

before



LIVING/DINING: Clutter makes the spaces virtually unusable.

KITCHEN: Appliances probably from the 70's when building was built.

BEDROOM: No end of day retreat vibe here.

BATHROOM: Dark with insufficient lighting.

30 YEARS NEW

THROUGH CLUTTER MANAGEMENT AND RENOVATION A CONDO OWNER REDISCOVERS HOME

INTERIOR DESIGN: **DW DESIGN AND DÉCOR**

WORDS: **DENISE WENACUR + JANE DAGMI**

AFTER PHOTOS: **KYLE J. CALDWELL PHOTOGRAPHY**

After earning her doctorate, Sharon flirted with moving to a bigger place. Well-aware that the 950 sq. ft. condo she occupied for thirty years would never sell in its current state of clutter and disrepair, she reached out for help. Most of the designers she contacted said they didn't take small projects "unless they were in Manhattan." Then she found Denise Wenacur on Houzz and Denise took a look. In her kind and professional way, she set Sharon straight: this wasn't a small job, it would be a complete gut, and it would cost 75K. They drew up a contract, and Denise got to work.

“The nicest compliment anyone has ever given to me was when Sharon said that what God has given me is not just a gift but a calling. That gives my work meaning and I know I am really making a difference.

“The biggest challenge in getting started,” says Denise, “was encouraging Sharon to go through her stuff and determine what would make her happy and what pieces she should surround herself with moving forward.” Once the purge got underway, Denise noticed a shift in her client's energy. “She was more in control, and got excited about seeing the open spaces.” The renovation was symbolic of this new chapter in Sharon's life.

From demo to completion, the project took four months. Demo included upgrading unsafe electrical, replacing windows and broken sliders, removing popcorn ceilings and old carpet. For the redesign, hardwood floors, crown molding, and recessed lighting and fixtures were installed. The galley kitchen and bathroom update utilized quartz, marble, and semi-custom cabinetry. With everything, Denise managed to find space for an extra closet.

The contractor that Sharon hired was a godsend. Fabian Pedreyra's familiarity with the complex's rules and infrastructure came in handy since there were no original blueprints, plus his willingness to help Sharon pair down was greatly appreciated. As the condo took shape, Fabian and Sharon would treat curious neighbors to a peek at the progress. Denise says, “Sharon is an avid HGTV fan, so she was thrilled with the attention given to her new space. Having a finished solution that could be on TV was one of my requirements as her designer!”

The project came in under budget and transformed Sharon's life, giving her the new spacious dwelling she so desired. She is cooking again and entertaining, and has been tickled that some neighbors have implemented changes in their own homes based on her “model”. In the spirit of HGTV, she has decided to love it rather than list it.