

Recently Rehabbed

Architect Remodels His Own 08 Tier Unit

by Bob Shamo

When he set about to remodel his 08 tier unit, Erik Butka had a leg up - two recent architecture degrees from Big Ten universities plus the resources of the Chicago architectural firm where he works. The finished product is imaginative and polished, and it incorporates some interesting features this writer has not seen before in Park Tower rehabs.



A ceiling soffit nicely 'contains' the kitchen space, and three simple, attractive pendulum lights illuminate a stand-alone island. The island is high enough to fit a stool under for convenient dining and, like the surrounding base cabinets, is topped by a lightly-patterned quartz counter.

Kitchen appliances from Best Buy include a full-depth, 36" wide Samsung refrigerator at one end and an LG stacking washer/drier at the other. Having the washer/dryer required upgrading his electric service, but it was important to Erik and, along with the view, was a major reason for his buying here.

Erik had Home Depot measure for the dark maple wood cabinets, and when they arrived he and his dad installed them. Kitchen and bath floor tiles are porcelain, while kitchen wall tiles are slender interlocking rectangles of unfinished white granite.

The bathroom is small and efficient. A shower is created by fronting the tub with a suspended rolling glass panel -- a device he found at Chicago's Merchandise Mart, a great place to see contemporary design ideas.



A highlight of my visit was seeing the new walk-in clothes closet. Keep in mind that this is one of the smaller one-bedroom units, with barely 680 sq/ft. Its bedroom and bath are especially compact, being immediately across from one another and separated by a short hallway with a large linen closet at the end.

Now, Erik wanted a doorless, walk-in closet with entry from the bedroom. The solution, seen in the accompanying floor-plan, was to start with the existing, standard closet and combine it with that end-of-hallway linen closet.

Before

After



Upon entering the unit, one notices two things immediately. First, the long hallway closet has been fitted with standard height (6'8") doors, still bifold but perhaps less imposing than the original floor-to-ceiling doors.



Second and most notably, the kitchen is more open and much larger, with its footprint extending four or five feet deeper into the living room. At the near end, the original interior wall has been considerably shortened, while at the far end a new, short wall abuts the kitchen cabinets.



Actually, it was a bit more complicated than that. In order to have the new walk-in closet open from the bedroom, the walls of the hallway had to be shifted towards the bathroom by about a foot. The bathroom door was then repositioned deeper inside the bathroom entry and the linen closet flipped to the opposite side of the hallway. Whew!

This and other features of the remodeling were accomplished by Erik's father, a retired master carpenter.

The living room is pretty much un-

changed except for a bright area carpet over a new engineered wood floor, dark-colored to complement the kitchen cabinets. That dark floor extends into the short hallway, where it abuts a similar but light-colored one newly installed in the bedroom.

Innovative design and contemporary materials, but still warm and inviting. Nice job, Erik! **TT**

Bob Chairs the Newsletter Committee and edits TowerTalk.

From Our Readers

Two Appreciations + One Space-Saver Tip

I was just enjoying the fantastic Park Tower views, available for all to see on our website. (Go to www.ptcondo.com and click on Park Tower Horizons at the lower right corner).

It makes me grateful to have all these photos and information about where I live so readily available. When I bought into this building the personal computer age wasn't here yet.

*But the real reason I'm writing is the recent story in TowerTalk, **Assessments Gladly Paid**. What's missing is, Daily Cleaning of Common Areas.*

Whenever my family has visited me here at Park Tower, they've almost always com-

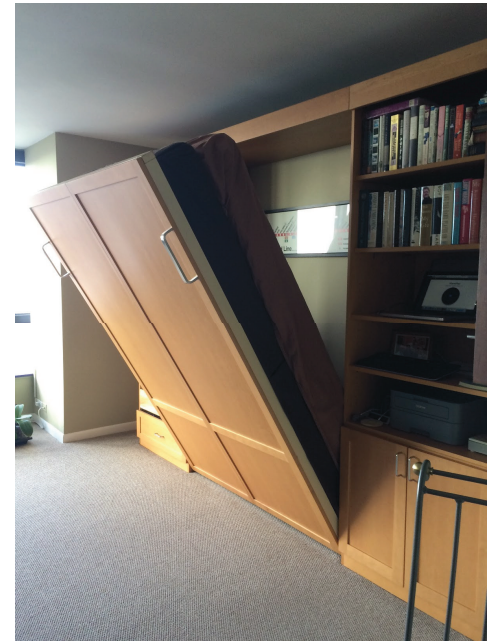
mented on how clean Park Tower is. Our common areas are kept clean and the employees responsible should know their work never goes unnoticed.

.. Will Grendahl

Wall beds are great for saving space in studio apartments and second bedrooms. Recently, we revisited the store where we bought ours in 2010 and learned they no longer require a box spring and can be as little as 15" deep -- plus, they cost a fraction of what we paid! Ours is pictured here.

Configurations can be as simple as bed and frame that fold up toward the wall, or they can be customized to include desk, storage, and additional shelving.

Should you be interested, we bought ours at (www.murphywallbedschicago.com).



.. Ed Jaeger & Kevin O'Rourke



ARETÉ RENOVATORS

HOME REMODELING & DESIGN SHOWROOM

(866) 478-3174

igor@areterenovators.com

- Complimentary Estimates
- Specializing in Kitchen & Bath Remodeling
- Cabinetry & Countertops
- Carpentry & Masonry
- Painting & Drywall
- Flooring
- Design Consultation
- Servicing Chicago for over 16 years

www.areterenovators.com

SHOWROOM: www.renovatorsoutlet.com