



## FRAME OF REFERENCE

WRITTEN BY LISA SELIN DAVIS  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY TONY SOLURI

MICHAEL ROSENBERG AND LEONARD KOWALSKI'S CLIENT HAS LONG BEEN A LOVER OF FINE ART. Picassos and Campanellis grace the walls of the six homes the trio has worked on together, in places like Park Avenue and Southampton. But then the client, a philanthropist and mother of two grown children, walked into what would become her next home; a 3,200-square-foot unit in Chicago's 129 Art Deco, Holabird & Root-designed Palmolive building. It was clear that the most stellar work of art here wouldn't lie inside a gilded frame, but rather a window frame—Lake Michigan stretches out beyond the glass for miles from the apartment's 17th-floor perch. "The most spectacular part of the apartment is the views," says Kowalski, a partner at Manhattan-based Michael Rosenberg & Associates. "What our client wanted most was for us to emphasize and respect those views."

It was easy for interior designers Kowalski and Rosenberg to interpret her desires and translate them into the tailored and eclectic look they'd honed in their 25-year relationship with her. But this project was different from previous collaborations. Every space they'd worked on together was already built out, its bones laid. This building, in the process of being converted from office to residential by Chicago developer Draper and Kramer, was raw; a blank canvas, if you will. "We were allowed to totally recreate it," says Rosenberg, principal and partner of his namesake firm.

The plans drawn up by the architecture firm handling the conversion, Chicago's Booth Hansen, called for a four-bedroom apartment, but Rosenberg, Kowalski and their client felt this layout would de-emphasize the views, and relegate them to a room where people went primarily to close their eyes. So, "they scrapped the floor plan and really put their own stamp on it," says Joe Sperti, one of the architects who headed the project's design team for Booth Hansen.

INTERIOR DESIGN	Michael Rosenberg and Leonard Kowalski, Michael Rosenberg & Associates, Inc.
ARCHITECTURE	Joe Sperti, Booth Hansen
BEDROOMS	2
BATHROOMS	4
SQUARE FEET	3,200



### STYLE SELECTION

A Bagues-style chandelier complements the dining room with its elegant, floral-cut crystals attached to a silver leaf-finished frame. *Lily Grande*; price available upon request, [chameleon59.com](http://chameleon59.com)