

DESIGNER: **Gil Walsh, Gil Walsh Interiors**, West Palm Beach

PHOTOGRAPHER: **Daniel Newcomb**

Mike Conville, president of Beacon Construction Group in North Palm Beach, is no stranger to turnkey design. He's used to working with a team of designers and architects to create the concept for snowbird clients.

Conville used his experiences in the design of his new 3,500-square-foot condo at the Esplanade Grande in West Palm Beach with the help of interior designer Gil Walsh.

"I was too busy with so many projects," Conville says. "We had a relationship because she has done jobs for me. She knew my aesthetic. She would send me [product information sheets] and she would go shopping for the furniture and all the accessories. I went shopping with her a couple of times. We didn't return much – maybe three items."

Conville describes himself as "a New England guy who likes homey with a little edge." He wanted Walsh to add a little more edginess to his conservative style. For example, she suggested building a stand for his coral art.

The condo design was a mix of high and low – from Ralph Lauren pendants in the kitchen to a mirror in the dining room from Z Gallerie. He found some of the pieces himself, such as the large oil painting of Venice in the dining room. He also found glassware, which Walsh placed on the bar shelves so they were ready when he moved in.

Walsh says the project was a team effort. When Conville purchased the condo, it was sterile with no architectural detail. He built cabinetry in his library/office, separated the hallway between the great room and master bedroom with a built-out casing and an out casing and created a bar in the great room with a large TV built into the two-way mirror.

"We put the style together and our thoughts together," Walsh says. "He showed me photos of what he liked and we talked about scale and the location of the furnishings. That is why it turned out so well and why he is so happy. He can live here and eventually may sell it. It is a great look and will sell."

In the master bedroom, Conville wanted to use his own bed and night tables, which Walsh thought he should replace. They went shopping together and found new end tables and they visited an Asian gallery where he fell in love with a three-panel painting. She told him the art wouldn't work with his bed because it was too big. He replied, "You are going to love them. I know it is going to work."

"Sure enough, part of them are hidden, but it looks great," she says.



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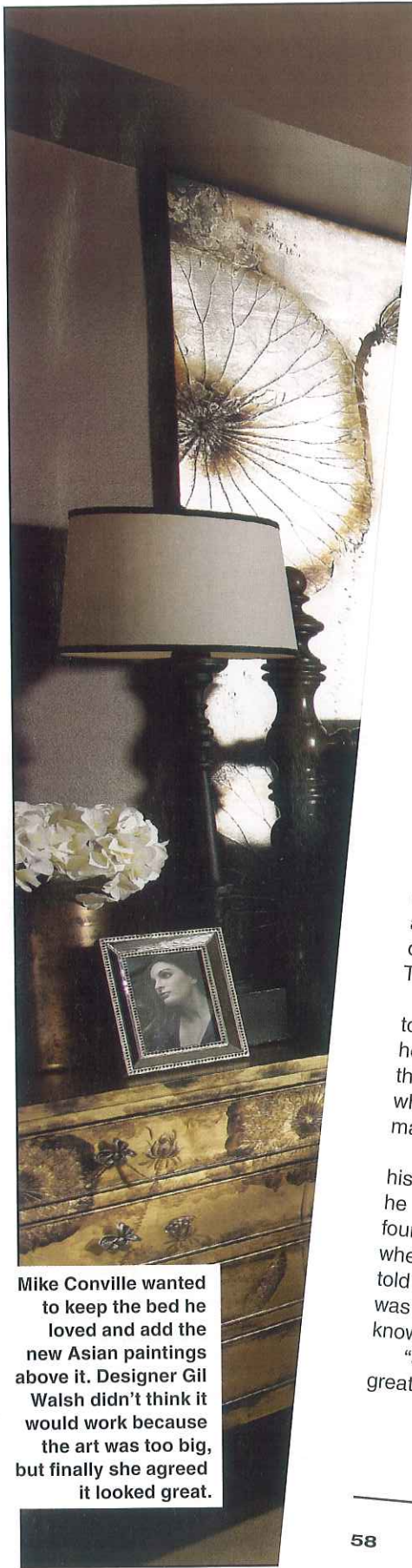
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Clockwise: The design mixes high and low — the Ralph Lauren pendants in the kitchen and a Z Gallerie mirror in the dining room. Mike Conville, a builder, created the bar with TV inserted into a two-way mirror, bookcases in the library and a built out casing to add architectural detail.

READY TO WARE

BY CHARLYNE
VARKONYI SCHAUB

Imagine this: The house or condo you bought comes ready with all the furniture, accessories, towels, linens, pots and pans in the styles you prefer. All you need to move in is your toothbrush and wardrobe.

Welcome to “turnkey” design — the perfect solution for those with the money but not the time. Typically in South Florida it’s done for those moving in from out of state, but it can also be the best solution for busy executives. How many details the designer provides varies with the client.

These three examples run the gamut from snowbirds trading up to a larger home in Florida to clients moving from homes to condos.





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