

UP THE SIDE OF DOWNTOWN

Interior designer Crystal Smith of Bittners helps long-time clients feel right at home in a new city.

Written by Bridget Cottrell / Photos by Tony Bailey



When a business expansion prompted clients-turned-friends to acquire a pied-à-terre in Dayton, Ohio, interior designer Crystal Smith of Bittners swooped in to impart the interiors with the familiarity of their Louisville residence while embracing the unique aesthetic presented by an industrial-inspired condo in a trendy and walkable downtown neighborhood.

To reflect the free-spirited yet exacting young professional couple's aesthetic and soften the edginess presented by stained concrete floors and exposed ductwork, Smith employed a "Deco bohemian" approach, using a limited and muted colored palette layered with sensuously curved case goods, natural materials including stone and marble, and upholstery presenting a pleasing soft hand. The resulting rooms serve as a visually quiet buffer to the busyness outside while highlighting the vibrancy of the couples' eclectic art collection and the corner unit's expansive views courtesy of a plethora of large steel-framed windows. "I have been cheating on fashion with furniture," said the wife, expressing her keen interest in the interior design process and her love of Baker Furniture in particular.

The compact space is big on custom details, beginning with a shower curtain and rug in the guest bath. The guest bedroom serves as a stylish home office with a grass cloth-wrapped desk and an artfully arranged bookcase.







The heart of the condo is an open-concept kitchen, living, and dining area. A Salvador Dali lithograph shares wall space with a large tranquil abstract painting by North Carolina artist Amy Gordon that surmounts the living room's credenza. Behind the bouclé-upholstered sofa with channel-tufted sides is a walnut credenza whose curved base is mirrored by an inset oval polished Carrara marble top. Suspended overhead is Visual Comfort's Brindelle chandelier, a riff on a design element from their old Kentucky home. A chic table for two comprises two Baker Furniture Asher swivel chairs on either side of a textural cast-aluminum tulip-style table with an antique rust finish mimicking the raw yet refined architecture.

In the bedroom, a pair of Arteriors Home marble base table lamps positioned atop a Baker Furniture dresser flank an amorphous mixed media artwork, the palette of which is picked up in the cut pile velvet accent pillows on the armless accent chairs. At the opposite end of the room, a Bernhardt Laguna bench with a modern base crafted from acrylic sits at the footboard of the bed. Adding a bit of edge to the etherealness are Brutalist-inspired Clifford table lamps by Marie Flanigan atop the nightstands. Here, as in the other rooms, flowers and houseplants bask in abundant natural light, sharing the beneficial boost of serotonin with the home's human and feline inhabitants. **ST**

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