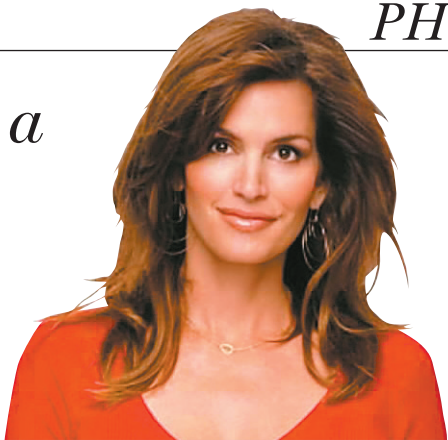
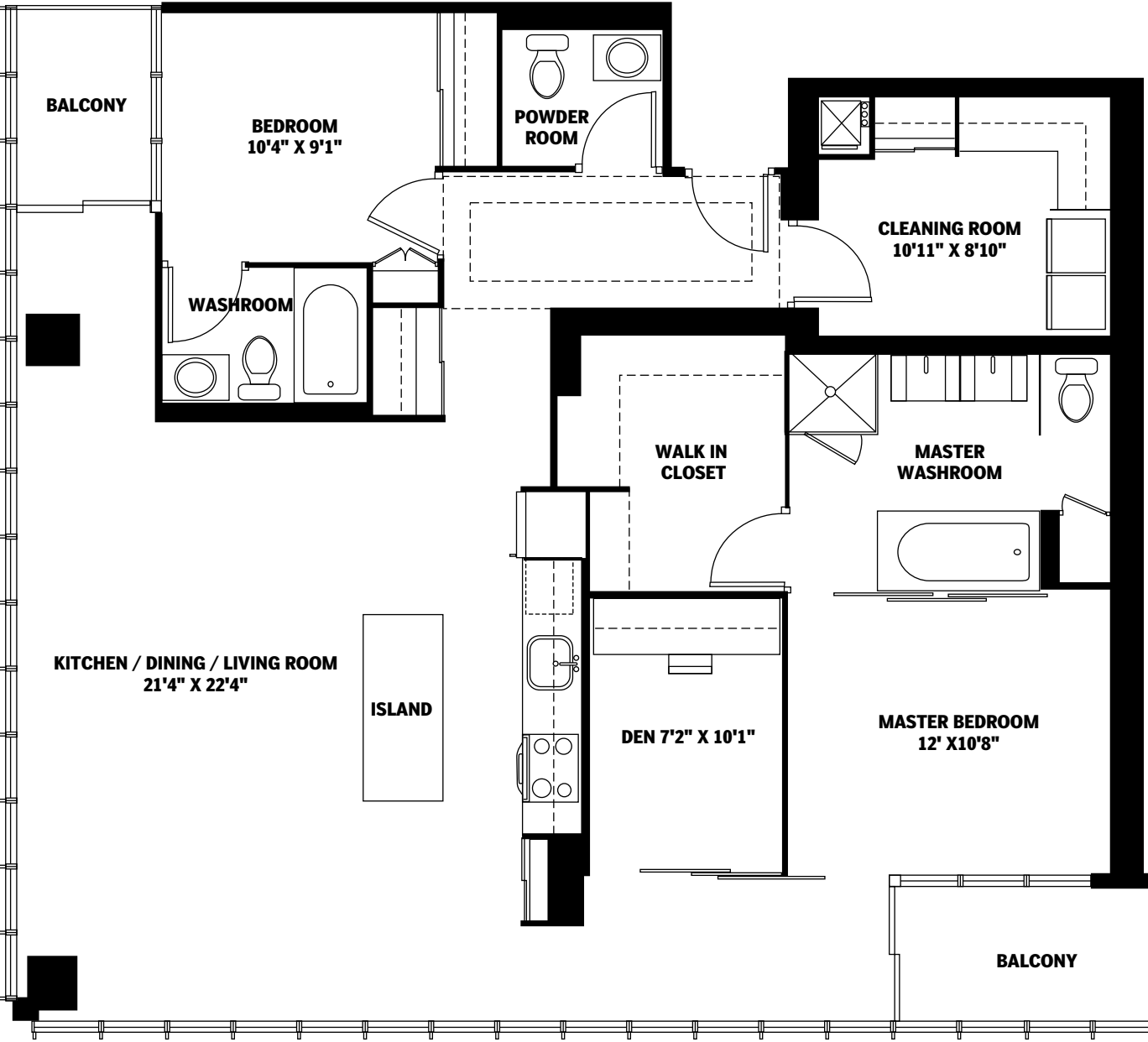


“It was not a natural jump. Obviously everybody has a home, and I’ve always spent time decorating mine. Especially when you travel a lot, your home is really your refuge — Cindy Crawford on furniture design



CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM

Three design experts analyze a layout for this 1,451-square-foot condominium



DEE DEE TAYLOR HANNAH
Architect, interior designer



Oh, to be square. Truly, there is much to be said about a perfectly square room proportion. The spandrel glass veneer with the concrete columns allows the light to stream into this lovely laid-out corner unit. The rooms that don’t require light are deep set into the plan and the bathrooms are efficient. There is not a lot of glamour in this plan but there is space to be enjoyed. The combined room of living, dining and kitchen has the potential of greatness. First, slide the island down and keep it on wheels so that the wall of the closet/bathroom becomes the art wall surrounded by a group of seating. The corner becomes dining with a circular table for eight; any more, go out to a restaurant. There are always wrinkles and they increase with age. The master suite could be enhanced if the den was removed and then there is ample space for dressing and ensuite. The shower needs to be larger with room for a bench and steam. There is the unfortunate column that you must squeeze by on route to the north balcony but this will keep your waist in check. Who doesn’t want a cleaning room? If only you just could push a button and it would all be done.
■ Dee Dee Taylor Hannah operates Taylor Hannah Architect and is a partner in Montclair Construction.

ANTHONY PROVENZANO
Intern architect, furniture designer



I think this condo is basically good, even if it looks a little rough around the edges. At 1,451 square feet, this unit is exceptionally large by today’s condo standards. What this plan does well is capitalize on its strength, which is the corner glazing. The most public elements (kitchen, dining and living) are oriented in the prime internal real estate, known as the glass corner. Each of the bedrooms is placed adjacent to a small recessed balcony and as a result, the benefits of perimeter glazing (light and view) are maximized. (Let’s forget about massive solar gain and a dire lack of art-hanging space.) There are two things I would change. First, I’d flip the den and walk-in to claim the balcony and the space between the den and exterior wall for the master suite. The trade-off is no light/view for the den, but you’d gain a private master balcony and a larger master suite accessed with a door between the pantry/exterior wall. In this case, I’d say, go big or go home. Second, it bothers me how the kitchen articulates itself (proud of the volume) ... I’d make the whole kitchen coplanar with the volume it’s in: geometric serenity now! The difference between something that’s good and something that’s really good is in the details. I think this plan is good: Cleaner lines and reapportioned space would be the details I’d focus on to make this plan really good. But it’s close.
■ Anthony Provenzano is an intern architect and furniture designer.

ZAC RIDGELY
Lighting designer



Start with the positive: I like the expansive windows in this layout. If I were to live in a condo, this is what I would be looking for. I hope the building and indeed the unit is situated to give inspiring views and not one of a parking lot or the condo project that sprung up next door. Now the changes, starting with the second bedroom: I don’t love the entry off the front hall/foyer — this is too public and would have any guest in that room subject to the comings and goings of the people in the unit. I suggest moving the door to the other side. To accommodate this, the washroom would have to be reorganized, substituting a shower for the bathtub and reducing it slightly in size. A pocket door would be ideal for bathroom access. The master bedroom and den seem a bit on the small side. This could be remedied by moving the interior wall of the den, slightly reducing the walk-in closet size. Extending the remaining walls toward the exterior wall would create more den space and a pronounced entry to the master bedroom. In addition, I would extend the kitchen island to within 3-foot-6 of the exterior wall and add a galley edge. This would create a proper zone for the living room furniture, while reducing views of the kitchen counters.
■ Zac Ridgely is the principal of Ridgely Studio Works Inc., an interdisciplinary firm focusing on custom lighting, sculpture and design.

Supermodel displays flair for furniture

CINDY CRAWFORD

New collection now being sold in Canada

By MAIRI MACLEAN

First, Cindy Crawford was a supermodel. Then she became a super businesswoman associated with many international brands, filling in what scant spare time she had by writing books, creating skin-care lines and making exercise videos.

Most recently, she’s turned her talents to furniture design. After debuting her new collection in the United States 18 months ago, she has now brought it to Canada at the Brick stores.

“Some are pieces from the original launch; we’re also adding collections as we go along,” says Ms. Crawford, on the phone from her home in Malibu, Calif. “The new partnership [with the Brick] benefits from our experience with other retailers — we know what’s selling.”

Ms. Crawford says the move into furniture was prompted by the challenge, and adds that she feels like she’s “getting a college education” while she’s doing it.

“It was not a natural jump. Obviously everybody has a home, and I’ve always spent time decorating mine. Especially when you travel a lot, your home is really your refuge. And a couple of my homes had been photographed for *Architectural Digest* over the years,” she explains.

“My main partner in the U.S. is Rooms To Go; the pres-

ident was aware of me as a model and contacted me, and asked, would I be interested?”

The result is seven collections ranging from the traditional to the urban and hip to the casual and slip-covered.

“We have a line derived from some of the furniture I have in my home in the [Beachside] collection. That’s the way we live, the playroom where the kids hang out,” she says. “My main focus started with accessibility and quality. Leather is great quality but it can also be expensive. At \$2,200 for a leather sectional, that’s achievable.”

As well as having a view to quality, price and fashion, Ms. Crawford says she’s inspired by her travels, which are frequent. “Even my BlackBerry has a camera on it. If I see something I like, I can take a picture, e-mail it to the designers I work with and, by the time I get home, they’ve got something ready.”

She says she’s really designing with someone like herself in mind — “a 41-year-old mother of two who likes to entertain and who wants people to feel comfortable in my house.”

“That said, my husband designs bars and nightclubs, and he likes the hip factor,” Ms. Crawford continues. “I run things by him.”

“I also love sharing with my mom and sisters, who have elements from this collection.”

Ms. Crawford says the furniture collections have grown more rapidly than she’d anticipated, but she’s already added rugs and table linens, plates and accessories.

“If there’s room and the plate is clear, we’ll see where it goes next.”

CanWest News Service



The Cindy Crawford collections range from the traditional to the urban and hip to the casual and slipcovered.

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