



**MARY SUSAN BICICCHI,**  
INTERIORS BY MARY SUSAN

**FIRST PLACE,  
WHOLE ROOM INTEGRATION  
DESIGN CONCEPT**

A Chicago condominium with a stunning birds-eye view of the John Hancock building was in serious need of redesign. It had been 20 years since the clients had first furnished the space and they wanted a lighter, more sophisticated look. Although

the plan was to do a total rework, some key elements remained, most notably the crema marfil stone flooring, which served as an anchoring palette for the redesign.

The rich creams and mineral colors of copper, bronze and gold from the floor were repeated in a pearlescent faux finish on the walls. The existing dining room set was refinished and reupholstered and places found throughout the combined space for their extensive collection of Waterford crystal.

A large wool and silk rug defines the living room, picking up the color palette of cream and warm metallics. With new upholstery choices picked out and a few new pieces added, it was time to focus on the windows. "I wanted them to have a strong architectural presence," Bicicchi said. "The clients were adamant that the view be maintained and I felt I could create panels that would frame the view and maintain the clean, stylish look we were aiming for. They would also add warmth to the rooms and soften all the existing hard surfaces."

The contractor and Bicicchi had numerous meetings on the challenge of preserving the wonderful view and Bicicchi convinced the contractor and the clients that the existing columns in the foyer (not shown)

would provide a perfect reference for the design she had in mind.

"The contractor did a wonderful job installing crown molding to accommodate my design. We ultimately made a hidden pocket behind the crown molding where we could mount our fabric "columns" and this further enhances the architectural presence my design concept required."

In another architecture reference, Bicicchi choose to do pencil pleats at the top, playing off the finger molding that is sometimes used in interiors. The pleats are about 8", matching the depth between the molding and the window frame.

The silk panels are flannel lined to add weight and presence in the space. They work exactly as Bicicchi intended—framing the view, warming the interior and integrating the dining and living room spaces into a whole room.

**DETAILS**

**CREDITS:** Designer: Mary Susan Bicicchi, Interiors by Mary Susan, La-Grange, Ill. Workroom: Kathy Ellingson, Davis Design, Downers Grove, Ill. Installer: Rick LaDouceur, Custom Drapery Installation, Lisle, Ill. Photography: Nick Novelli, Novelli, Elgin, Ill.

**SOURCES:** Drapery fabric: Fabricut silk dupioni in autumn. Flannel lining supplied by workroom.

