

Starting over: Couple selects new furnishings to suit their luxury condo and city lifestyle

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Some people don't feel settled after a move until they've unpacked their boxes and feathered their new nest with familiar old treasures. But when Karen Jawl, 24, and Stacy Kuiack, 34, sold their home, they sold most of their furnishings to the buyers as well. The bulk of the furniture had been acquired by Kuiack, so the couple jumped at the chance to create a fresh home environment together in their new condo.

"It was a lot of fun to go through furniture stores and choose whatever we liked without worrying whether it would match up with the old stuff," says Jawl, "until we looked at the price tags!"

Jawl works in her family's development business, Jawl Holdings, as a marketing representative, but describes herself more as a jack-of-all-trades. Kuiack is a partner in Coastal Construction.

They moved into the Jawl family's Sayward Hill condo development overlooking the Ridge golf course and Haro Strait.

It's a spacious home, incorporating 3,000 square feet over three levels, and including three bedrooms and three full bathrooms plus a powder room.

The building sweeps in a gentle curve, resulting in a canted interior that widens toward the ocean, an effect that drinks in the dreamy views.

"There's a 1.3-degree grade on the exterior walls, so that got a little tricky on the custom built-ins," says Kuiack.

Not that custom-design was going to be a problem. Kuiack and partner Brad Johnson run their own in-house shop and



CREDIT: Debra Brash, Times Colonist
Sitting Pretty -- Stacy Kuiack and Karen Jawl have created a cosy sitting area for after-dinner relaxation.



CREDIT: Debra Brash, Times Colonist
Sweeping Statement -- the architect of the Sayward Hill condo development uses gentle curves to give the facade some eye-catching charm.



were able to bring their crew on-site to tailor modifications to fit.

Working from original design plans from Kimberly Williams Interiors, the pair brought in Coastal Construction's interior designer Adriana Sharoun for some tweaking.

Sharoun created a sophisticated, tranquil retreat by employing crisp lines, rich espresso leathers and oyster white ultrasuedes.

The dark and light pieces play off the burnished teak hardwood floors, while the walls are painted in sympathetic oyster and clamshell hues, with the spaces transitioning gently with angled wall cuts and dropped ceilings.

The living room, dining room, kitchen and media centre stretch out in one open space, where light spills in from the ocean views on the northeast side and a wall of greenery from the southwest slope.

A peninsula set with a raised maple bar invites guests to mill freely between the entertainment area and kitchen. Sharoun called an expanse of wall into service by lining it with a narrow pantry to add invisible storage space to the kitchen.

Dusky gold, coffee bean and sienna tones mix in the speckled granite-topped island that encourages more informal gatherings with an under-counter bar stocked with shinto bar stools.

Stainless steel appliances and hardware notch up the urban feel of the space.

The backsplash sizzles with a mosaic of russet-hued slate tiles that enhance the American walnut-stained cherry cabinets.

"The backsplash was a mistake," says Jawl. "I guess the installer didn't read the materials sheet closely enough, but it turned out to be a good thing. [The backsplash] was supposed to be black, but when it was all done, I realized that would have been too dark."

A glazed door opens to a zen-like garden patio furnished simply in teak.

The powder room manages to exude luxury with a slate feature wall, open maple vanity and simple white vessel sink.

The subterranean level serves as Kuiack's "boys' room," complete with pool table, distressed cowhide furnishings and a mini-wet bar. A hall leads to a garage that opens not to the outdoors as one might expect, but to an underground parkade.

"One thing my family didn't want when they were building this place was to have all the design features overwhelmed by huge garage doors. That really takes away from the esthetics," says Jawl.

The top storey features an expansive master bedroom suite with a seating area overlooking the golf course and water, furnished simply with one Le Corbusier lounge in chrome and black leather.

A flat wall in the bed space was built up into a horseshoe alcove flanked with

CREDIT: Debra Brash, Times Colonist

Now We're Cooking -- and this spacious kitchen is a great work space to whip up a feast. The stools drawn up to the island provide a handy spot to sip a tea while perusing the cookbook.



CREDIT: Debra Brash, Times Colonist

Having a Ball -- shooting a little pool or just taking it easy in the downstairs rec room.

chunky birch extended shelves.

Jawl issues a lighthearted warning before she shows off Kuiack's library/study.

"He's organized all his books according to colour," she says with a good-natured roll of the eyes. And sure enough, the bookshelves in the meticulously organized study are filled with blue books in one section, orange in another, and white in yet another.

"We had to stop buying white-covered books 'cause Stacy was out of space," laughs Jawl.

Kuiack grins. "Mock me, I can take it."

"Even in print," I ask.

"My friends would love it. Go for it."