

THREE TOWNS, THREE UNIQUE TAKES ON THE MOUNTAIN-TOWN REFUGE.

CONDOMANIA



The arched banquette at the entrance of Ann Marcus' downtown Aspen condo draws visitors forward into the Zen-like space—as well as offering a place to momentarily relax.

Aspen



Close the door of Ann Marcus' Monarch Street condominium, and the first thing that hits you is the quiet. Located in the heart of downtown Aspen, Marcus' 1,900-square-foot unit, which combined two units into one in a down-to-the-studs remodel, offers both a buffer from and access to an Aspen core that feels—and sounds—more bustling and city-like by the day.

Beyond its aural tranquility, it's the home's interior design that really puts you at ease. Marcus, who worked with architect Tomas Kovacs of EliSons Workshop and Joel Hocknell of Aspen's Cyr and Company in what she calls an exercise in perfectionism, achieved a Zen-like ambiance while using a surprising array of textures and materials.

Cream-hued ceramic tile, striped with faint, thin lines of color, makes up the floor of the open-plan living, dining and kitchen areas. The tile creates a neutral canvas but, with the lines, also a delicate contrast and complement to the various textures and shapes throughout the three spaces. Two rugs—a soft-string shag in front of the dry-stacked stone fireplace in the living area, and the dining area's rectangular rug with a pattern of concentric squares, both from Montecito—add more lines and texture and help demarcate their respective spaces.

Custom zebrawood cabinets in the dining area pick up the lines of the ceramic floor, as does a different grain—the mahogany of the kitchen cabinetry. Glass shelves and backsplashes in the kitchen introduce another material (and don't compete with the American clay that is used for the walls); likewise, the stainless-steel refrigerator. And as is the case throughout Marcus' home, what might sound incongruous in its description blends seamlessly when seen in person.

"All of the textures work because there aren't too many patterns in the furniture," explains Marcus, who chose a camel, chenille sofa from Kreiss and a glass-topped dining table as the main furnishings for their respective areas.

Animal prints, carved Thai figures, an Asian mini-robe and other ethnic accents appear throughout the home and tie all the rooms together, including the two guest quarters.

In the master suite, every door, every built-in cabinet is mahogany, as is the floor. The American clay walls and the whites and creams of the linens, chair and Mongolian lamb rugs combine with the wood to give the room a restful, sanctuary-like feel.

The limestone floor, Venetian plaster walls, oyster-marble bath and shower, cedar-marble counter, twin vessel sinks and Calista faucets that "are like fine jewelry," according to Marcus, allow the master bath to complete the style and atmosphere she set out to achieve.

"I wanted to create a physical and spiritual retreat," she says. "Serene, quiet and warm." —MICHAEL MIRACLE

This page, top: The master suite's neutral tones create a spa-like calm. Bottom: The dry-stacked fireplace in the living area is one of the home's many textured patterns. Opposite page, top: An understated dining table and chairs allow the zebrawood cabinetry in the dining area to stand out. Bottom: The kitchen's neutral palette puts emphasis on the mahogany cabinets. Photography by Jeff Butler.

