



WEB-EXCLUSIVE HOME TOUR

A Masculine San Francisco Home with Polish and Personality

Designer Kendall Wilkinson infuses a new home with warmth, character, and ease

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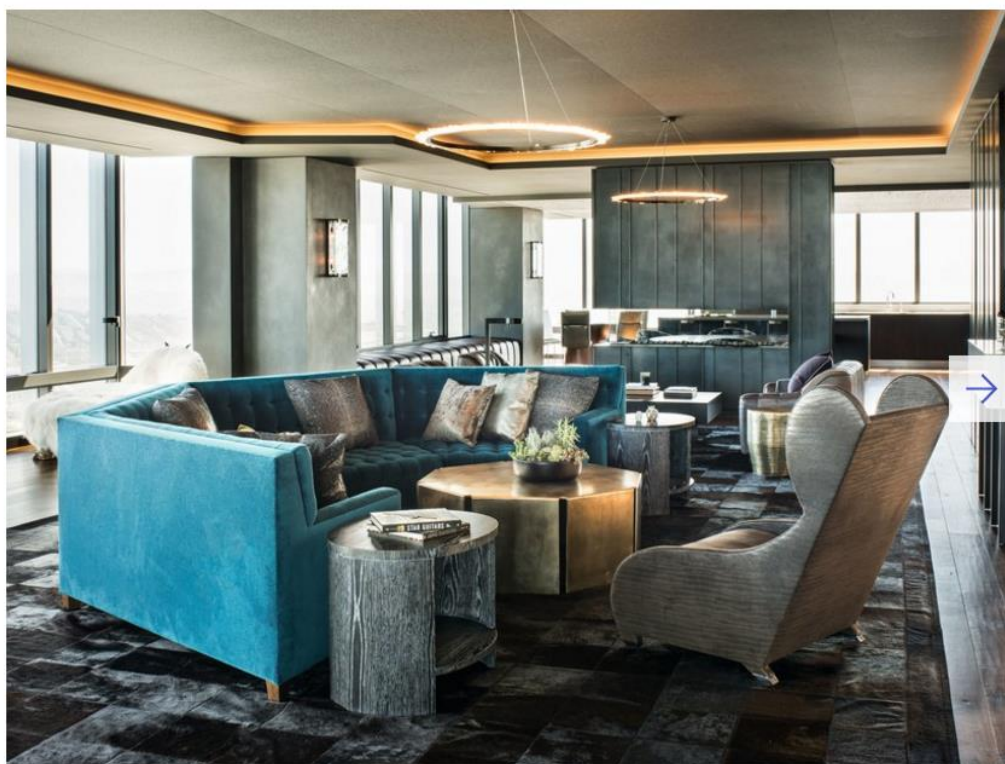
When it came to envisioning a contemporary open-plan apartment for an entrepreneur in San Francisco's South of Market neighborhood, designer [Kendall Wilkinson](#) knew that the key to success was all about creating a multifunctional space. Her client needed a versatile home where he could [entertain](#) employees and family, recharge after a chaotic business trip, and jam out with his musician friends. "The style is one of juxtaposition—glamorous but very livable, modern but with vintage pieces, intimate but with expansive views," says Wilkinson of the penthouse in its current state.

Staying true to her goal of glamorous utility, Wilkinson designed the spare room to function as both a guest room (a Murphy bed pops out of the cerulean wall) and an all-purpose media lounge. “We wanted the room to feel like a library, where the homeowner might keep treasures from travels acquired over time,” says Wilkinson. In contrast, the client’s master bedroom provides a singular sense of ease and relaxation, with the raised bed creating a nestlike retreat while also accommodating immovable ductwork. While the overall space is meticulously elegant, surprises abound. A bar sink echoes the shape of the bay, and an oversize concrete tub in the master bath gives the playful illusion of floating over the skyline—two signs of a multipurpose home that brims with both polish and personality.

But it wasn’t always so. The designer enlisted [Geddes Ulinskas Architects](#) and contractor [Ryan Associates](#) to help her transform the empty 5,100-square-foot shell in a newly constructed building into a warm and dramatic home with an effortless sense of flow. Custom-made elements serve multiple needs: A freestanding glass-and-bronze fireplace was installed to anchor the open space and separate the dining and living areas, and a leather banquette in the living room was designed to conceal a low cement wall. Once the renovations were complete, Wilkinson further encouraged the space’s seamless transitions with a masculine palette of moody blues and grays inspired by the ever-changing hues of San Francisco Bay. Statement light fixtures—from the sleek pendants in the kitchen to the tubular chandelier in the dining room—draw the eye toward an unexpected mix of wallpapered and painted ceilings.

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For a newly constructed 5,100-square-foot penthouse in downtown San Francisco, Kendall Wilkinson created a multipurpose living space that capitalizes on the stunning views of the skyline. A custom-made sofa by KWD and an Italian wingback club chair from David Deatherage Design add drama to the masculine space, as does the Haas Brothers chair in the background.