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A Welsh dresser stands in the bright yellow entry hall of the Bulkleys' Cheesman park condo. *Opposite:* The hallway makes an easy transition into the salmon-hued living room; the deep blue-painted study reflects the couple's interests. *Resources*, p. 156.

PARK Place



A Cheesman Park condo has a monopoly on style and elegance

By Elizabeth Train Photography by Linda Hanselman

A RED DOOR LEADS INTO MARILYN AND JACK BULKLEY'S FIFTH-STORY CONDOMINIUM OVERLOOKING DENVER'S CHEESMAN PARK. THE VIBRANT PORTAL HINTS AT MARILYN'S PENCHANT FOR COLOR—beginning with the entry hall, which blazes a dazzling canary yellow. "I love to use color because I think it really makes a space more dramatic and exciting," interior designer Marilyn says.

The narrow hallway's white molding and rich wood floors balance the color beautifully, leaving the shade intense, but not overwhelming. "This was a hard color to find," Marilyn recalls. The couple tried 15 samples on the wall and tolerated a few skeptical painters before choosing the perfect yellow hue for the hallway walls.

The Bulkleys were seeking a change of pace when they moved from their house in Cherry Hills to their condominium two years ago. "We wanted to be closer to things," Marilyn says. And, while they are nearer to the lights and sounds of central Denver, their proximity to the park provides a quiet neighborhood feel and gives their dog Max a place to romp.





The Bulkleys knocked out partitioning walls to make a continuous space from the living room to the dining room, creating a perfect venue for large parties and a place for serious lounging in the summertime. The gracious terrace, which is nine feet deep and stretches 70 feet down the length of the condominium, was a main selling point, as the Bulkleys love the out-of-doors. Sliding glass doors allow the outdoors to blend with the interior during fair months, and invite sunlight to stream in during the winter months. The patio has become a central element of their living space and is a focal point for the south-facing rooms. Striped awnings and spectacular views of Cheesman Park and Pike's Peak give the condo a lofty penthouse feel. Innovative mirrored walls at both ends of the patio allow for sunrise and sunset views from virtually all points indoors.

The elegant, comfortable living room blends traditional formality with hints of contemporary sophistication. A sofa and chairs upholstered in an orange-gold damask surround a stunning *faux* marble mantel. A glass-topped coffee table holds a sculpture by Denver's Kenn Bunn—whose bronze antelope is featured at the Denver Zoo—and provides a breath of present-day amidst collections from the couple's past. Mounted horseman lamps from the Ming Dynasty shed light on antique tables, while family portraits, a Ramone Kelley pastel of a dancer, and a pair of restful 17th-century cows grace the rich salmon walls that enhance the room's warmth while holding together a multitude of sunny hues.

Marilyn's own needlepoint tiger pillows glare from their seats on an orange print-upholstered sofa. "So many people are afraid of color," Marilyn notes, "but nothing is permanent. If you don't like it, change it," she says.

Left: Oriental rugs cover gleaming hardwood floors, while orange-and-gold damask-covered sofa and chairs flank a *faux* marble mantel, blending perfectly with the orange walls of the living room. A glass-topped coffee table holds a sculpture by Denver artist Kenn Bunn, sharing the room with formal Ming Dynasty lamps and antique tables. *Above:* Needlepoint tiger pillows sewn by Marilyn adorn a patterned love seat in a windowed corner. "So many people are afraid of color," says Marilyn, "but...if you don't like it, change it."



A 19th-century Chinese Coromandel screen subtly separates the living and dining rooms. Marilyn mirrored the existing built-in cabinets and drawers at one end of the dining room to create a more formal space, to amplify the light, and to hide china, silver, and the sound system, leaving the dining room handsome and uncluttered. The mirror at the east end of the patio provides diners with a sunset view.

Marilyn and Jack added a wall between the kitchen and dining room for formality, but left an opening in the wall large enough for light and conversation to travel freely between the rooms. An added bonus is the Welsh dresser in the entry hall, framed perfectly on its sunny wall by the kitchen door frame, that can be seen from the dining room.

New cabinets were installed in the kitchen, which was dated and ready for a change, along with Mexican tile to replace the linoleum-covered floor, and slab granite countertops. Marilyn carefully selected each piece of granite for the opalescent blue silica that complements the blue porcelain basin in the kitchen bar. The pair salvaged the kitchen's original butcher-block island, which Jack sanded and refinished, to provide needed storage and counter space.

The study reflects the couple's diverse tastes and interests. Jack, a hunter, fisherman, and outdoor enthusiast chose collectors' prints of duck stamps for the deep blue textured walls. Photographs of rafting adventures and family trips rest on well-stocked bookshelves alongside relics gathered in their travels. A pair of striped armchairs complements a handmade needlepoint rug, and leopard-print pillows add a splash of creativity. A small nook houses Jack's desk and computer next to original built-in drawers now repainted white with "fish" drawer pulls.

The soft pastels of the master bedroom contrast with the rich colors Marilyn used throughout the rest of the house. "I love all colors in the right place," she says; "they don't need to be intense and bright." The bedroom glows with a peach-toned beige that changes subtly with the light in the room. Floral prints on the bed and furnishings



echo two luminescent photographs of flowers by Carol Henry, whose work was featured at the Denver Museum of Contemporary Art. As in the rest of the house, the windows remain uncovered so there are no obstructed vistas.

As a result, the shower in the master bath has a lovely view of Pike's Peak—albeit an image bounced from the mirror above the sink to the one opposite the shower. The sea-green glass tiles in the raised shower stall also appear around the original turquoise-blue tub which Marilyn had moved to another wall. The addition of marble countertops, a glass “fish fossil” basin lit from below, and accents of natural light create a combination of azure hues, resulting in a Mediterranean feel.

Green lattice wallpaper in the sitting or “garden” room complements the yellow-striped patio awnings. Brightly colored sofas positioned to take full advantage of the view lend the airy feel of a summer terrace. Marilyn's writing desk and a table displaying family photos complete the decor.

Visitors to the Bulkleys' condo often say that it reminds them of a New York City apartment, where Marilyn and Jack lived before they moved to Colorado more than 30 years ago. Perhaps this is because Marilyn's mix of color and style creates ease and comfort in the midst of luxury—elegance that is sophisticated but not pretentious.

She admits that the house is not finished. “There is always something new that needs to be done or changed,” she says, but for now, the Bulkleys enjoy living in their home as it continues to evolve, comfortably, around them. ■

Left: Soft colors prevail in the master bedroom, where peach beige tones change with the subtle changes of light in the room. A floral print covers the *chaise longue* and bed, above which hang two photographs by Carol Henry. **Center:** Sea-green glass tiles in the shower emphasize the cool, ocean-y feel of the master bath. **Right:** A mirrored wall in the dining room visually enlarges the simple, handsome space which opens onto the awninged terrace.