

'Art consultant Madelyn Jordon has 'Dream' Project'

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Some people look at a blank page, a canvas or a room and can't imagine what to put there. Art consultant Madelyn Jordon of Madelyn Jordon Fine Art in Scarsdale, seeing the raw shell of the 5,400-square-foot penthouse atop the Residences at the Ritz-Carlton in White Plains, took a "little bit of a leap," she said, and happily rose to the challenge of filling the space with art for Westchester Magazine's 2014 Dream Home: The Penthouse Edition.

"It was a very fun project," Jordon told the Inquirer, "It's an incredible space. Usually when I walk into a house, it's more finished, then I come up with ideas."

Jordon has a total of 22 pieces by artists in her roster represented in the home. "I got to work with all the different designers and imagine in my own mind what should go there. I didn't have anybody saying no. I was the client and the consultant. I got to really give it my own thought."

Westchester Magazine, looking for its third home to showcase, partnered with the Capelli Organization, developer of the Ritz-Carlton and the Residences, who are trying to market the luxury penthouses. The project brought on board the "best of Westchester" sponsors for design, materials and soft goods. Interior designer Barbara Bell of Barbara Bell Interiors of Tarrytown coordinated the work of the sponsors so that the overall look expressed a singular aesthetic, unlike designer showhouses where each designer expresses their individuality. The aesthetic is sophisticated and elegant, yet comfortable, with all systems wired in to accommodate the latest in technology and gadgetry.

The beneficiary of the Dream Home is My Sisters' Place, the community resource for domestic violence advocacy, shelter, legal resources and education and prevention.

Jordon and Ana Medina Mantini, the Dream Home's project manager, gave the Inquirer a tour of the penthouse. Mantini said she could envision the penthouse as a home for empty nesters who don't want to give up their space, yet want to be close to their families in the suburbs. Residents will be indulged with all the amenities of luxurious Ritz living.

It's hard to compete with 360-degree views from the 40th floor aerie, a panorama that includes Manhattan, the Long Island Sound and miles of Hudson Valley treetops in autumn color, but Jordon's selections fit the contemporary, neutral palette of the décor and added a pop of color where needed.

The foyer sets the tone for the rest of the home, a tone of elegance and serenity, but with topnotes of whimsy and playfulness throughout. At the end of the foyer is a central, 60-foot gallery that connects the layout. Jordon's primary space is the centerpiece of this gallery. For this location Jordon chose artist Antonio Carreno to create a site-specific work. He painted an 18-foot long, black and white oil on canvas triptych titled "The Hidden Words in a Beautiful Heart."

“It’s the first thing you see when you come in,” Jordon said. “It sets the tone for the whole space. I was just delighted with the way it came out. We envisioned something in our minds, and he made an incredible painting.”

An abstract painter, Carreno was born in the Dominican Republic in 1963, but has lived in the United States for 25 years.

“His signature style is textural, iconographic,” Jordon said. “It’s more about movement and texture.” Carreno depicts “imaginary forces,” Jordon said. “The connection is really emotional. He really nailed what I was looking for. It’s 20th century abstraction, but very today, serene but animated. It’s something that envelops.”

Carreno has had many solo and group exhibitions around the country, including at Madelyn Jordon Fine Art. His work is found in public collections, including the Arizona State University Art Museum in Tempe and at the Latin American Museum of Modern Art in Washington, D.C.

Also in the gallery are three chromogenic prints by renowned photographer Susan Wides, a mixed media work by Carreno, an oil and mixed media on canvas work by Stanley Boxer, a New York scene by Lawrence Kelsey, and two acrylic on canvas pieces by Stanford Kay, titled “Collector #2” and “Collector #3.”

Since the home has no bookshelves, Kay’s colorful canvases, which reference collections of books and bibelots, “give a sense of history, having things,” Jordon explained.

In the sophisticated-with-a-shot-of-glam living room, a Kelsey cityscape adorns a prominent space “since you see New York in the distance,” Jordon said. “I’ve had so much response to his work,” she said. “He’s traditional, but timeless.”

Also in the room is a work by Stanley Boxer and a bronze, “Matador,” by Anne De Villemejeane.

In the TV/media room is a mixed media work by Wosene Worke Kosrof, “Mind of the Architect II.” The restful oasis of the master bedroom features works by Linda Touby, Nicola Dill and a Picasso etching and aquatint.

The his and hers master bath holds Juliana Poldi’s abstract “Aurora,” and De Villemejeane’s figure of a female nude, “Nu Decrire Noir II,” ink, pastel and charcoal on paper.

The powder room off the foyer with its gleaming metallics is the perfect spot for Paul Hunter’s “Libretto #AB” (diptych), gold aluminum and acrylic on canvas.

“It’s a very grand project,” Jordon said. “This one is done soup to nuts. It was a brilliant idea showing people what it could look like.”