



HIGH *on* LIFE

A North Shore couple shoots for the stars when they settle into the city.

BY **THOMAS CONNORS**

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Art Deco-inspired furnishings seem to float in the roomy, high-ceiling master bedroom, where the expanse of windows offers unparalleled city views.



A commodious curved sofa and a Renée Gaddis-designed coffee table of blue-stained wood and steel anchor the living room.

With the kids grown and life looking easy, plenty of folks spring for a *pied-à-terre*, that perfect spot to hang their hats in town. But longtime Lake Forest residents George and Carolyn McLaughlin went one better. Make that two better. Always up for an adventure, the couple not only sold their Lake Road home and settled into The Legacy—one of the sparkling new residential towers that are transforming the Chicago skyline—they took the top floor unit, 72 stories above the street. Talk about pulling up stakes.

Enveloped in windows that offer unobstructed views of the city and sleekly contemporary, the McLaughlins' expansive aerie is a far cry from the house they once called "home." "Our Lake Forest décor was more traditional," says Carolyn. "We loved it and loved every minute we were there, but as you get

Marina City, Trump International, and the IBM Building are just a few of the landmarks visible from this cozy dining nook in the kitchen.

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older, you start to think of how to get rid of stuff. And when we moved downtown, I knew that what we had in Lake Forest would not work. We decided if we were going to embrace the city, we might as well embrace it fully. So we sold almost everything and purchased new furniture.”

Working with Florida-based interior designer Renée Gaddis, the couple sought out high-design furnishings and eye-catching appointments to give the spectacularly situated residence a fittingly chic yet comfortable ambience. George, an avid cook, was particularly involved in fleshing out the sleek kitchen, with its sculptural, quartzite-clad island. Carolyn, a veteran with real estate powerhouse Prudential Rubloff, brought an eye for fabrics, colors, and artwork.

Of course, outfitting a new home is a snap compared to leaving a community you have lived in for 27 years. “You worry about making friends,” admits Carolyn. “But one of the things we have enjoyed about The Legacy is that once a month, there’s a Friday night social, so we have met quite a few people right in the building. One couple we’ve met even has a condo in the same building we do in Florida.”

The Legacy is home to a wide range of individuals—from college students lucky enough to have Mom and Dad spring for a unit—to retirees and professionals from Europe, Asia, and Australia. And, as George notes, North Shore chums have not been shy about visiting. “Many of the close friends we made over the years have been very excited about our move to the city. We even had quite a few come down when we were still in construction.”

Located kitty-corner from the Art Institute and overlooking Millennium Park, the McLaughlins’ new home expresses their determination to experience the city in a way that makes sense to them. “People get the impression you’d only want to live on the Gold Coast,” suggests Carolyn, “but we have seven grandchildren, and with Millennium Park, access to sports events, museums, and the theater, this area is great for us.” And it doesn’t hurt that their condominium has some of the sweetest views to be had in the city.



Homeowner George McLaughlin sourced the Italian, gold-leafed console to serve as a powder room vanity.

“We lived across from the lake in Lake Forest and having a view of the water was a primary goal,” relates Carolyn. “And this far exceeded our expectations.”

“Both of us are quite adventurous and have been all of our 40-plus years of marriage,” says George. “We travel quite a bit, we like change, we enjoy challenges. And making this move has been a lot of fun. Planning the construction was a lot of fun. Selecting furniture and lighting was fun.” Of course, that’s nothing compared to the joy of seeing friends gathered around the island in their new kitchen, making excursions with the grandchildren, or watching the rising sun awaken the steely waters of Lake Michigan. Life at the top is good. ■



Sharp as a machine yet made for entertaining, the light-filled kitchen features a durable, quartzite island and a bloom-like, ceramic pendant handmade by New Zealand artist Jeremy Cole.

SOURCEBOOK

Interior Designer: Renée Gaddis, Renée Gaddis Interiors, 239-431-8352, reeneegaddis.com

MASTER BEDROOM

Chandelier: Baccarat, us.baccarat.com

Bed: customized by Marge Carson, margecarson.com

Chairs: Swaim, swaim-inc.com

Console: Christopher Guy, christopherguy.com

Rug: Niba, nibarugs.com

Bedding: Ann Gish, anngish.com

KITCHEN

Barstools: Century Furniture, centuryfurniture.com

Lighting fixture: Jeremy Cole, jeremycollection.net

LIVING ROOM

Chests: Baker Furniture, bakerfurniture.com

Sofa: De Sede from Mobili Möbel, 220 W. Erie Street in Chicago, 312-337-3444, mobilimobel.com

Sofa pillow fabric: Donghia, donghia.com

Cocktail table: custom by Renée Gaddis

Rug: Niba, nibarugs.com

Dining table: Bausman & Company, bausmanandcompany.com

Dining chairs: Marge Carson, margecarson.com

Artwork: Sheldon Fine Art, sheldondfineart.com

BREAKFAST NOOK

Banquette: nuHaus, nuhaus.com

Light fixture: Jeremy Cole, jeremycollection.net

Table base: Julian Chichester, julianchichester.com

Table top: CBD Glass Studio, cbdglass.com

POWDER ROOM

Mirror: Christopher Guy, christopherguy.com

Sink and faucet: Kohler, kohler.com

Sconces and vanity: Nella Vetrina, nellavetrina.com