

# Tower

## Trumped



## An aluminum kitchen and stone-clad dual bath suites highlight a luxury condo designed by Charles Rabinovitch

The U-shaped kitchen includes brushed aluminum cabinetry and glass tiled backsplashes

Two bachelor brothers had it in mind to share an apartment and needed one designed for them. Sounds commonplace enough, until you add into the mix that the two wealthy brothers have very sophisticated tastes and the apartment is actually two condominiums joined into one 3,500 sq. ft. space occupying the entire 49th floor of the luxury Trump Tower in New York City.

Those project “twists” carried

opportunities for great design to the doorstep of Charles M. Rabinovitch, principal of New York City based Charles M. Rabinovitch Architects. Charles, who has designed residential and commercial projects in the U.S. and abroad for more than 20 years, had been referred to the brothers by a general contractor. “The clients had had the empty space for some time and didn’t have a clear direction in mind. The first thing we did was to go see the space. There are floor-

to-ceiling windows on the east, south and west sides of the building. But for a luxury building, the concrete slab ceilings weren’t generous—about 8 1/2 feet high,” says Charles. The original space was gutted and the plans for the new configuration developed.

Since the brothers had similar tastes, Charles was able to work primarily with one sibling, as the other constantly traveled. He created individualized areas at opposite ends of the space for



The entry hall rotunda dome is coated with a specially formulated pigment that has a stone dust finish. The dome is illuminated by low-voltage cove lights

bedroom and bath suites connected by a common zone that includes the entry, kitchen/bar, living and dining rooms, powder room and utility areas.

"We were charged with designing a modern space with a luxurious, but warm feel in materials and a spatial feeling of expansiveness," says Charles. "Although the projects I've designed vary in style and imagery, there is a common design approach which strongly connects them as a body of work. The consistencies are represented by a logical and modern approach to space, a refinement of detail and a thorough attention to sensory and visual delight.

"In the Trump Tower apartment, varied imagery and stylistic elements are used to create a differentiated, but cohesive living environment," he says.

The tour of the luxury dwelling begins at the beginning.

### Entry Hall

Guests know from their first footsteps into the apartment that an experience filled with luxurious and sensual details awaits them. "The entry hall dome is finished with a specially formulated pigment with a stone dust finish," Charles explains. "The color is nickel

metal and it complements the matte nickel finish hardware used through the residence. The dome is illuminated also with dimmer-controlled low-voltage xenon cove lights."

The display cases in the gallery near the entry hall are made with two woods that also are used in a contrasting manner throughout the residence. The dark wood is American cherry; the light wood is quartered African anigre hardwood. The countertops and flooring are made with white Bulgarian limestone.

### Kitchen

In the U-shaped kitchen, the cabinets are aluminum with a clear anodized brushed finish. The backsplashes are adorned with 2-inch square light green, clear glass tiles with an etched finish. These complement the clear etched glass panels in the pocket doors and the partition that separates the kitchen from a utility area beyond.

"The custom fabricated glass and aluminum frame partition, opposite the double wall ovens, serves as a divider to a service/access corridor behind it, which leads to laundry/utility rooms, closets and an additional bedroom," Charles says. "A clear glass strip at eye level is inserted

## CASE STUDY

**Kitchen Design by** Charles M. Rabinovitch/ARCHITECTS, NY: 212.989.3554

**Project Styling & Coordination by** Anell Waman/Andrea Baer: 718.884.7710

**Kitchen & Bar Cabinetry by** Studio Becker/Vic's Kitchen Studio: 914.683.5396

**Stone & Tile Installations by** Demiray Marble & Tile: 718.898.5638

**General Contracting by** Tower Contracting: 718.803.1650

**Custom Cabinetry & Woodwork by** Craftsmen Woodworkers: 718.326.3350

**Metal/Glass Fabrications by** Zusto Metal & glass: 718.386.1511

**Painted Screen Panels by** Ellen Grobman: 413.548.8053

**Decorative Sculptures by** Marshall Baer: 845.688.7761

**Photography:** Amiaga Photography, 413.548.8053

**Report:** Wanda Jankowski

### KITCHEN APPLIANCES

**Refrigerator:** Sub Zero

**Sink/Faucets:** Franke

**Cooktops:** Gaggenau

**Dishwashers:** Asko

**Ovens:** Viking Range Corp.

**Integrated Lighting:** CSL Lighting

**Decorative Lighting:** Cotule Lighting

**Interior Furnishings:** Dakota Jackson

**Wool Carpeting:** Stark Carpets

**Media System/Plasma TV:** IDS Audio-Video Systems

### FIRST MASTER BATHROOM

**Faucets/Shower Fixtures:** Dornbracht, Kallista

**Toilet:** Kohler

**Whirlpool Tub:** Kallista

**Custom Stone Sink:** Modern Stone Age

**Accessories:** Waterworks

**Mosaic, Limestone & Marble Tile:** Studium V

**Stone Slabs:** Haifa Stone

### GUEST BATHROOM

**Faucets & Shower Fixtures:** Waterworks

**Toilet:** Kohler

**Sink:** Hastings Tile & Il Bagno

**Mosaic Floor Tile:** Paris Ceramics

**Wall Tile & Trim:** Studium V

### POWDER ROOM

**Sink:** Vitraform

**Sink Base:** Hastings Tile & Il Bagno

**Faucet:** T. Robbins

**Accessories:** Waterworks

**Glass Mosaic Tile:** Bisazza

**Indian Copper SlateStone:** Pet-Mal

### SECOND MASTER BATH

**Metal Sink:** Kallista **Toilet & Bidet:** Kallista

**Faucets/Shower Fixtures:** Kallista, Dornbracht

**Wall & Floor Mosaic, Trim, Stone Tile:** Studium V



The plasma tv can rotate on a motorized arm 360 degrees. It retracts into the cabinetry positioned between the dining and living rooms



The bar and adjacent kitchen open into the dining and living rooms



The common areas of the apartment include the dining and living rooms, the kitchen/bar area, the entry hall and gallery and utility areas

Right: Guests seated in the dining area enjoy majestic views of Manhattan from the expanse of window walls. The proximity of the kitchen and bar areas is ideal for entertaining



Below: The living room adjoins the dining room and kitchen/bar. The style of the furnishings carries through the "modern but warm" theme evident in the built-in details of the apartment

within the field of etched glass to afford passers-by a sneak preview through the kitchen to the majestic views of midtown Manhattan beyond. The screen also works in reverse, allowing daylight from the window walls in the living and dining areas to pass through the kitchen to the interior corridor beyond."

Warming up the space are Pompignon French limestone countertops with a patina finish. The flooring is yellow Bulgarian limestone. The light sources in ceilings and wood soffits are low-voltage MR-16 lamps with matte nickel trims. The in-cabinetry lighting is 20-watt "puck"-type fixtures.

### Bar Area

The bar area opens into the living and dining areas. It includes a bar sink, a glass-fronted wine cooler and a serving counter of Pompignon French limestone. The storage cabinetry is European cherry wood finished with a high-gloss polyester.

The bar area is accessed on both sides by cherry wood pocket doors. "In fact, all the doors in the apartment have American cherry wood frames and are divided into different treatments based on the hierarchy of their locations," says Charles. "Main room entry doors have inset panels of ribbed obscure glass, with matte nickel glass framing. Doors serving utility or secondary areas are either flat etched glass, without nickel framing, or in the case of closets, they are simple inset panels of solid cherry.

"In the bar and kitchen areas, varying portions or the entire area can be

closed off from public access," Charles explains, "which is especially useful during catered events."

### Living & Dining Rooms

The expanses of south-facing window walls in the living and dining rooms render spectacular views of Manhattan. Partially dividing the living and dining areas is a block of cabinetry that conceals the media system equipment rack as well as the motorized mechanism for a retractable plasma tv.

The assembly, designed by Charles, includes a motorized arm that carries the 42-inch tv out of its concealed position in the cabinet and rotates it in a 360-degree arc for viewing from a myriad of positions in the kitchen, dining or living areas. It is controlled by a hand-held remote, which also controls the window shades. The clients' sense of humor is embodied in this feature as well: the audio system plays the "Goldfinger" theme song from the James Bond film of the same name as the tv travels to its viewing position.

Providing a rich warm backdrop to these common areas is the wide-plank Brazilian cherry flooring.

### Entry Gallery Powder Room

In contrast to the rest of the apartment, the powder room has been designed to be a dramatic, mysterious grotto-like space, since it is to be used primarily by guests during evening entertaining. To achieve the effect, copper has been chosen as the primary material and color. The walls are adorned with 12- x 12-inch

copper slate with a natural cleft finish and copper glass, 1-inch square insets.

The mid-section of the wall is covered with an inserted dark-grey glass mirror panel bordered by strips of copper glass mosaic. A clear, round mirror, custom finished in copper, "floats" in front of the larger grey mirrored surface. This smaller, tilting mirror serves as a "real" view mirror for guests.

The countertops are natural cleft Indian copper slate slab. The conical sink pedestal, which supports the glass sink, is also copper.

The pocket door, like all the doors in the apartment, has a cherry frame.

### First Master Bath

A curved wall encloses the first master

bath. "We had to work out spaces between permanent pipe risers, vent shafts and other utility lines. The curved wall proved to be an effective device to provide a strong, emphatic form which could pull these disparate areas together into a serene and sensual space of retreat," says Charles.

The bath is entered via a curved etched glass panel door at the intersection of the home office/study and the sleeping areas in the master bedroom.

"The added curved etched glass transom and the door bring exterior daylight from windows in the bedroom into this otherwise interior room," says Charles.

The bath includes a large shower/steam enclosure, a white electric toilet



The door to the first master bath is curved to match the curvature of the wall. The bath is at the intersection between the office/study and sleeping areas of the master bedroom suite



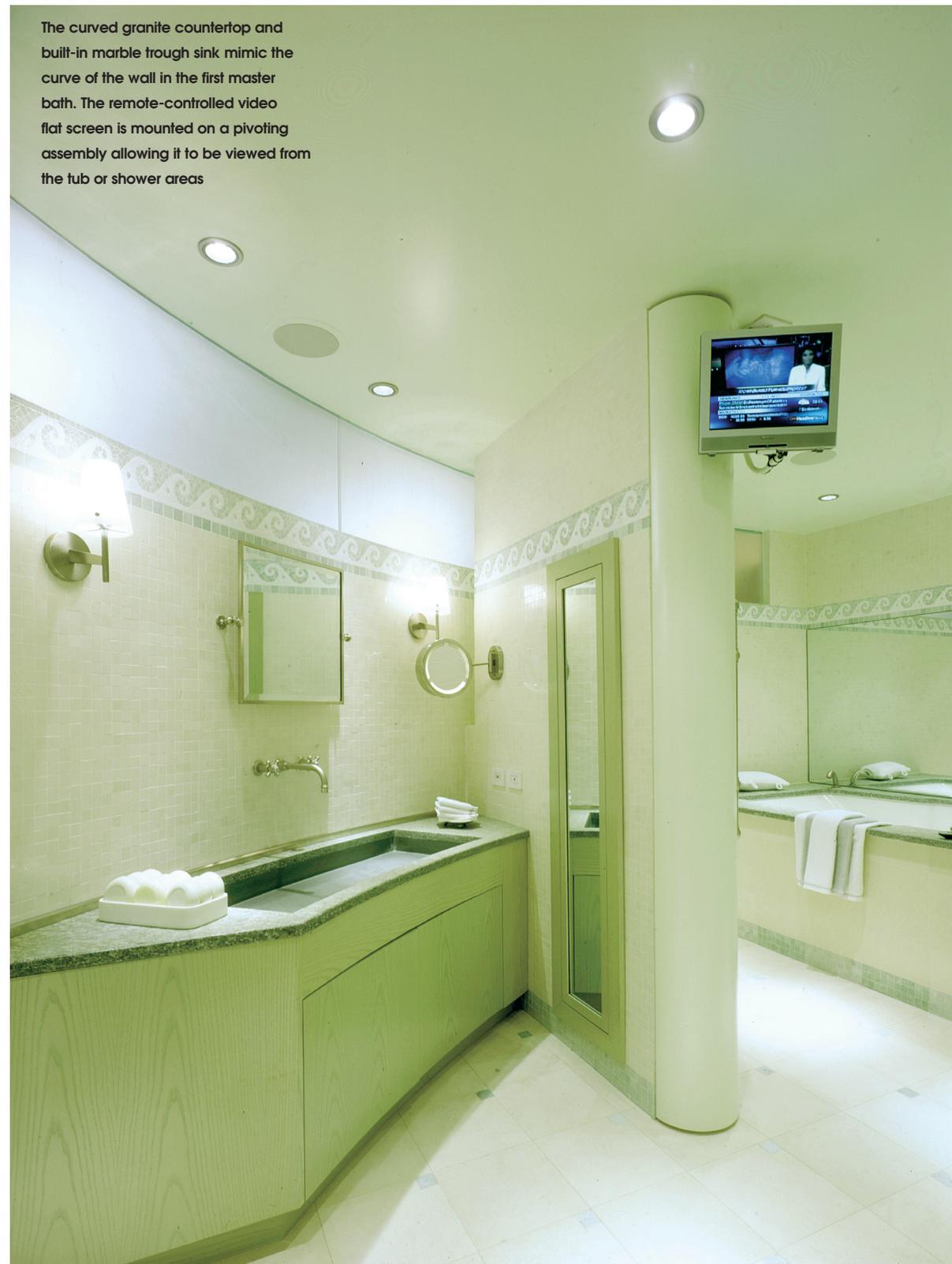
The sleep area of the first master bedroom is adjacent to the curved wall of the bathroom. The glass panel in the bath wall allows daylight in from windows at the other side of the bedroom



The dramatic, grotto-like powder room is clad in copper slate and copper glass tiles. The round mirror is mounted to appear to "float" in front of a greyed mirror band that encircles the small room



The master bedroom suite enjoys western and southern exposures. The office/study area is on the left side. Note the media column in the center



The curved granite countertop and built-in marble trough sink mimic the curve of the wall in the first master bath. The remote-controlled video flat screen is mounted on a pivoting assembly allowing it to be viewed from the tub or shower areas

# CASE STUDY

White Thasos and Ming green marble mosaics form a wave pattern inset into a neutral ground of cream-colored Claire French limestone



small mosaic format.

All plumbing fittings are finished in a matte nickel metal, as is the hardware and mouldings used to secure varied glass assemblies.

The bath is linked to the residence's media system and allows the occupant a choice of multiple audio or video programs, which may be controlled or selected via a state-of-the-art touch-pad control from the bath area. The video flat screen is mounted on a pivoting assembly allowing viewing from the tub or shower areas. Controls for the audio system and steam shower generator are located within the shower enclosure as well.

## Second Master Bath

The second master bath is located next to the dressing area of the second master bedroom suite. It includes a glass-enclosed shower, toilet, bidet and single-sink vanity. The matte nickel hammer sink is inset into the classic limestone countertop, which, in turn, is positioned atop American cherry cabinetry.

The walls are clad with 12- by 12-inch classic limestone in a slightly patterned mocha color with an accent band of matte nickel molding and blue glass tile. The flooring is a mosaic of random

and white whirlpool tub. Reinforcing the shape of the wall, the sandblasted verde-silver granite countertop with its built-in, 110 cm-long Italian-made, Pietra Serena marble trough sink, is curved.

The vanity and other storage cabinetry set into wall recesses are made from ash finished with a light green stain/wash to match Ming Green marble tile accents. The custom cabinets are located within spatial voids between mechanical and utility elements. One vertical pipeline, which serves the upper levels of the 65-floor Trump Tower, could not be concealed within the new wall enclosures, so it is sheathed in a matte nickel cover, which also secures an etched glass privacy screen adjacent to the toilet area.

A neutral background of 12- x 12-inch cream-colored Claire French limestone wall tile is highlighted with white Thasos and Ming green marble, wave-patterned mosaic accents. All the horizontal stone surfaces, such as the whirlpool deck and shower bench, are made of honed Italian verde-silver granite.

The flooring in the main areas is the same French limestone used on the walls with patterned small inserts of tumbled Ming Green marble. The shower floor is adorned with the same limestone in a



The large shower area also functions as a steam bath and includes a control panel for the audio/video system. The shower bench is slab of honed Italian verde-silver granite



Left: The second master bath includes cobalt blue accents in painted ceiling areas, the light fixtures and the glass mosaic accent band on the walls. Classic limestone on the walls and tumbled limestone mosaic on the floors ties this bath thematically into the other baths in the apartment

Below: The guest bathroom includes a toilet, glass-enclosed shower and single-bowl American cherry vanity. The etched glass panels in the storage unit mimic the cherry framed glass panels in the custom designed door

tumbled limestone.

This bath departs from the color palette used throughout the apartment by the inclusion of cobalt blue accents—in the light fixtures, the painted ceiling areas and in the glass mosaic accent band on the walls.

“Due to the original building structural layout, this was the one full bathroom which we could not link spatially to the surrounding areas in an open manner. For this reason it was designed using vibrant blue accents, which was the client’s color preference as well,” says Charles.

Access to the bath is through a cherry wood pocket door. “The entry door is surrounded by a built-in dresser cabinets made of cherry and anigre in the bedroom’s dressing area,” says Charles.

### Guest Bath

The guest suite includes a sizeable bath, which features a toilet, glass-enclosed

shower and single-sink American cherry vanity with etched glass panels.

The walls are clad with honed Jerusalem yellow limestone. A three-dimensional pattern is created by inserted accents of vertical ribbed, tumbled limestone bars that protrude with a bullnose profile. The floor and shower are clad with mosaics made with recycled Antique random Jerusalem limestone.

The entry door and transom windows, made with cherry framing and etched glass, allow natural light to filter into the space from the exterior glass walls of the adjacent guest bedroom.

“What we find so rewarding in the execution of projects like these,” says Charles, “is the ability to define and resolve a given architectural problem with a consistent approach. In this manner, the resolution of each project represents a further refinement of our design and problem-solving skills.” ■ **kbd**

