



# SLEEK IN THE CITY

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THOUGH THE LIVING ROOM FEATURES GALLERY-WORTHY ART, A RARE SCHIMMEL PIANO AND CUSTOM UPHOLSTERY, IT LACKS PRETENSION. "THE WHOLE LIVING ROOM IS SO COMFORTABLE," TOM SAYS. "I'M NOT AFRAID OF PUTTING SOMETHING DOWN SOMEWHERE AND LEAVING A MARK. THAT ROOM IS JUST PERFECT." TOM AND SALLY DIDN'T WANT A TELEVISION MOUNTED ABOVE THE FIREPLACE—THE J.P. CANLIS GLASS PIECE JUST *BELONGED* THERE—SO THEY PLACED A TV IN THE ADJACENT ROOM, A SPACE THAT OTHER FIFTEEN-TWENTY-ONE RESIDENTS USE AS A TERRACE IN THEIR UNITS. **this page:** "THE CHANDELIER IS MY ABSOLUTE FAVORITE," SALLY SAYS. FROM MODERN CANADIAN DESIGN HOUSE BOCCI, THE BLOWN-GLASS LIGHT FIXTURE ABOVE THE DINING TABLE OFFERS THE PERFECT COMBINATION OF PLAYFULNESS AND ELEGANCE.





## A DOWNTOWN SEATTLE CONDO IS THE PERFECT TRANSITION FROM LIVING ON A FARM FOR THIS COUPLE

**T**om and Sally are the sort of people who offer you an iced Arnold Palmer before you've had a chance to put down your coat. Their home has a guest book filled with heartfelt words of appreciation from countless friends, family and acquaintances. And they use words such as "neat" and "darling."

These aren't the kind of people you'd typically expect to see living in an ultramodern downtown high-rise. But they do—and they're pretty excited about it.

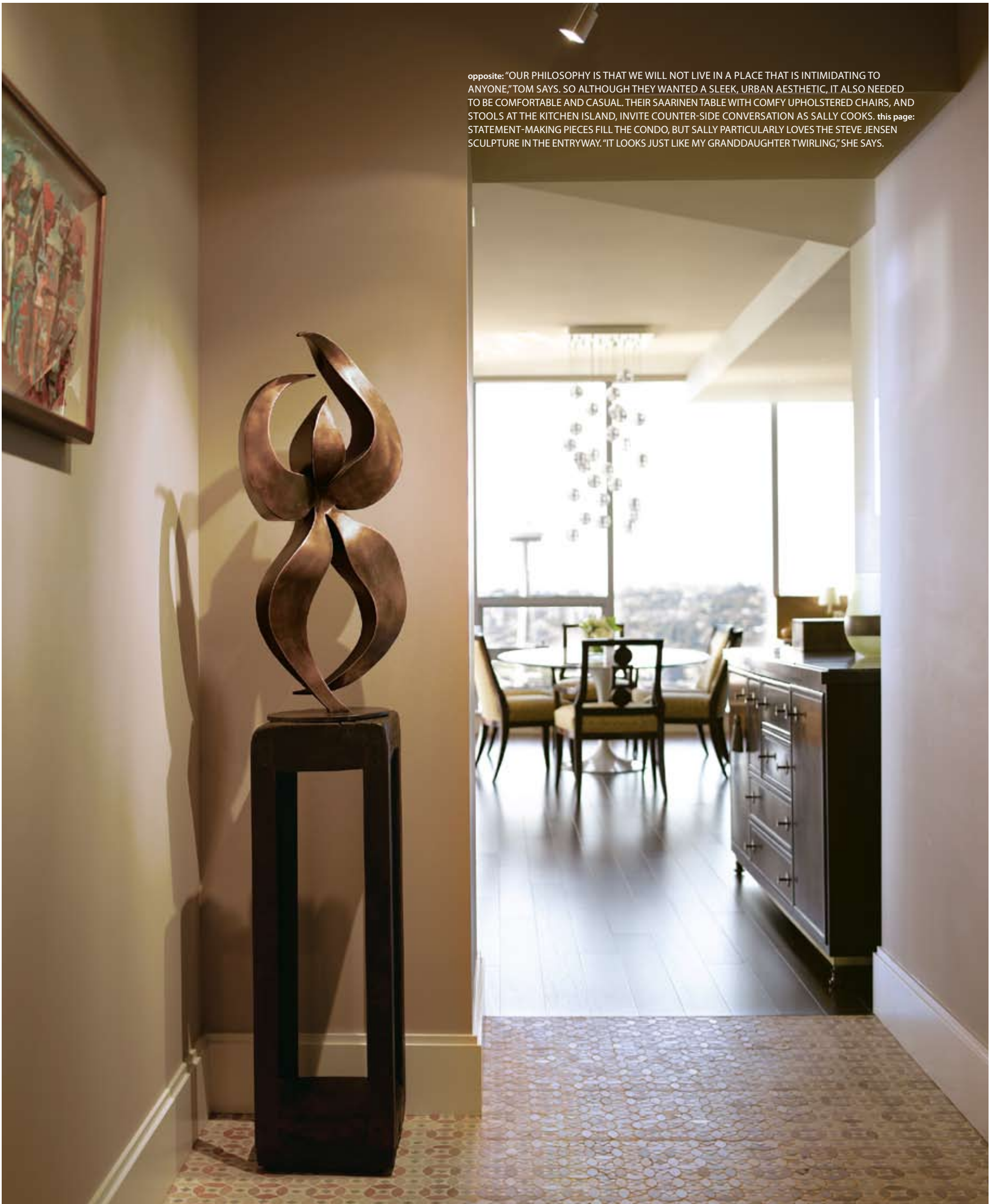
In late 2007, when one of their two sons bought a unit in the then-unbuilt Fifteen Twenty-One Second Avenue project in downtown Seattle, the Independence, Oregon, residents dreamingly discussed the idea of "someday having the chance to live in a building like that."

They set aside the idea, not wanting to intrude on their son's life, but he encouraged them to pursue it. Because both of their boys—and their four grandchildren—live in Seattle, Tom and Sally jumped at the chance. They purchased a jaw-dropping-view unit on the 37th floor with windows on three sides.

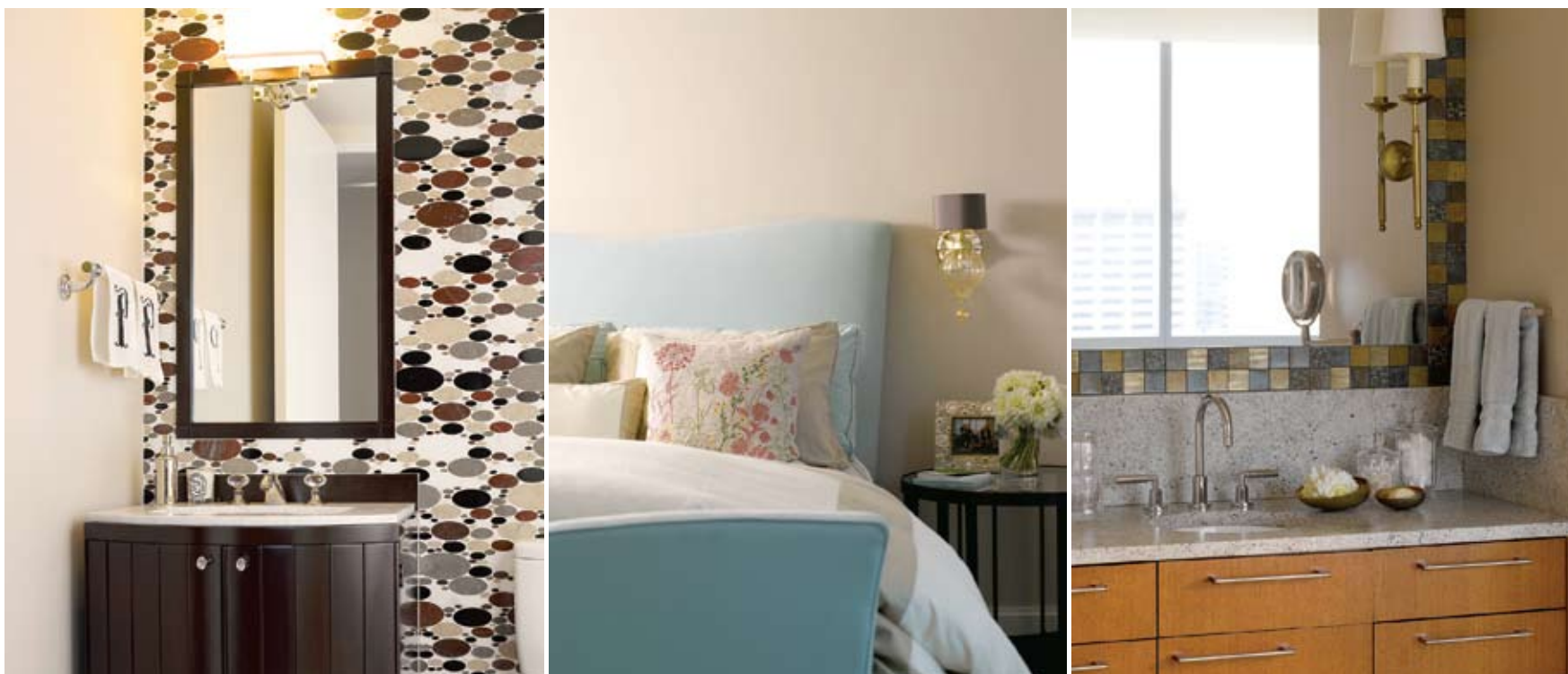
The building was still in the construction phase, so architects Weber Thompson sent interior designer Lara Taylor to help Tom and Sally through the customization process. The buyers quickly realized she was a perfect fit to help them transition from life in rural Oregon, and they hired her to design the entire space. "I was so lucky to be sent such wonderful clients," Taylor says. "They've been a dream to work with."

"At the time, we were living in a French country-style home on a farm," Sally says, "so we wanted something the complete opposite of that—a

opposite: "OUR PHILOSOPHY IS THAT WE WILL NOT LIVE IN A PLACE THAT IS INTIMIDATING TO ANYONE," TOM SAYS. SO ALTHOUGH THEY WANTED A SLEEK, URBAN AESTHETIC, IT ALSO NEEDED TO BE COMFORTABLE AND CASUAL. THEIR SAARINEN TABLE WITH COMFY UPHOLSTERED CHAIRS, AND STOOLS AT THE KITCHEN ISLAND, INVITE COUNTER-SIDE CONVERSATION AS SALLY COOKS. this page: STATEMENT-MAKING PIECES FILL THE CONDO, BUT SALLY PARTICULARLY LOVES THE STEVE JENSEN SCULPTURE IN THE ENTRYWAY. "IT LOOKS JUST LIKE MY GRANDDAUGHTER TWIRLING," SHE SAYS.



**below, left:** "THE POWDER ROOM IN A HOME IS THE ULTIMATE GUEST BATHROOM," TAYLOR SAYS. "I ALWAYS THINK THEY SHOULD BE PRETTY DECORATIVE." A MOSAIC OF OVAL TILES FROM ANN SACKS GIVES THE COUPLE'S POWDER ROOM A DRAMATICALLY DARING AESTHETIC THAT "REALLY WORKS," SALLY SAYS. **center:** THE CONDOMINIUM'S SECOND BEDROOM, TUCKED AWAY ON THE NORTH-FACING SIDE OF THE HOME, FUNCTIONS AS TOM'S HOME OFFICE AS WELL AS A PRIVATE, COMFORTABLE SPACE FOR OVERNIGHT GUESTS. **right:** WHEN SALLY FELL IN LOVE WITH BRASS TILES AT ANN SACKS, TAYLOR PROMISED THAT SHE'D MAKE THEM WORK. SHE DESIGNED A CUSTOM MOSAIC FRAME AROUND THE MASTER BATHROOM MIRROR AND REPEATED THE PATTERN IN LARGE SQUARES INTERSPERSED AMONG THE CREMA MARSIL MARBLE FLOOR TILES.



sleek city look, but still with elements of our other life."

The couple's transition from farm to city is perhaps best illustrated by the J.P. Canlis blown-glass art installation above the living-room fireplace. *Wheat* consists of about 600 individual pieces of delicate glass that form a 6-foot-by-4-foot sculpture reminiscent of a sun-kissed field. "I used to raise wheat, so that piece has special significance for me," Tom says.

Although other elements of life on the farm can be spotted throughout the home, it's the new city-sleek touches that create such a dramatically different living experience for the couple.

The open-plan living-dining-kitchen area is the quintessential setting for urban entertaining. A large Saarinen marble table—beneath a glamorously playful Bocci chandelier—provides comfortable seating for six. The kitchen gets its sophisticated look from espresso-stained cabinetry and another J.P. Canlis glass piece, *Peel*, which glows sunny yellow in a display above the concealed refrigerator.

With the exception of the primary dazzler of the home—the Schimmel acrylic grand piano that Tom (who had years of formal training and now plays as a hobby) had been eyeing for years—furnishings in the living area are streamlined, so as to not distract from the Puget Sound view. A pair

of cozy charcoal sofas anchor the seating area, offset by warm touches of yellow and peach. "It was all about the view, obviously," Tom says, "so you don't see a lot of obstructions in front of the windows."

The same goes for the master suite, which has windows spanning the length of two walls with floor-to-ceiling views looking north and east. "Sally's famous line is that she uses the Space Needle as a night light," Tom says with a grin.

The bedroom bursts with rich color—violets and sunflower yellow are found in the custom upholstered armchairs, custom bedding and area rugs, designed by Taylor, from Driscoll Robbins. An arrangement of glass art above the poster bed offers a burst of soothing turquoise and amber, and it's echoed by a matching arrangement in the master bath.

"It's all so lovely and refined, but it looks lived in," Taylor says. "It's nice to know you can have really beautiful things and still feel that they're livable."

Tom and Sally wholeheartedly agree.

"Never, ever did I imagine we'd have a life like this," Sally says, glowing. But they do. ■

**For resource information, see Sources, page 78.**



IN THE MASTER BEDROOM, TAYLOR HAD THE ENTIRE SET OF LIGHTWEIGHT BEDDING CUSTOM MADE, AND SHE DESIGNED A PAIR OF CUSTOM RUGS THROUGH DRISCOLL ROBBINS FINE CARPETS. THE COUPLE AND THEIR DESIGNER THEN SELECTED GLASS ARTWORK FROM EDGE OF GLASS GALLERY IN FREMONT TO FLOAT ABOVE THE HEADBOARD. "THIS SPACE IS JUST SO PHENOMENAL," TOM SAYS.