

interiors

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the piece is a nod to Niedermaier's last apartment, set in a grande dame building on East Lake Shore Drive. That residence, a far cry from this loft-like perch, boasted ornate moldings, beautiful bones and a dark interior. "I really go back and forth," she says of the design styles.



"at the office I can see thousands of bright greens, but at my house, I need peace," she says of the near monochromatic scheme. Indeed the pale palette has a soothing effect on the senses—and doesn't compete with the geometry of the astounding skyline, visible through the floor-to-ceiling windows. Working with architect Mark Demsky, Niedermaier heightened the apartment's tranquil effect by simplifying its layout—combining three fussy spaces into a flowing living room often awash in sunlight. To prevent the room from looking bleached-out, they lined the walls with white oak, continuing the motif into the adjoining library and dining room. They also preserved the tawny-colored oak floors throughout, still in place from when Niedermaier moved in four years ago, and installed flowing silk drapes, her sure fire trick for adding drama and texture.



judy

Niedermaier is on top of the world. Or so it seems when taking in the views from her expansive penthouse, perched on the 49th floor of Chicago's tallest residential tower. Step out onto the main terrace—one of three—and Lake Michigan beckons with the downtown bustling in the south, and the city's maze of neighborhoods and high-rises to the west. "We get the whole city," says Niedermaier of the tableau. But have you seen many presidential motorcades? "Oh, please," she laughs. "They're a big deal."

Niedermaier is one to talk. Founder of the namesake high-end furnishings company that counts Vicente Wolf and Nate Berkus (discovered pre-Oprah) among its designers, she favors a pared down, quietly luxurious style. The proclivity is evident in the spacious three bedroom, four bathroom aerie, whose décor is a mélange of warm whites, light wood and clear Lucite.



