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VIEW FROM THE TOP

INTERIOR
DESIGNER BRUCE
BIERMAN WHIPS UP
A DREAM SPACE FOR
ART IN A HIGH-
FLYING BILTMORE
APARTMENT

While the idea of living in a tower, especially an ivory one, may conjure images of isolation and impracticality, the Biltmore condominium residence of Paul Rothman and Geraldine Rosen dispels that notion, and then some. Set in one of the famed edifice's two original towers, the apartment sits above the penthouse and is a serene oasis where the couple revels in 360-degree views, an impeccably designed environment by Bruce Bierman and a stellar modern art collection. ■ Though compelling to the current owners when they first saw it, the apartment was in disrepair. It was clear it had to be gutted. Bierman called the original look "faux Versailles," yet he saw potential. "The space was destined for each room to have great proportions," he says. ■ For Rothman, the priority was how his art collection would

BY DONNA PAUL | PHOTOGRAPHS BY KIM SARGENT



White Light | Interior designer Bruce Bierman created a seamless transition between the living room (PREVIOUS SPREAD LEFT), boasting crisp furniture like the Mansfield Sofa from J. Robert Scott, and the terrace, outfitted in Sutherland Teak furniture. **One And Only** | Bierman redesigned the space (OPPOSITE) as an expansive one-bedroom apartment. The club chair is upholstered in a chenille from Glant. A Lee Jofa wool sheer catches a breeze. **Bathing Beauty** | An Art Deco sconce (TOP) from Jean Karajian brightens the master bathroom and the muted palette frames the art. **Wood Works** | A desk chair (ABOVE) from J. Robert Scott is in a bleached sycamore, the only type of wood used throughout the apartment. See Resources.







work within Bierman's redesign. For Rosen, it was simpler. "We didn't want an opulent apartment, just a beautiful one," she says. Bierman addressed both requests. Now an expansive, 1,500-square-foot one-bedroom, the new space is cohesive, with each room flowing into the other, a result of a tone-on-tone palette.

"With Paul's passion about his artwork, it was a given that the furniture be subtle and understated," Bierman explains. Sumptuous linen, silk, wool, chenille and leather range in shades from creamy white to muted beige. Upholstered pieces, such as a vintage 1970s Karl Springer parchment buffet and dining table, blend with Bierman's tonal scheme.

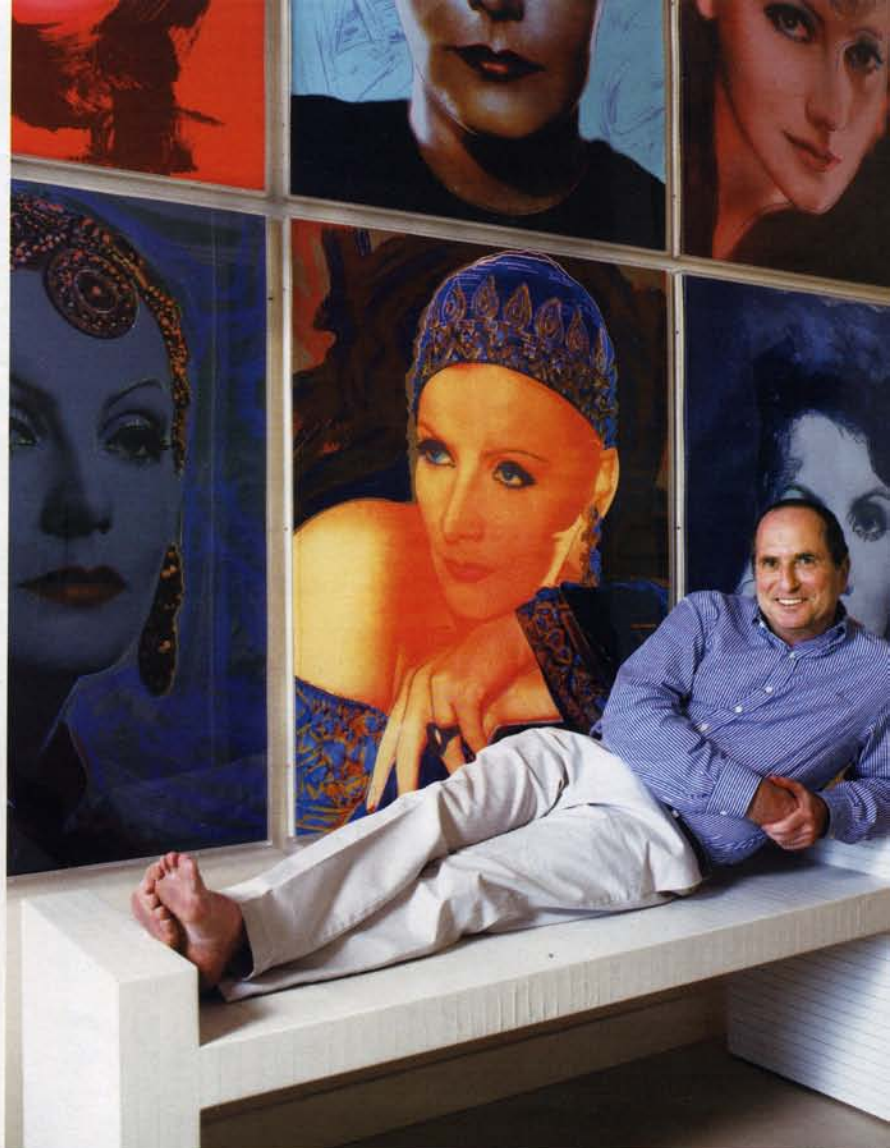
Splashes of color come courtesy of Picasso, Warhol, Fernand Léger, Alex Katz and Robert Indiana—and, of course, the view. The apartment has one of the highest vantage points in Palm Beach. A 600-square-foot terrace becomes another room when floor-to-ceiling glass doors are opened and slid into a pocket in the living room wall.

While the square footage is not excessive, the high ceilings—18 feet in the living room, 12 feet in all others—imbue the space with grand proportions. "The ceiling is so high that allowing it to appear detached makes it more ethereal," the designer explains. The technique also gave space for cove lighting.

To work within such a clean framework required strict attention to detail. Bierman made deliberate choices to achieve his signature minimalism: streamlined, but never cold or lifeless. Opting for kitchen cabinetry without hardware, for example, is the kind of couture craftsmanship for which Bierman is known. He designed a simple reveal that provides the same function as a door pull, but is expressed as a sleek, elegant detail.

There is a palpable atmosphere of tranquility here, due in part to the rich, subtle hues of Bierman's palette commingling with the Florida sunlight. It makes the space feel profoundly harmonious.

Rothman remembers having a dream about another apartment a few months before finding the tower space. It looked almost exactly like this one. "I wanted that apartment, it was so perfect and beautiful," he says, adding, "but, for me, this is it." 🌟



Soup's On | The kitchen (OPPOSITE) is an appropriate place to show off a pair of soup cans by Andy Warhol. The floors in the kitchen (and throughout) are limestone. The cabinetry has no hardware, a minimalist detail that complements a sleek Gaggenau cooktop and a Miele stainless steel hood. **Icons Of Class** | Designer Bierman (TOP RIGHT) reclines on a white leather Karl Springer bench from Palumbo. The prints of Greta Garbo were made by Warhol's printer in one of the artist's own designs. **All Set** | Dishes from Capri (RIGHT) set a table by Sutherland Teak from Holly Hunt. See Resources.