

## Global Fusion

A family travels the world but finds that no place can compare to their home, full of modern grace and European flourish

TEXT: ANGELA CABOTAJE

PHOTOS: [DAVID PAPAIZIAN](#)

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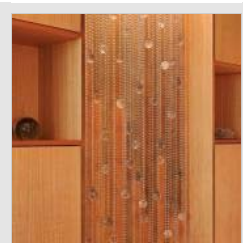
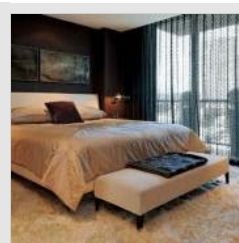
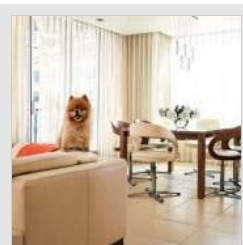
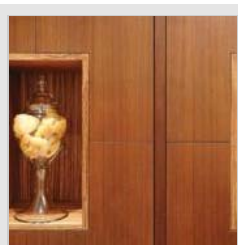


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The Goncharenkos are globe-trotters. Russian natives Galina and Vadim, who moved to the United States nine years ago, frequently travel overseas, and daughter Julia's modeling career takes her across Europe and Asia. Though this well-traveled family has seen the world, no place is quite like home.

For the Goncharenkos, home is a 1,850-square-foot condo in downtown Bellevue—a simple and stylish space with perfect European flair. When Galina and Vadim purchased the previously rented unit in 2005, they had already collected ideas from their international excursions and were looking for a designer who could bring those inspirations to life.



"We needed someone who thinks the same way and understands exactly what we mean when we say something," Vadim says. Enter interior designer Lena Fomichev of LF Interior Design.

The Goncharenkos first saw Fomichev's work in an issue of *Seattle Homes & Lifestyles*, when her project was named the 2005 Home

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of the Year. "She was the perfect person for us because she was welcoming to our crazy ideas," Vadim says. "We are two pieces of one whole thing," Galina adds, explaining that the three connected on both professional and personal levels.

Fomichev began by asking Vadim and Galina to describe their favorite place. Next, she asked the homeowners to tear pages out of magazines and create two piles—one for ideas they loved and the other for things they hated. From the Goncharenkos' description of a sunny ocean beach and their visual likes and dislikes, Fomichev created a design around three elements: air, water and fire.

Tan floor tiles and a subtle blue paint on the ceiling represent sand and sky. Three types of wood—teak, anigre and walnut—warm the space, while pops of fiery orange add color to the creamy white and ice blue theme. Throughout the home, images of water appear in unexpected ways: A crystal-bead light fixture looks like a flurry of raindrops; glossy and matte glass tiles in the kitchen allude to a shimmering ocean; a voluminous floor lamp seems to billow underwater; coral patterns are etched on the crisscross legs of the coffee table.

With help from the team at Homeland Construction, Fomichev removed a wall that blocked the entry from the rest of the home and took out kitchen cabinets that obstructed the flow of light into the kitchen. Unfortunately, she had to adapt her design to some other less-than-ideal structural aspects of the unit. Building regulations forced Fomichev to leave all plumbing in its original location and work with awkwardly angled walls and concrete support pillars spaced 26 feet apart.

"I needed to hide [these] somehow but at the same time make the home functional, spacious, beautiful," Fomichev says. "Every single step was a challenge." She opted for chic camouflage and designed custom pieces to fit in tight spots.

In the living and dining rooms, Fomichev downplayed the angles of the walls with sheer floor-to-ceiling curtains that stretch from wall to wall. She did the same in the master bedroom with rich brown wallpaper and created a focal point in the middle of the room with a cream-colored bed, headboard and rug to draw the eye away from the walls. Fomichev designed a built-in sideboard for the living room as well as vanities to fit narrow spaces in the master and second bathrooms. Throughout the condo, built-in shelves disguise support columns, hiding concrete behind wood panels.

"We are so happy that this was made into reality with Lena's help," Vadim says. "All of our friends and guests feel so comfortable here—when we invite someone over for tea, they end up staying three or four hours."

The Goncharenkos enjoy their home so much that sometimes they too find it hard to leave. After moving in, Galina told Fomichev, "I don't want to go anywhere. This place is heaven for me."

Coming from jet-setters who have seen the world, that's certainly high praise.

#### Kitchen Confidential

"I tried to unify every single area to have the same feeling," says interior designer Lena Fomichev, who made several changes in the kitchen to achieve this goal. To allow more light into the room, she removed a row of hanging cabinets that blocked views out the windows. She also incorporated colors and materials used in the rest of the condo: sand-colored CaesarStone counter tops, teak cabinets and drawers, and blue glass tile for a watery shimmer on the backsplash.

#### RESOURCES:

Interior Design: Lena Fomichev, LF Interior Design, (425) 466-9515; Construction: Rick Lanning, Homeland Construction, 8254 N.E. State Hwy. 104, Kingston, (360) 297-4575.

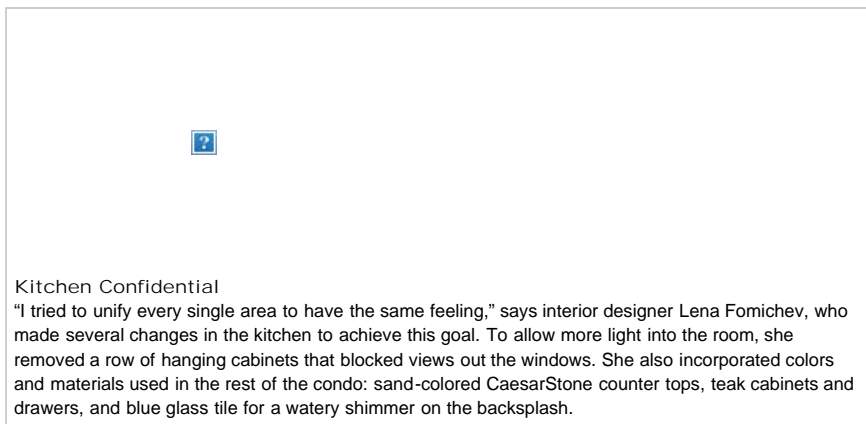
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