



The owners of this Chicago condo have a large family, so extensive seating was paramount. In the living room, interior designer Michael Del Piero conceived two extra-long ottomans covered in a C&C Milano material from Holland & Sherry and fabricated by Shoppe de Lee. A salvaged-metal fixture by Lucy Silivski crowns the custom dining table in the background.

They wanted a cool space that was centrally located in the city," says interior designer Michael Del Piero of her clients, a husband and wife who were downsizing from a larger home in Winnetka. The owners found the location first in a northside Chicago high-rise with views looking toward Lake Michigan. Del Piero, along with architect Paul Konstant, was then tasked with achieving the all-things-cool aesthetic within the condo's standard-issue layout. "The goal was to create a casual yet sophisticated space with an unusual mix of items," says Del Piero. Having previously designed the couple's suburban home, Del Piero and Konstant already knew the owners' sense of style—minimalist with rustic overtones—as well as their priorities: easy flow for frequent entertaining and better light distribution. What followed was a total gut renovation to achieve these objectives with sleek urban elegance.

Del Piero knew right away she needed to specify new finishes for the condo's ebony flooring, dark kitchen and large columns seen around the home. First, she chose a much lighter color for the flooring, which also now features a completely different texture. "We were going for a rustic look to balance the slick sheen of cabinetry and steel throughout the space," Del Piero says. "It's made of hand-scraped wood, which is a really nice contrast." Next, she painted the columns and walls in the same shade of gray. "I wanted the walls to completely match those columns so they would seem to disappear," she says. Additionally, the existing kitchen cabinetry was lacquered a darker gray hue that keeps with the palette throughout.