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## Dramatic style for urban life

Florian Model; Design steps back into the grand 1930s and '40s

Lisa Van De Ven, National Post

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Looking to demonstrate a sense of urban luxury that appeals to all ages, designer Brian Gluckstein introduced a classic-contemporary style reminiscent of the grand apartments of the 1930s and '40s, in the model suite for Diamante Development's Yorkville project, the Florian.

"We wanted something that was classic, but with a twist to it, with really cool modern elements," says Mr. Gluckstein of Gluckstein Design Planning. "I would say it's contemporary, it's luxurious and it's urban."

The 2,709-square-foot, two-bedroom suite opens into a foyer, a space that Mr. Gluckstein and his team styled for a dramatic statement, with coral-toned grasscloth on the walls, a gallery of black-and-white photography and an ornate chandelier to add sparkle. "It's like a little jewel box when you come into the apartment," the designer says.

Directly off the foyer, a pair of art niches -- displaying contemporary sculpture -- lead the eye into the living area, a large room designed with seating groupings. The living space features a large custom sofa upholstered in stone-tone fabric and paired with a matching loveseat and an oversize limestone-topped steel coffee table. A second seating space is grouped around the fireplace and features two chairs in the same stone-toned material; this time with dark wood trim to suit the charcoal hardwood flooring. Bright coral accent cushions add pops of colour to the room. "That's where the contrast comes from," Mr. Gluckstein says. "All the wood furniture and anything that's trimmed in wood has that nice dark walnut tone. You get the contrast through that and through colour."

The dining area extends that sense of contrast, with its round table in dark wood and dark-trimmed, 1940s Art Deco coral-coloured chairs. A chandelier anchors the space.

The library, just off the living room, incorporates the same dark wood and bright accents. Panelled in dark charcoal wood, with a built-in desk and shelving, the space features a sofa and chair in the same stone tone used in the living area. "You want the palette to continue, because you want a sense of spaciousness," Mr. Gluckstein says.

On the other side of the living area, the kitchen continues in the same vein, with coral accents paired with extensive whitewashed cabinetry and dark hardwood floors. A back-painted glass backsplash and contemporary light fixture add sparkle; a breakfast area featuring a dark wood table and stone-coloured chairs finish the space. "It's very contemporary," the designer says of the room.

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Two bedrooms complete the space; these include a guest space where Mr. Gluckstein and his team introduced a range of luxurious materials, including linen and suede, as well as a headboard upholstered in deep charcoal-chocolate velvet.

The master bedroom features a contemporary bed in dark wood and neutral cream upholstery, paired with grey-blue bedding. A delicate Italian light fixtures hangs above a curved blue sofa. The ensuite bathroom provides a dramatic finish to the suite, featuring grey-blue marble on the floor and a large tub and glass shower with marble surrounds. "Everywhere you go there's a big surprise," Mr. Gluckstein says. "I think that's the finale of the space as you're walking through."

Suites at the Florian range in size from 743 to more than 2,875 sq. ft. and in price from \$700,000 to over \$4-million. The sales office is located at 100 Davenport Rd. It is open Monday to Friday from noon to 6 p.m., and weekends from noon to 5 p.m. Call 416-599-7667 or visit [theflorian.com](http://theflorian.com).

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