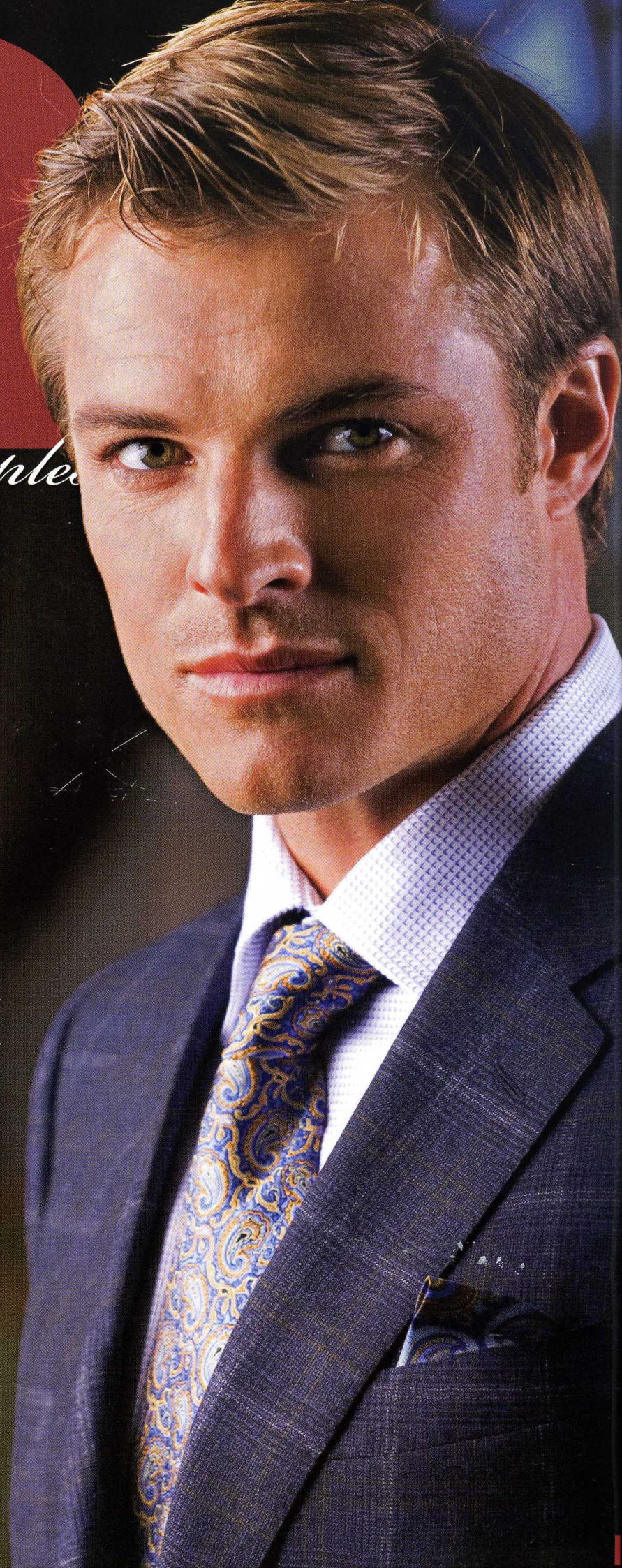


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Men Of Distinction

More than a Few Good Men

Scott Hoch Wins
**ACE GROUP
CLASSIC**

60s Auto Icon Returns
MUSTANG BULLITT



REVELATIONS OF A BACHELOR PAD

BY heather ray



Dining room

Can a bachelor penthouse pad be both beautiful and masculine? The answer is a resounding “yes” when it’s the home of Richard Counts and when, like Counts, you have enlisted the aid of an expert designer to guide you through the process and the pitfalls.

Richard Counts is a man of many interests — a world traveler, adventurer, successful real estate mogul and father of three, 20-something sons. He is a man with style and exquisite taste. But where he excels at shopping for and collecting fine art and rare souvenirs from around the globe, he lacks—modestly, of course—the ability to place it all together into one cohesive and elegant theme. And so, in the spirit of the familiar phrase, “behind every good man is a good woman” (or in this case, a good interior designer), Counts began the search for an interiors

expert who could design around his sense of style and personality to create an upscale atmosphere that would also feel like home.

His first choice was interior designer Kira Krumm, who, upon his initial request, was fully booked and unable to take on additional clientele. He turned to several other firms that were considered experts in the field, but felt unsatisfied with their designs. Finally, he determined Krumm would be worth the wait, and so he did.

It was a wise decision that ended with a client/designer match that both parties are thrilled with. What Krumm and Counts have in common is a passion for travel, an interest in the global marketplace and an attraction to fine art — all the characteristics for creating a space that would first, accommodate Count’s personal taste and second, represent Krumm’s signature style for luxury living.

Counts’ extensive travels and extraordinary adventures have exposed him to an assortment of



work by Kay Hurley

“RICHARD IS VERY IN TUNE WITH THE ENVIRONMENT AND LIKES TO BE INVOLVED IN THE DETAILS”

cultures and design schemes—all of which he appreciates. “Richard likes many styles—old world, tropical and contemporary. It was difficult to get him to commit to one, but in the end, he agreed to an eclectic modern look. I felt a masculine clean-lined approach softened by light, cool colors would be a nice balance,” says Krumm, who, along with Counts, shares a love for aqua-blue.

With a designing theme in place, the next step for the well-matched duo was to set up shopping parameters. “Unlike most men, Richard likes to shop. He was involved in selecting a great deal of the furnishings. I think he liked the hunting part more than the spending, however. In the beginning, he was returning more items than he was retaining because they didn’t work in the design. But, eventually he learned, and I would receive calls from him at stores, asking me to come and approve things before he purchased them. He has great taste, but not everything would work with the concept,” notes Krumm.

Pleased with the overall design scheme and armed with his new purchasing strategies, Counts’ home began to fall into place, but there was more he wanted to bring into the space—much more. In fact, he had several specific requests that many designers would rebuff, writing them off as infeasible or too challenging. Not Krumm, though. She was prepared to take on whatever challenge Counts threw her way. After all, when it comes to male clients, she’s heard it all. “Most men would be happy if we covered everything in leather or if there were a TV in every room,” jokes

Krumm. “But Richard is very in tune with the environment and likes to be involved in the details. In truth, what he loves most about his penthouse are the sweeping mangrove and ocean views.”

It would only make sense then, that his home incorporated the elements of nature that he admired. And so, the client/designer relationship was put to the test. Counts wanted a water feature and Krumm had to find a way (and a space) to make it “flow” with the trans-modern theme. The solution: the wall separating the formal foyer from the more casual living area became an engaging transparent waterfall. The wall would continue to serve as a divider, but also opened up the space and provided yet another touch of nature.

Other must-have bachelor amenities include the flat screen television nestled in the custom-made entertainment center; a surround sound stereo; and adjustable lighting—all controlled by a single remote, which also includes a button for the waterfall.

But like any hardworking businessman, much of Counts’ time is spent at his desk, which conveniently offers an ocean (and television) view. Without even a swivel in his chair, he can check his email, watch a boxing match and admire some of his favorite landscapes.

What more could a man ask for?

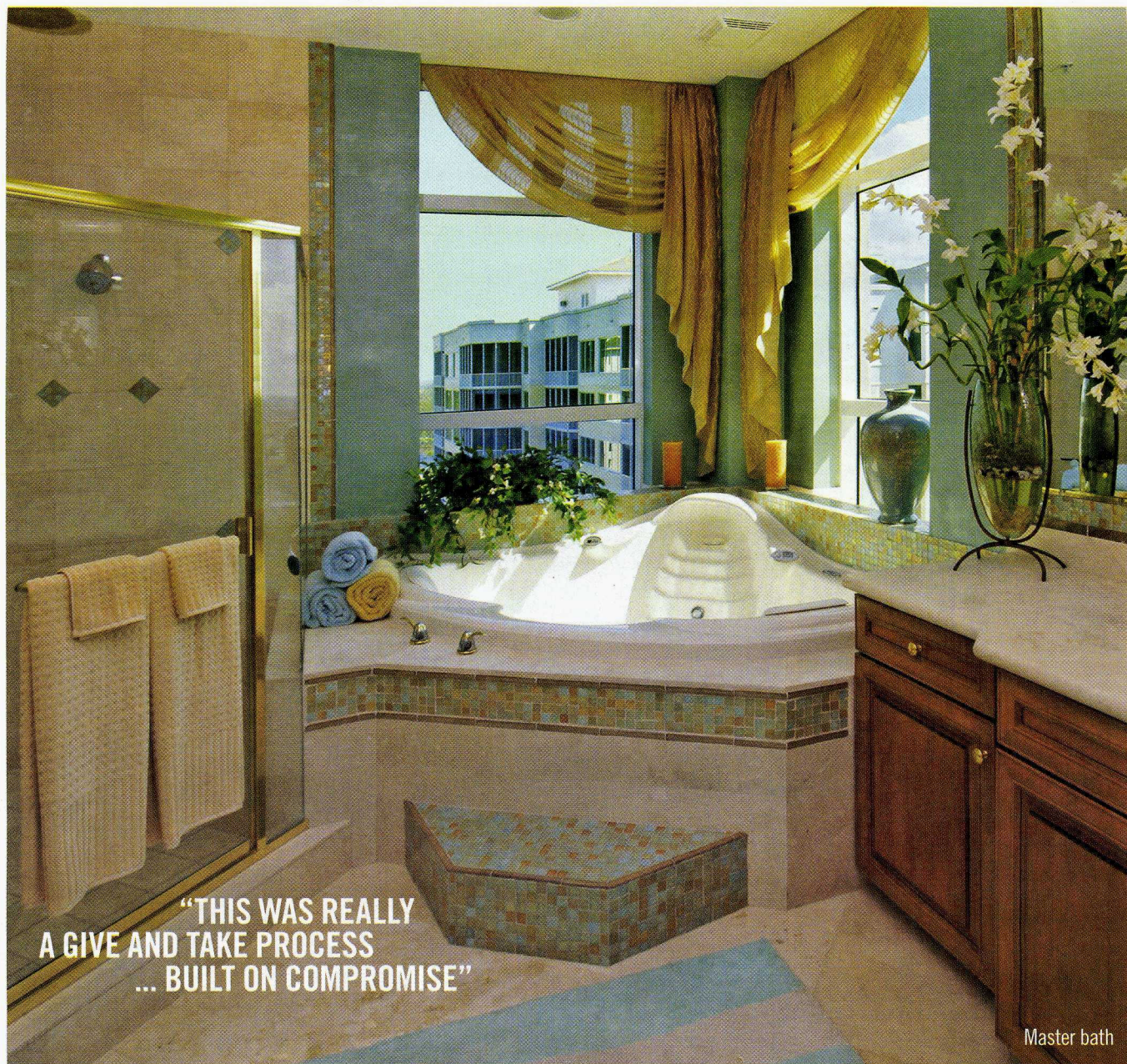
A custom-built wine cellar? Check.

A special compartment in the master closet for diving, hunting and rock climbing gear? Check.

Separate bins for dry cleaning and laundry? Check.



MASCULINE CLEAN-LINED APPROACH
SOFTENED BY LIGHT, COOL COLORS
WOULD BE A NICE BALANCE"



"I have found through working with Kira that she is extremely passionate about what she does, and I respect that. We have a great working relationship in that I can approach her with an idea and she'll give me her honest feedback and provide me with options," says Counts.

Krumm has also made special efforts to incorporate one of her client's favorite materials, onyx, throughout the home. The same can be said for one of his favorite artists—Kay Hurley, who Counts met through famed Cincinnati Reds and Naples resident Johnny Bench. Upon being introduced to her work, Counts has had several of her signature landscape pieces commissioned for his collection.

And yet, surrounded by an inestimable amount of priceless tailor-made furnishings, something was still missing. The ultimate luxury bachelor pad lacked the one thing Counts considered most valuable—family. For the final touch, Counts and Krumm, along with Counts' three sons, created a hallway of

memories. Pictures from their daring adventures in South America and their many European destinations now grace the walls leading to the guest bedrooms in which his sons find retreat when they visit.

As it stands, there's nothing Richard Counts would change about his beautiful and masculine bachelor pad, but it still remains a work in progress for Krumm. She is called in from time to time for updates, advice and guidance on certain design ideas. And while even match.com could not have brought together a more perfect couple when it comes to pairing a client with an interior designer, their relationship is not entirely perfect. "Just like any relationship, this was really a give and take process and built on compromise," says Krumm, who tactfully pointed out that the blue and white striped rug in the master bathroom would not have been her choice. However, this example is one of very few disagreements between the two. "I've received a lot of compliments on this rug, and I like it," defends Counts with a smile. **n**