

Fire & Ice on the bay

Designer Gary Hutton
And Architect Mark English
Collaborate To Create Drama
In A Marina Pied de Terre

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In Robert Frost's "Fire and Ice," the poet describes the world being destroyed by one of these two elements. By contrast, the colors of fire and ice have created a sexy but cosmopolitan pied de terre for one San Francisco couple. Located in the Marina's iconic Fontana Apartment Towers, the project is a collaboration between San Francisco interior designer Gary Hutton and architect Mark English. Their design was influenced by the semi-circular shape of the 1960s building and the expansive views of San Francisco Bay.

Architect Mark English renovated the 1960s apartment to take advantage of a bay view spanning from the Golden Gate Bridge to Treasure Island. In the oval living room he echoed the dramatic curves of the breakwaters of the Aquatic Park below and the curvature of the building.

OPPOSITE After the interior renovations were completed interior designer Gary Hutton joined the team assisted by his project manager Aaron Hansen. Hutton and Hansen took their cue from the existing element of the rust-red custom-built sofa to give the apartment the feeling of a sexy hotel getaway.



On the other side of the curved wall is the open master suite.




In the living room, English built a freestanding curved wall finished in a pewter Venetian polished plaster. Against this was installed a custom crescent shaped banquette upholstered in flame colored ultra-suede. The illuminated piece appears to float on the white marble floor. Hutton anchored the room with an oval platinum hair on hide rug from Kyle Bunting on which he placed a conforming white coffee table of his own design. He accessorized the room with silk striped and graphic accent pillows along with his signature stainless steel *Ciao Table* from Gary Hutton Furniture.

On the other side of the curved wall is the open master suite. In the snow white master bedroom, English custom designed the platform bed with built in side tables to maximize the space. Hutton then selected a textile from Pierre Frey that he had diamond quilted for the headboard and bedspread. Woven pillows from Rosemary Hallgarten supply texture while white leather cubes from DWR are

both functional and stylish. Completing the modern look are Bauhaus inspired satin nickel wall sconces made in Germany. Mirroring the master bedroom is a flame colored guest suite.

The streamlined tone is continued in the kitchen with an ice white and silver color scheme. For an eating nook, Hutton echoed the design of his coffee table as a bar table which he companioned with teak and polished aluminum chairs designed by Philippe Starck. Atmospheric lighting is accomplished with a sphere pendant that is composed of randomly coiled fiberglass and epoxy.

While the apartment is carefully edited, it provides a welcoming venue for entertaining. Hutton and English were given the task of completing the project in time to celebrate San Francisco's Fleet Week. The fire and ice pied de terre was the perfect foil for viewing the dramatic acrobatic maneuvers of the Blue Angels against San Francisco's ever changing sea and sky. 



English and Hutton made careful choices in the materials for the 1,100 square foot apartment. Reflective surfaces like the white high gloss lacquered bed in the master bedroom bounce light around making small spaces look larger.

OPPOSITE TOP In addition to its spectacular bay views, the apartment also features exclusive views of the City from Coit Tower to Golden Gate Park. An intimate eating nook in the kitchen allows the owners to enjoy the cityscape. BOTTOM Gary Hutton shown at right with Mark English on his left, survey the casual elegance of the apartment they have created together.