



# JEWEL BOX

A BOULDER CONDO IS REIMAGINED WITH RICH SPLASHES OF COLOR AND FEMININE TOUCHES THAT SPARKLE AGAINST ITS TEXTURED INDUSTRIAL SHELL.

WRITTEN BY **MINDY PANTIEL** PHOTOGRAPHY BY **EMILY MINTON REDFIELD**

**INTERIOR DESIGN** Petra Richards, Petra Richards Interiors

**ARCHITECTURE** E.J. Meade, Arch11

**HOME BUILDER** Chris Duggan, Duggan Construction

**BEDROOMS** 3 | **BATHROOMS** 3 | **SQUARE FEET** 3,500



Long before there was a chartreuse velvet banquette to play off a textured Venetian plaster wall, or linen-silk draperies to soften graphic black subway tiles in a Boulder condo, there was beige, and lots of it. "Everything from the living room walls to the kitchen floor was one color," says architect E.J. Meade. "For an adventurous single mother who wanted a home that reflected her zest for life, this wasn't it."

To handle the transformation of her condo, owner Jill Safari turned to Meade and interior designer Petra Richards to create spaces better suited to her decidedly un-beige personality. Honoring Safari's request that Meade bring the grit and Richards supply the sparkle, the duo did just that. "With E.J.'s more masculine approach for the shell, I aimed to bring a feminine aspect to her new nest," says Richards. "I wanted her surroundings to feel like a jewelry box."

What began as a simple appeal to shoehorn a shower into the existing powder room and add in a library space quickly escalated into the demolition and rebirth of the entire residence. To tackle the functional







Interior designer Petra Richards and architect E.J. Meade collaborated to transform a Boulder condo. A B&B Italia sofa appoints the living area, while Porta Romana lamps add color. *Left:* A Maxalto bar pairs with a Restoration Hardware chair.





A new multifunctional library/guest room includes a Murphy bed to accommodate overnight visitors. The custom wall unit, built by BKL Woodworks, surrounds a headboard upholstered with purple velvet from Kravet. The whimsical ceiling pendant is by Moooi.





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The logistics of getting precise measurements for things like the headboard and discerning how to wrestle the weighty solid-glass barn door up to the third floor fell to builder Chris Duggan, who worked with site superintendent Bob Logsdon. "There was no service elevator so one of the hardest parts of the job was hauling materials up three flights of steps," he says noting the barn door was simply too large to fit in the staircase. "We ended up raising it up from the sidewalk and bringing it in through the terrace."

Following Safari's request to contrast industrial elements with softer furnishings, the architect set steel panels into the living area's fireplace surround of rough-cut stone. "I played with the vertical and horizontal grains to make it more interesting and used selenium oxide to create the dark and light gradations," he says. To balance the metal, Richards added adjoining panels of shagreen leather in a horizontal stripe, and then proceeded to appoint the space with pieces in a neutral palette of luxurious materials.

With the Murphy bed tucked away, the room can also function as overflow entertainment space. The Maxalto chairs, upholstered with purple velvet, are from Studio Como and pair with a chair and Lens side table, both by Holly Hunt.





*Above:* Richards upholstered the master bedroom's custom closet doors with a Romo fabric and chose pulls from Ochre. Rock crystal pendants by Fuse Lighting flank the bed, for which Meade designed a built-in cabinet for shoes. *Right:* A Fromental wallpaper backs a mirrored cabinet from Whitney Evans Ltd.

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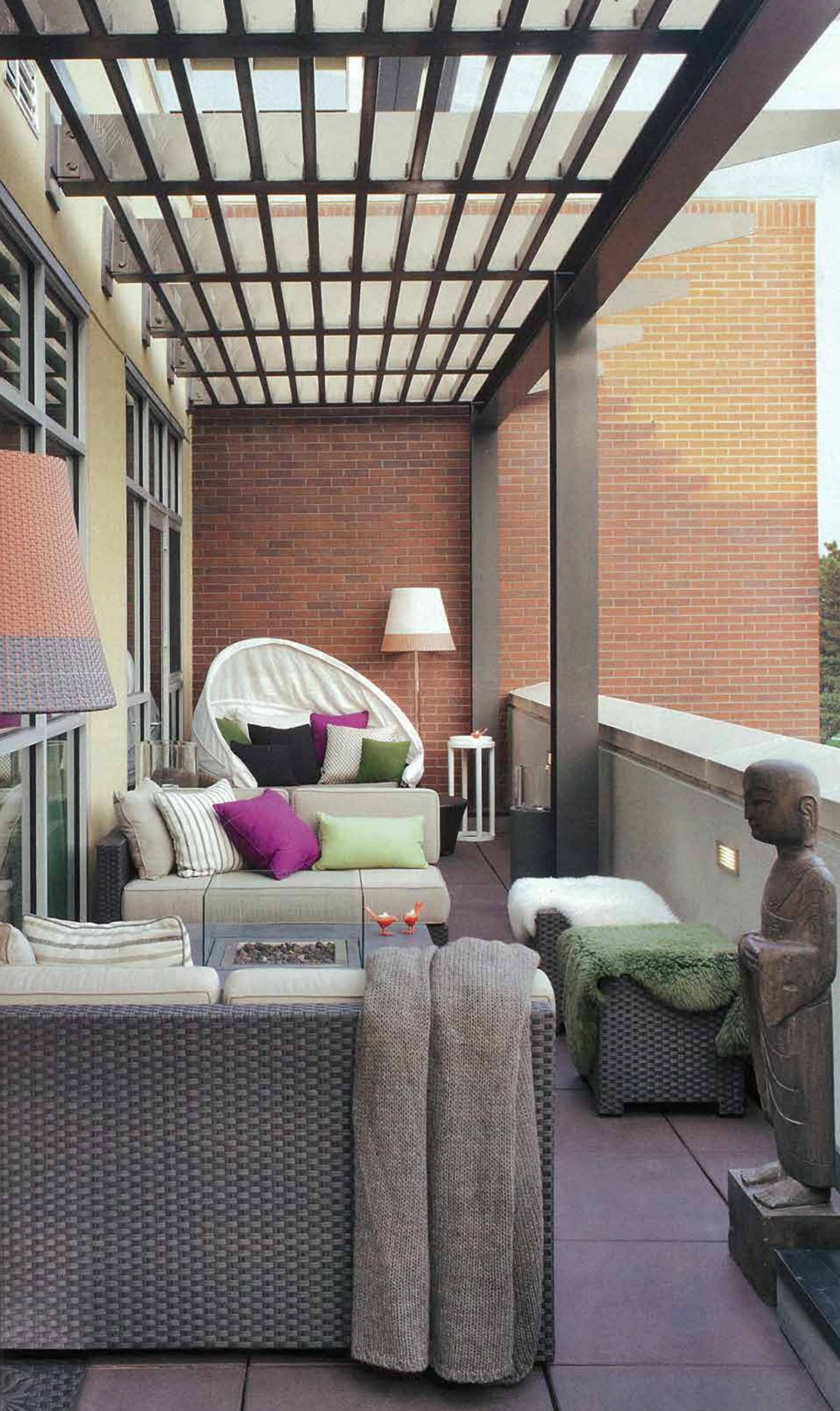
She chose a brown cashmere for the sofa, black and white cowhide poufs with tray tops that serve as coffee tables, and forged steel lamps with a gilded finish. Orange lampshades act as subtle punctuation marks of color.

"A happy home needs color," says Richards. "Even though the orange and chartreuse look adventurous, they are muted enough not to take over the entire space." The designer carried the hushed hues into the master bedroom, where one wall wears a custom hand-painted, hand-embroidered silk covering. "The greenish silver dots on the wallcovering led to the upholstery on the closet doors, and the subtle terra cotta ties back to the living room," she explains. "They are all linked in a very settled way."

Meanwhile, the room's Italian mirrored glass dresser provides a touch of glamour and the duck-like lamp with its bronze webbed feet always brings a smile. "Everything suits her personality," says Richards. "It's feminine, warm and playful, with a hint of sparkle." **L**







Woven furnishings and a Philippe Starck floor lamp, all by Dedon, anchor one portion of the outdoor terrace, while a round canvas chair, also by Dedon and sold through Studio Como, is positioned off the master bedroom.