



Photos: Rob Muir Inc.

## Rooms With A View

After investigating several condominiums in Houston's museum district, the owners of a 2750 sq ft space located on the 14th floor of the Warwick Towers were pleased to find a residence that offered major views of the city and easy access to the district.

Kenney Nickerson Design, Johnson Blohm Associates Inc. (interior design) and Steve Hood Builders (general contractor) were selected to implement the client's desired design and layout goals. Once the design was in motion, the next concern was the lighting. Jim Stephens of Illuminating Lighting Design, Houston, TX, said it was important that the interior lighting accent the night views of Hermann Park, the Texas Medical Center and the downtown skyline. "This was accomplished by using all directional recessed lighting and the use of shades on table lamps and decorative lighting," said Stephens.

A key aspect in this project was the use of field testing to

**THE PROJECT:** Residential space located in The Warwick Towers Condominium, Houston, TX

**THE CHALLENGE:** Create a sensible and pleasing lighting theme that highlighted the major views of the city and downtown skyline

**THE SOLUTION:** Recessed lighting, strip lights, daylighting controls and various decorative lighting elements



assure that each lighting application was successful. Edward Rogers, of Edward Rogers Architects, Houston, TX, explained that a typical problem with illuminating a kitchen that consists of a highly polished countertop and backsplash—particularly with dark color granite involved—is the risk of shadow lines and reflections. "By using the puck plus lights [from Sea Gull Lighting], which had cut off louvers, to light the counter we were able to cut the reflected glare," said Rogers. "This also allowed the xenon strips [Phantom Lighting] to be placed in exactly the right spot to provide an even wash of light on the backsplash." This was the first time the designer used the combination of the xenon strip and puck lights together as a solution. Although Rogers was confident in its success, the field testing was an important process as it set the ideal placement of each component and got the maximum benefit from common fixtures.

When the adjustable shelves with strip lights along the leading edge are above eye level, particularly at seated height, the lamps themselves start to become more visible as the shelf gets higher. The shielding flange of the light strips needed to hang well below the upper shelves to provide a deeper cut off. Rogers said the flange itself became more exposed in the process and was painted a custom color in order to blend in.

Most lighting needs were met by sunlight during the day. "Roll shades, black out draperies and opaque sliding panels handled low sun angles, said Rogers. "All of these components were operated by the low-voltage control system [from Lutron Homeworks], which allowed the fixtures to be relatively subtle as task, art and display lighting in combination with floor and table lamps."

—John-Michael Kobes