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◀ **A Turn About the Room:**

In the living room, the fireplace was custom designed to fit the space. An 18th-century Baltic mirror hangs above, a sconce is outfitted with a Kerry Joyce lampshade, and a 19th-century Napoleon III fire screen adds a "punchy sensibility," as Pickering puts it. To the left, a Sheraton-style console table has been refinished with a marble top. Pickering found the artwork above at Area in Houston.

▶ **Color My World:**

Pickering, whose undergraduate degree is in architecture, produces watercolors for many of his projects. "I like to do these rendered elevations of the rooms to show how I see furnishing the room, the color story, and what size art we need," he says. Not only does it help clients visualize the final product, but it helps Pickering to have that visual in his head when he's out scouting. Plus, he has a beautiful memento of his projects afterward. "It's fun to see how the room changes," he adds.



▶ **Under the Canopy:**

The warm and inviting bedroom "makes you feel like a kid playing in a tent," Pickering says of the canopy—an element that was added later, after Pickering had chosen a "play between gold and silver" for his color story. "At first, I thought, 'Is this going to be too old lady? Is this going to look appropriate?'" he laughs. "But it's just a great, cozy spot to be in." The canopy fabrics are Pindler, while the bedding is E. Braun & Co. Accent pillows are outfitted in Zimmer + Rohde.



▶ **Blue and White is Always Right:**

Across from the bed sits Pickering's collection of blue and white ginger jars, which were used as centerpieces at his wedding reception. His long-held collection of shelter magazines adds the perfect height, with a bit of novelty added in by way of vintage car models. "They were given to me by my grandparents as a kid when I was too young to decide what I was into," he laughs. "I would get them every year for Christmas, and I keep some of my favorites out."



Bright and Cozy: In the living room, Pickering sits with his dog, Tippi, where an antique mirror helps to bounce light around the room. "We added crown molding to draw the architecture up," Pickering says. The paneled walls are bathed in a warm white, while the ceiling got a high-gloss, icy blue lacquer. "I kept tweaking [the paint colors] until I got it just right," he says of the Sherwin-Williams tones. The Turkish rug is from Stark, while the drink table was an online purchase that Pickering plastered himself. The rolled-arm chair is Bunny Williams Home, and the vintage Klismos chair in the foreground is finished with a cushion covered in Madeaux by Richard Smith. Above the glazed ceramic Italian lamp hangs a collection of framed intaglios and a commissioned watercolor by Wendy Artin, styled after a Michelangelo sketch.

Q: **U**

What techniques do you employ when designing for small spaces?

"Every item matters! I don't do as much high-low design in a smaller space as I would in a large house. Smaller spaces should be more of a jewel box where every detail is completely thought out and pieces are more special."

P ABOVE TURTLE CREEK IN A MID-CENTURY HIGH-RISE, interior designer Josh Pickering and husband Daniel Heath have taken their time creating their dream home. The couple purchased the unit in 2016 and "renovated everything but the kitchen and bath." Despite being a one-bedroom apartment, Pickering says the primary rooms are quite large, giving him room to play and experiment with the space. Still, that doesn't mean the designer can't play tricks on the eye. With limited natural daylight, he's used reflective surfaces such as antique mirrors to open up spaces, and intentional design choices to draw sightlines upward, like exaggerated

crown molding.

And with space as such a valuable commodity, Pickering waits to purchase the right piece, rather than fill his home with temporary placeholders—making his space less of a mix of high and low and more of a studied acquisition. "Every purchase counts," he says. "We've gradually evolved over the past six years." Yet even with careful purchases, Pickering says flexibility, practicality, and comfort are key: "If we have a big dinner party, we move the furniture around so we can get a larger table in. We built in this flexibility so that we can live big or small in the same space."

Surfaces, too, must serve a variety of functions. "It's the same when I design for a larger house, but more concentrated," he says. "It's all the same tips, but more [scrutiny]."

by SARAH BENNETT



▶ **If It Ain't Broke:**

Pickering and his husband opted to keep the original chrome-finish Westinghouse double ovens. "They work great," he says. "Some people are like, 'Why'd you keep these?' and some love them. It's the litmus test of whether we're going to like new people!"

▶ **Vintage Appeal:** "It's a midcentury building, but the cabinets are new," says Pickering of the kitchen millwork, which he painted Benjamin Moore's "Wedgewood Gray." "This color really taps into that 1950s/1960s aesthetic." The soapstone counters and sink are accented by a Rohl faucet and Vesta hardware. For the tile, Pickering tried "100 different options" before finding one by Walker Zanger that almost exactly matched the paint color.