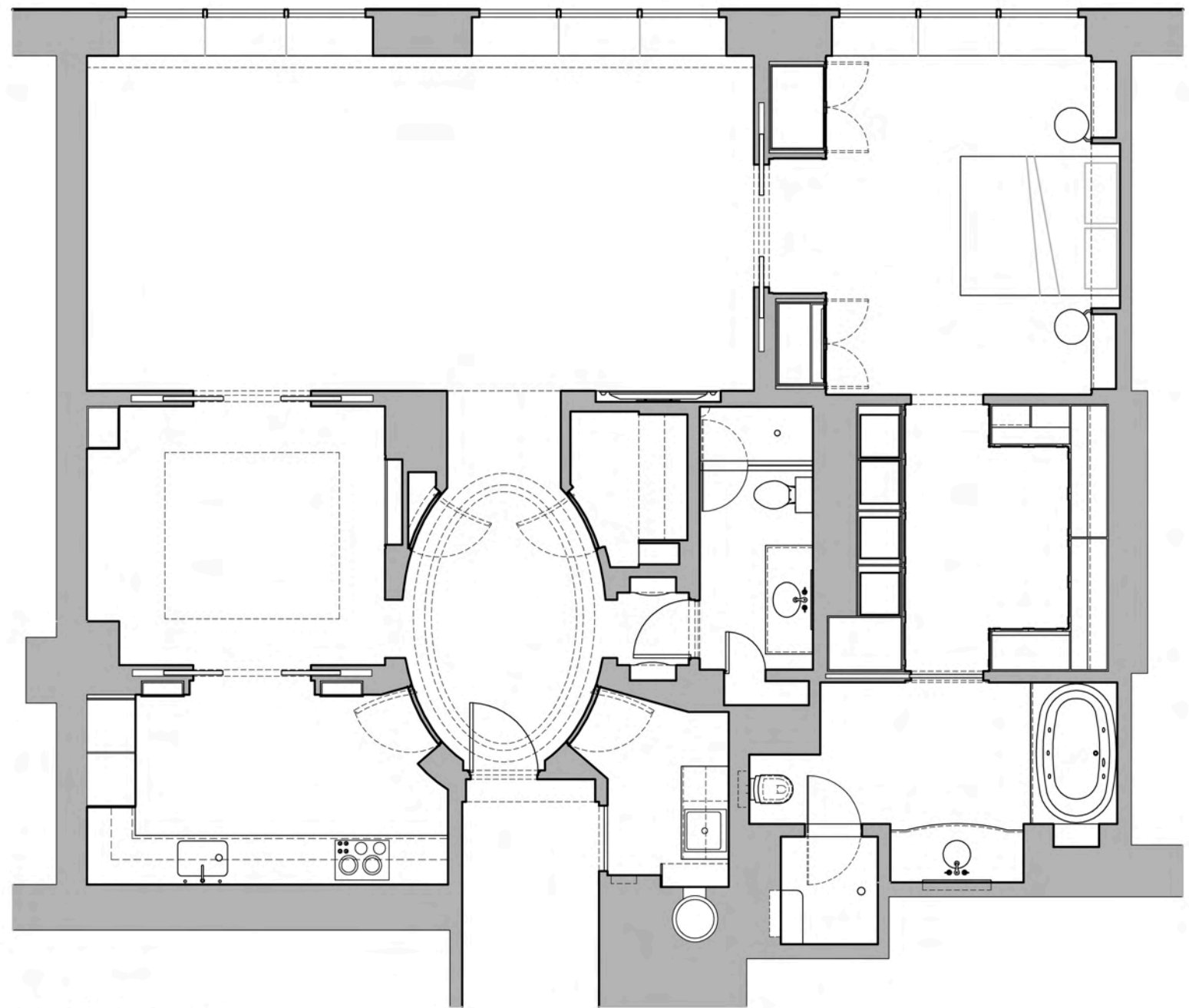


# Shelter



FLOOR PLAN



TEXT: JENNIFER LEA REED PHOTOGRAPHY: NATHAN KIRKMAN

# gentleman's ADDRESS

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A Dale Carol Anderson design evokes traditional masculinity  
with rich details that, while deliberate,  
cleverly avoid seeming contrived





*I*f clothes can make a man, what are the possibilities for an entire apartment?

Chicago designer Dale Carol Anderson was ready to find out when she took on this interior, expected to be the ultimate reflection of its owner's sense of style and sociability. In its favor, the 1,600-square-foot apartment, inside a 1970s downtown Chicago high-rise that loomed 70 stories above ground, had dazzling Lake Michigan views to match. However, the prior owner had been the first, and nary a paint chip had changed since she moved in some 30 years ago. "This was a tired, pink warren of tiny, tiny, little rooms in a two-bedroom apartment," Anderson says. "We knew this would be a total gut job, which often is easier anyway."

For the new and current owner, who has very traditional taste but an elevated appreciation of interesting fine textiles and finishes, the crux of the design had to be large-scale living that was both warm and welcoming, while firmly establishing the residence's identity as that of a mature man who values being single. Working in concert with architect Mark Trudeau, Anderson's approach was to employ her signature method of layering—the skillful integration and interplay of all elements in a room—while molding the space to reflect masculinity and privacy.

Now reconfigured into a more generous one bedroom, the client has space for the details he values: a proper dressing room, an area for playing cards and a small functional kitchen destined for caterers. In her design, Anderson focused on traditional lines and concepts that appealed to the client's aesthetic sensibilities, but with contemporary overtones. "For example, the detailing on the kitchen cabinetry is fairly traditional, but we treated it with a high-gloss, claret-toned lacquer, which is not traditional," she explains. Then there's the mix of the modern painting in the living room over the sofa, which is an updated Chesterfield covered in paisley chenille. In the bedroom, pillows are accented with a traditional, embroidered design. "Also in the bedroom, I designed a bronze swing-arm table next to the bed for a cup of coffee, or a drink and a book. This is all very traditional styling, but it's translated through contemporary treatment."

Using a few basic details throughout, such as a wall treatment in Bordeaux-hued cashmere, bleached walnut flooring and aged pine paneling, each room, nonetheless, contains its own tweak that separates the space and provides visual interest. The tactic is particularly apparent







in the foyer, where the tone is a departure from the unmistakably modern architecture of the building itself. Lined in limestone and illuminated with outdoor light fixtures, the oval entry evokes an ancient courtyard and serves as the perfect transition from the public world outside to the private sanctuary inside. "The oval shape really gives the apartment a sense of its own architecture," she says. "When hit on that, the rest of the design fell into place."

## "it's a masculine interior, but not rigid"

Granted the opportunity to start completely from scratch (save for a zebra rug that adds a little zip to the stately master bath), Anderson chose furnishings, textiles and treatments that amplified her client's taste. "He loves reds, so I chose deep wine-red cashmere for the walls, and from there all the tones worked from that," she says. The four ostrich leather chairs surrounding an antique Regency rosewood pedestal table are perfect for card playing and have a green-yellow cast, and the table carries a collection of Peking glass vases when not in use. "It's a masculine interior, but not rigid," Anderson says. "This represents a comfort level of having no fear. Nothing is by chance, but it shouldn't look like it's tricked out and controlled. It should be fun and warm and inviting, like the client."

And nowhere is this comprehensive design more evident than in the owner's private quarters. Beginning with the bed, with its crocodile leather headboard and flame mahogany frame, also designed by Anderson, each element establishes a visual tone that speaks to one-of-a-kind luxury. Even the pillow embroidery is custom work, with the threads chosen in New York.

In its integrated perfection, the apartment is a huge departure from the client's former homes, but reflects what he wanted all along. "It's certainly the most pulled together of all his residences," Anderson says. "It's a little jewel box, where every detail is special and wonderful" ■

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