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Just Right

LESS SPACE MEANS
MORE WHEN YOU
HAVE THE PERFECT FIT

By Jeanine Matlow Photos by Gene Meadows

Goldilocks might have been on to something. It's not always about downsizing, but rightsizing, at least in the world of real estate. That's the term that came from Michael Coyne's client, who moved with her husband from a spacious lakefront residence to a detached condo in Bloomfield Hills.



Designer Michael Coyne and his dog, Ann



"Although smaller, it's certainly not small," Coyne, pictured at left, says of the condo, which contains a main living area on one level, an upper-floor guest room and a lower level, all of which adds up to about 3,800 square feet.

"The main floor is really wide open. We opened it all up. It was designed for entertaining," adds Coyne, who owns Michael Coyne Design at Michigan Design Center in Troy.

As for the style, "They came from a more contemporary house, and they just wanted to soften it a bit," he says.



A cozy seating area defines another section of the main floor. The fireplace surround is custom, and the photograph was taken by the homeowner and reproduced by a local artist.

Art Smart The newly renovated entry boasts floating stairs that lend architectural interest and an impressive introduction to the sophisticated space.

Reproduction fern studies line one wall, while another highlights an installation of 120 silver-leaf ceramic cups that form a sculpture above a console with a mirrored back. Walnut floors appear throughout.

All Together Now A custom backlit built-in in the main living

area complements the dark walnut woodwork on the island in the adjoining kitchen.

Stylish swivel chairs that surround a custom tray and ottoman work just as well for conversation as they do for watching TV. "They really make so much sense," Coyne says. "This makes it less theaterlike."

The polar bear art belonged to the homeowners, who bought it during their travels.

A New Zealand lambswool rug covers a portion of the wood floors.

Reflections Another section of the main area consists of a cozy seating area positioned around a fireplace with a custom surround.

The leather chairs and glass-topped coffee table came from the couple's previous home.

A sofa upholstered in off-white, nubby cotton completes the grouping.

The photo above the fireplace was taken by the wife and reproduced by a local artist.

Another wall features a series of

French antique mirrors. The Pratt & Lambert Phantom paint on the walls was altered slightly for a lighter hue.

Reflections can be seen throughout the home.

"Reflections are a really great tool. Mirrors and glass give it a richer look with more dimension," Coyne says.

Classic Touch White, beveled subway tile and white cabinets give the kitchen a fresh look.

The island is topped with granite that mimics marble from Ciot in Troy.

"It's so cool, with great veining," Coyne says. "It has the same effect, but it's more cost-effective and more durable."

Woven rattan chairs are paired with a glass-topped table. Coyne



A combination of linen, cashmere and silk fabrics lends a luxurious look to the master bedroom, where silk pillows and bedding wear cashmere trim. The custom headboard is covered in flax-colored linen.



A custom backlit built-in made from dark walnut houses the TV in the main area of the home. Swivel chairs form a conversation pit while offering flexible maneuvering for watching television.

describes the light fixture that hangs above as a modern interpretation of a lantern. A clock that was assembled on the wall is reflected in the tabletop.

Across the room, an oil painting is displayed above a custom buffet covered in the same granite as the kitchen island.

The hardware makes a dramatic statement. All of the custom cabinetry is from Bella Cucina in Sylvan Lake.

Let It Shine Egg studies appear in the

powder room, where a hammered-nickel sink was installed in a demilune table.

"The crystal knobs are like earrings.

"It's a really pretty little jewel of a room," Coyne says.

The wallpaper is linen, and the sconces are polished nickel.

Creature Comforts "They took all of their creature comforts from their other house.

"They knew what they couldn't live without, they had to reproduce,"

Coyne says.

That included a dumbwaiter that goes from the main floor to the lower level kitchen, and his-and-hers master closets and bathrooms.

"That may be the secret to their marriage. Her bathroom is bigger. They arm wrestled for who got the bigger one," Coyne jokingly says.

Covering the bench in her bath with terrycloth was no easy task.

"Five years ago, there was enough terrycloth for everybody. No one sells it anymore," says Coyne, who took a suggestion to use towels



Circles appear in the art and accessories, adding another level of interest to the already lovely setting.



The custom buffet is topped with granite and accented with dazzling hardware. Woven rattan chairs surround the table. The light fixture is a modern interpretation of a lantern.

instead. A modern nude hangs above the bench.

Lasting Impression The process was just as much fun as the project.

"We all really enjoyed it from start to finish. That doesn't happen all the time," Coyne says about his clients, who came to him as a referral. "We didn't know each other before, but we'll be friends for a long time." □

A demilune holds a hammered-nickel sink in the powder room, where egg prints accent the custom linen wallpaper.

