless heirloom pieces, such as Karen's French armoire and china cabinet, and fashionable finishes like Zebrana veneer, an environmentally friendly mimic of zebrawood.

The sleek interior celebrates Karen and Bill's new city life, while pops of color and the use of more traditional furniture pieces add a subtle nod to those special years across the pond.

"I just love it," Karen says. "We have public spaces that allow us to easily entertain, but we also have private spaces that make this such a comfortable place to live." ■