

In the living room, LeBlanc used Sandra Jordan drapery to soften the rough corners.



HARBORSIDE HIDEAWAY

One couple watched their dream
downtown pied-a-terre reveal
itself, detail by detail, into an oasis
of understated elegance.

By Madison Duddy
Photographed by Read McKendree



The striking kitchen island perfectly complements Vanguard stools, wrapped in Nobilis fabric.



The Project

After holding a two-bedroom pied-a-terre in the Residences at The InterContinental (ihg.com), one couple took on a three-bedroom harborside apartment with plans for a complete makeover. With free rein to design a modern, transitional space, Tiffany LeBlanc of LeBlanc Design (leblancdesign.com) brought the dated home back to life with clean lines and comfortable, chic finishes.

The Clients

With stylish clients, LeBlanc's stunning and contemporary secondary home was not far behind. "They were looking for more of a downtown-feeling home, something that didn't feel like their family house where they raised their kids," explains LeBlanc of the couple, whose main residence is in the suburbs. "They were looking for something that was a little more contemporary."

The Goals

"What they realized is that the unit was in desperate need of a full renovation," the designer says of the roughly 16-year-old unit. With a blank canvas, the clients desired to create a more laid-back urban oasis for when they were in the city while including elements that would accommodate guests. "It's mostly for them and their family when the kids come to visit," she says. "We did things like a family sectional for watching TV, looking at the view. We weren't looking for any type of formal environment," she adds.

The Challenges

With the renovations beginning just before the pandemic in winter 2020, LeBlanc and her team were met with significant challenges throughout the project that went beyond supply chain issues. "There were questions of whether or not the building





Light-colored Milo Baughman chairs juxtapose the dark buffet.

would allow people to come and work,” she says. “There were questions about people getting COVID-19. But ultimately, the contractor on the project was fantastic and just managed everything as well as possible.”

Details, Details

Overlooking the Boston Harbor, and just off the Greenway, this 2,670-square-foot city retreat was the ideal fit for LeBlanc’s new clients, who love being by the water. Between three bedrooms and 3 ½ bathrooms, the designers particularly had fun with the main living room. Here, floor-to-ceiling windows provide sweeping views, which of course they did not want to draw eyes away from. “There’s lots of neutrals with a couple of color pops,” she notes. “Part of it was trying to let the view speak for itself and be this pretty moment.” Venetian plaster adds an element of sophistication and texture in a matte finish, while a yellow, yarn ball-esque cushion from Design Within Reach (dwr.com) brings fun detail to the neutral space. “We wanted some playfulness, and the pod can move around the room. It doesn’t have to be so stationary,” LeBlanc explains. Otherwise, the area is mainly filled with durable, clean-lined Italian furniture that accommodates the family’s lifestyle. A cozy, warm gray sectional sofa from

B&B Italia (bebitalia.com) welcomes movie nights or elevated cocktail parties around the Troscan Design (troscandesign.com) coffee table. Adjacent to the living area sits an understated yet elegant dining space with a neutral-stained, custom wet bar and dark wood buffet from Hellman-Chang (hellman-chang.com). “I personally love spaces like this that are really resolved and have beautiful finishes but don’t look like they’re trying to be the belle of the ball,” LeBlanc explains. “To me, that is the ultimate sophistication, that you’re not actually trying to be sophisticated but it’s reading and coming through.” Past the dining area, a quaint kitchen awaits, but the design team did not let its size stop them from creating a wow-factor moment. Surrounded by soft gray cerused-finished cabinets, integrated appliances and neutral Vanguard Furniture (vanguardfurniture.com) stools, a deep blue semiprecious stone waterfall island amazes. “The stone for us was going to be the crown



The chic guest bedroom is adorned with Phillip Jeffries wallpaper and Palmer Hargrave sconces.



jewel in the kitchen,” LeBlanc says. “It’s blue and backlit, so they can, if they’re having a party, illuminate in different colors, which adds a playfulness.” However, the home’s true retreat is the primary suite—clean finishes and integrated details make this space a relaxing sanctuary for the clients’ busy lifestyle. The custom headboard, light fixtures and side tables are one piece, creating a clean and more spacious look. This aesthetic flows perfectly into the en suite, which features the same millwork. “For me, a lot of design revolves around the user experience, what you feel leaving one space and transitioning to another, what does that feel like, are they connected, do I feel like I just got whiplash?” LeBlanc says. “We really wanted this space to feel like an extension of the bedroom and luxurious when the doors are open to one another..” To further elevate the space, full Calacatta marble slab walls line the shower, organically depicting a heart detail—just another piece of the unit’s puzzle that naturally came to fruition.

From top: Phillip Jeffries wallpaper lines the powder room; the office, which can serve as a third bedroom, holds a Resource Furniture Murphy bed and sofa for additional guests.





Outcome

Once the pied-a-terre was finished in summer 2021, the clients were blown away. “We couldn’t believe that it belonged to us,” says one of the homeowners. They not only loved the space but were inspired by it, and continued to find small details to complete the home after the project wrapped up. “In the end, some of the finishing touches really were their own,” LeBlanc shares. “They would say, ‘We found this great thing. We’re so excited to share it with you, Tiffany.’ And that’s all part of the process and part of the fun.” ■

DESIGN DETAILS

TYPE

Single-family home

INTERIOR DESIGNER

Tiffany LeBlanc,
LeBlanc Design
leblancdesign.com

INTERIOR

ARCHITECTURE

A+SL Studios Inc.
aslstudios.com

BUILDER

The Lagassé Group
thelagassegroup.com

LIGHTING

Horton Lees Brogden
Lighting Design
hlblighting.com

RESOURCES

B&B ITALIA

Sectional sofa and
console table,
living room
bebitalia.com

KYLE BUNTING

Rug, living room and
entryway
kylebunting.com

PHILLIP JEFFRIES

Wallpaper, powder room
and guest bedroom
phillipjeffries.com

PIETRA VIVA

Venetian Plaster, living
room
pietravivaitaly.com

ROMO

Lounge chair and
ottoman fabric, office;
drapery, guest bedroom
romo.com