

[ HOME TOURS ]

# French Art Deco Meets Bermuda Style in This Glam Atlanta Apartment by Beth Webb

The interior designer collaborated closely with a longtime client, who is an inveterate collector, to create a truly personal and playfully eclectic home.

BY CARA GREENBERG



Atlanta interior designer [BETH WEBB](#) recently completed an art- and antique-filled home in an iconic mid-century apartment tower for Katie Walker, a repeat client with impeccable taste and an extensive collection of objects and family heirlooms. Top: The apartment's study features a pair of armchairs and a hammered-copper [SILAS SEANDEL](#) coffee table, all from [LIZ O'BRIEN](#).



[ MARCH 26, 2023 ] With any luck at all, designers and their clients are on the same page, in sync, simpatico. Typically, the designer guides the process, but in the case of illustrious Atlanta-based interior designer [BETH WEBB](#) and her client Katie Walker — who together recently completed the down-to-the-studs renovation and comprehensive interior design of Walker’s condominium in a distinguished 1960s high-rise — Webb had the wisdom to let her client take the lead.

“Katie could have been her own designer,” Webb says, voicing an obviously firmly held conviction. “She appreciates a second opinion and a third and a fourth — but I think she just hired us for the office.”

Walker laughs off that idea. According to her, Webb “is the consummate tastemaker. I respect her wealth of knowledge so much. And at the end of the day, someone has to know how to bind a carpet, pleat a curtain and where to get the wallpaper.”

The designer — who masterminded three of Walker’s previous homes and is esteemed for her casually luxurious residences from Georgia to Costa Rica, Jackson Hole to London — knows how to do all that, and then some.

The apartment was, nevertheless, a very personal project, and Walker owns up to providing “a lot of the vision.”



Left: In the harlequin-tiled entry hall, Atlanta artist Raymond Goins painted herons in a watery Bermuda scene on the closet doors. The mid-century Stilnovo light fixture is a 1stDibs find, and the chair is from interior designer [KERRY JOYCE](#)'s furniture collection. Right: The bookshelf-lined section of the foyer leading to the dining room has a library-like feel.

Foremost in her mind were the sorbet colors and the richly layered look of accumulated possessions at Heron's Nest, a nine-acre Bermuda estate that had been in her family since the 1930s. Walker, who grew up in Michigan a member of the American aristocracy — her great grandfather was a Mott of applesauce fame, later a cofounder of GM — retrieved a slew of intriguing items from the property when it was sold, in 2011.

The AFRICAN MASKS, ceramics, paintings and other artworks and objects adorning the study's walls and shelves include items Walker received as gifts or found at flea markets. "I'm a serious collector," she notes, "but not that serious." The painting over the chenille-upholstered sofa and the limestone head on the coffee table are by Kimo Minton, while many of the vessels atop the bookshelf are by Philip Mouthrop. The armchair is an ART DECO piece.



A number of these appear in the renovated apartment — among them, a pair of lead dolphins from the estate's garden walls and a MAPLE & CO. rolled-arm sofa her grandparents bought in London in 1939, now upholstered in green SCALAMANDRÉ velvet.

There's also an array of newly acquired pieces, for Walker is not just a serial renovator but also an inveterate collector of paintings, glassware, ceramics and more. "She was on 1stDibs every single day during this project," Webb says.

Considered among Atlanta's MODERNIST masterpieces, the building housing Walker's apartment is one of two 22-story concrete towers designed by mid-20th-century architect Ted Levy that rise out of a park-like sea of greenery. The unit's floor-to-ceiling windows, lovely sunlight and lowish nine-foot ceilings "lent themselves to nineteen-thirties and forties design," Webb says. "Books on MAISON JANSEN and JEAN-MICHEL FRANK were Katie's bibles."

New interior architecture by Peter Block, who spearheaded the renovation, exudes vintage glamour. Consider the entry hall's vaulted ceiling and harlequin-tiled floors, plus closet doors adorned with majestic herons hand-painted by Atlanta artist Raymond Goins. For the living room, Goins designed and painted a rounded mantel after an ANTIQUÉ JAPANESE SCREEN in New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The foyer's curvaceous green-lacquered bar borrows its look from Walker's childhood memories of the Mill Reef Club, in Antigua, where her grandparents had a home. And the vanity in her mirrored dressing room feels worthy of a movie star from Hollywood's Golden Age.



Designer and client “squealed with delight,” Webb recalls, when they found the [CLARENCE HOUSE](#) fabric they used to cover the [DESSIN FOURNIR](#) Plante chairs in the dining room. The yellow, black and white textile, featuring cavorting zebras, joins custom cabinetry with diamond-paned glass doors, [BRUTALIST SCONCES](#) and a bespoke pendant light based on one in a French bookstore in New York City.



Left: In the kitchen's dining nook, Webb and Walker placed a painting by Jean de Botton and ceramics by Dylan Bowen and Eric Roinestad. The chairs are from [GREGORIUS PINEO](#). Right: The entry's built-in bar recalls the Mill Reef Club, in Antigua, where Walker's grandparents' had a home. "Its walls, bar and seating were made entirely of old growth bamboo," she recalls. The space's "intimacy and small paintings were inspired by Dominique and John de Menil's home bar in Houston." The figurative painting at the center is by Stewart Helm.

The dining room is "embellished," as Webb puts it, with diamond-paned cabinetry, also mirrored and customized to store Walker's collections of inherited and foraged china, crystal, silver and linens. On the floor, tiled in another harlequin pattern, stands a gleaming round C-leg table "customized to the nth degree," Webb says. "We looked at sixty-five iterations of that table."

Above it hangs a silk pendant lamp, luminous at night, inspired by one in a French bookstore in Manhattan. But it's the [DESSIN FOURNIR](#) Plante dining chairs that demonstrate — if it wasn't already obvious — that she is a homeowner for whom whimsy is a virtue.

"We squealed with delight" over the yellow zebra-patterned fabric by [CLARENCE HOUSE](#), Webb says. To protect that precious fabric, they made custom slipcovers. "She was a little worried about the grandchildren," the designer notes.

In the "very Deco" living room, the shimmery tea wallpaper, salon-style gallery wall and Chinese rug suggest a gracious lifestyle. At the Walker home, Webb explains, "you're handed a drink on a hand-embroidered cocktail napkin the minute you walk in."

The condo project started out as a pied-à-terre for Walker and her husband, but she was unexpectedly widowed halfway through. Walker eventually forged on, with modifications to the original plan. The study, in particular, had been crafted as a masculine lair, with gray walls and a leather sofa, but "the memories were too tough," Webb says.



In the Deco-inspired living room, a MAPLE & CO. rolled-arm sofa that Walker's grandparents bought in London in 1939 holds pride of place. Reupholstered in green SCALAMANDRÉ velvet, it is accompanied by a pair of armchairs and a Lucite coffee table atop which sit a faux-bamboo-edged silver tray from 1stDibs and a BETTY WOODMAN Pillow vase purchased at auction. Goins painted the chimneypiece based on an ANTIQUÉ JAPANESE SCREEN in New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art. The artwork over the sofa is by Jan Mulder.

Together, Walker and Webb replaced the sofa with a chenille one and made other tweaks to the room's decor. Furnishings include a uniquely shaped wood ART DECO ARMCHAIR, a pair of rakish armchairs and a hammered-copper coffee table by New York artisan SILAS SEANDEL, all from LIZ O'BRIEN.

The shelves are lined with ceramic objects and the walls decked with AFRICAN MASKS, paintings and photographs, many from Walker's existing collection, some found at flea markets. As she remarks, "I'm a serious collector, but not that serious."



In the kitchen, a painting by Tom Jones, *Red Berries and White Flowers*, hangs over the sink, and pendant lights from ANN MORRIS hang over the island.



The guest room — designed to be a memorable place for Walker's grandchildren to stay — impresses with CHINOISERIE wallpaper from SCHUMACHER and a 20th-century black-lacquer commode from Atlanta's PARC MONCEAU ANTIQUES. The black-and-white photo over the faux-bamboo and cane chair is a portrait of Walker taken by LEN PRINCE.



In most rooms, great good cheer prevails. The blue kitchen is a sumptuous upgrade on the previous galley-style one, equipped with an abundance of storage, an Aga stove and an inviting breakfast nook whose banquette and chairs are covered in a classic stripe.

Walker wanted the guest room to be particularly lively, for her grandchildren's visits — “so they'll remember it,” she says. Accordingly, she went all in on green SCHUMACHER CHINOISERIE wallpaper, adding a pair of 18th-century commodes to serve as nightstands and a 20th-century black lacquer commode for a dresser, all from Atlanta's PARC MONCEAU ANTIQUES.

Ultimately, Webb's main role may have been that of parer down in chief. “When you have this much of a mix,” she says, referring to the wide range of periods and styles her client embraces, “the hardest thing to do is edit.” ■