

HOME AND DESIGN  
CINCINNATI/DAYTON

# DESIGNING FOR TRANSITIONS

The award-winning designers behind Cincinnati's Designs on Madison help clients transition from one chapter to the next.



When a couple decides to move from the suburban home where they raised a family to a condo for empty-nest living, they're faced with condensing a lifetime's worth of memories into a significantly smaller space that speaks to both their past and present. It's in these transitions that Cincinnati-based interior design firm Designs on Madison excels.

"As a large firm, we have a diverse team of designers each with their own personalities and specialties," says Amy Holt, owner and senior designer. "We collaborate and provide creative perspectives to exceed clients' expectations as they begin a new chapter."

**ABOVE:** Designed around the condo's unique existing structure, this space maximizes the views of the city while transforming open spaces into designated rooms. Photo by Greg Grupenhof of Grupenhof Photography.

With this collaboration between designers, client, and a building's existing architecture, Holt created a couple's new modern transitional condo in Northern Kentucky with expansive views of the Cincinnati skyline.

The first thing Holt did was reach out to Heritage Building Group, Paul and Ethan McAlpine, the original builder for many of the units in the unique SouthShore building. Holt and the McAlpines worked seamlessly with the couple to bring their dream to a reality.

Because the husband and wife both travel extensively, the couple wanted to share a collection of artwork and accessories they've accumulated throughout their adventures. It's a choice that could easily produce a chaotic hodge-podge of artifacts, but Holt crafted an organized and deeply personal display.

"Artwork is an expression of the homeowners. It can be difficult to select which items to display because



**CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:** A spacious chef's kitchen provides ample room for food prep and entertaining guests. An upholstered bed with a touch of pale green complements the view of the Ohio River from the primary bedroom. A raised porcelain soaking tub serves as the central focus of the bathroom. The charcoal-stained bar with a premium bourbon selection acts as both a cozy lounge and statement piece. The powder room features geometric wallpaper and a tiered chandelier. Photos by Greg Grupenhof of Grupenhof Photography.



each piece is so personal, but with the right balance, we can strategically reveal their eclectic lives," Holt explains.

The new condo marks a chapter in the couple's lives where entertaining adults, rather than creating a safe space for kids, is the priority. At the center of the great room is a masculine, charcoal-stained bar stocked with the husband's extensive bourbon collection and regional art. Customized glass display shelving



and an antique mirror allow the bottles of amber spirits to stand out as both art pieces and posh drink options for guests, elevating each get-together to something top-shelf.

"Important to entertaining is having an accessible, open space for cooking, serving, and dining," Holt explains. The bar and chef's kitchen include Thermador® refrigerator, freezer, and wine cooler towers and high-end appliances for caterers or multiple guests to prepare hors d'oeuvres.



Though designed with a classic white palette, the kitchen includes pops of greens and blue such as the dark turquoise island that complements rather than distracts from the Ohio River view. It's a place that effortlessly reflects and improves the couple's new lives.

513-321-0545  
designsonmadison.com