



Wynnell Schrenk and Joie Wilson work to find the perfect cushion depth for sectional comfort. Right: Some of the treasures found in the hunt.



The agenda on a trip to New York by Wynnell Schrenk and ASID interior designer Joie Wilson is to continue searching for vintage sconces and bedroom carpeting, and to work out details of the sectional planned for the living room of the Naples Le Parc condominium George and Wynnell Schrenk are redesigning. It's Wynnell's fourth shopping visit with Wilson, a trip they will repeat every couple of months until the project is completed in the summer.

"I have the only contractor around who is ahead of schedule, and he said we need eight pairs of sconces right away," Schrenk says, admitting that complicating the selection is her desire for each lighting pair to be vintage. "It takes a long time to finish. There are many decisions, but I want each piece to be something I love."

Before arriving in New York, Schrenk and Wilson make a list of places to visit and work out an itinerary, as well as decisions they'd like to finalize before leaving. "I'm happy if we make one or two purchases per trip," Wilson says. "There's so much to do, one or two represents progress."

When George and Wynnell got married in 2005, they talked about redecorating the condominium. They hired a decorator, but after a year and a half, the project was not progressing.

"Our one disagreement was about redecorating," Schrenk says. "My husband doesn't share my aesthetic. When Joie and I started working together, I don't know how to describe it. She's understood exactly what I wanted. She's flexible and sensitive. This has been such a pleasurable experience."

Schrenk wants to create sophisticated serenity in her home, predominantly with white, black and platinum hues and mid-century modern furniture, including a two-part Alan Moss Lucite-and-mahogany cabinet by Grosfield House from the 1930s; a 1960s Karl Springer Lucite coffee table; and a 1960s custom-designed French sand-cast glass-top desk made

# BLACK AND WHITE

WYNNELL SCHRENK LIKES THE PHOTOGRAPHY SHE COLLECTS TO BE PRIMARILY FROM THE 1950S, 1960S AND 1970S, AND BLACK AND WHITE. HER DECORATING DECISIONS FOR THE LE PARC UNIT SHE IS RENOVATING IN MID-CENTURY MODERN STYLE WITH HER HUSBAND, GEORGE, AND INTERIOR DESIGNER JOIE WILSON, ARE NOT ALWAYS SO BLACK AND WHITE.

BY KATHY BECKER • PHOTOGRAPHY BY VINCENT RICARDEL

by Saint-Gobain, a glass factory that is no longer in business that was owned by the Rothschilds to make wine and Champagne bottles.

The palette was selected to showcase the couple's photography collection, including a 1970 Slim Aarons photo of the Richard Neutra house in Palm Springs, *Poolside Gossip*, for Schrenk's office; for the powder room, a Bert Stern photo of Liz Taylor and Burt Reynolds kissing; and a Stern triptych from *The Last Sitting* photo series of Marilyn Monroe for the master bedroom.

### Treasure Hunt

On the morning of the first day of research, Schrenk and Wilson meet in the living room of their Park Avenue Place apartment, each taking out large binders full of magazine pictures, fabric samples and website pages of period sconces.

"This is when the real work happens, in bathrobes over coffee," Wilson says. "We just collect. Every choice is edited. It's like a recipe. You make it again and again until you perfect it."

Despite the preparation, they both know it's important to see the fixtures they are considering, sit on the chairs they have selected, or see the carpet samples in different kinds of light. "We have to see the sconces," Wilson says. "We went to see some we saw on the Internet that ended up being crystal pink, but they didn't look



Wynnell Schrenk and Joie Wilson cross a New York street à la the Beatles' *Abbey Road* album cover.

like that in the online images."

The first stop of the day is at Stark Carpet in the Decoration & Design Building to look at carpeting for the bedroom, a task that has been on the to-do list for months. The goal is to find something white and plush, but after some discussion, Schrenk and Wilson decide the ideal color should have the radiance and luster of pearls.

After picking a few samples and arranging to have some sent to Naples, they move to Stark Fine Furniture on another floor to finalize plans for a sectional they've selected.

Their task is to decide on the ideal cushion depth. Schrenk's concern was that making the piece smaller to fit her condominium might reduce its comfort.

"Her husband is a theoretical physicist," Wilson explains. "He's about inches and proportion. He considered a drawer interior configuration to within an eighth of an inch."

After sitting on the sofa, measuring the cushions and testing other sofas for comparison, Schrenk makes the call. "We want the seat depth on the couch 25 inches, that's the magic number," she says. "Another decision!"

All that sitting has Schrenk rethinking her plan to include armless Geoffrey Bradfield chairs in the living room.

Before leaving the D&D Building, Schrenk and Wilson visit several other furniture showrooms to sit on chairs. "I need reactions," Wilson says. "Do you like tufted? It's good to start editing out. Are you worried those Bradfield chairs won't be comfortable?"

"Yes, but they are so stunning," Schrenk says.

"We can make them comfortable," Wilson says.

No chairs are selected, but Schrenk says she likes a smoky amethyst-hued pillow, admitting the color could be a nice accent in the bedroom. "I'm glad you want a touch of that color in there," Wilson says.

Then it's off to a few antique dealers they have visited before, or who they know carry the furniture and fixtures Schrenk favors, including Bernd Goeckler Antiques, where they see several pairs of appealing sconces.

At Van den Akker Antiques, a 1965 Mazzega Murano sputnik-style chande-

lier is on Schrenk's wish list, pending her husband's input. "What I love about it is the translucence," Wilson says. "You wanted dramatic."

In between antique shops, they stop in lighting showrooms to look for new sconces they could use in the spaces like hallways, an effort to keep the budget under control. "A lot of the new pieces do not have the quality or the artistry that she's used to, especially when you see them on the same trip," Wilson says.

During lunch at Cipriani, one of Schrenk's favorite restaurants, Schrenk and Wilson go over what they've accomplished. "Adding color—that was huge," Wilson says. "We detailed the sectional and found some intriguing sconces."

The next day, they are planning to go to the Rug Company for the office and living room. They need to consider flooring for the kitchen and a light for Schrenk's dressing room.

"It's a good thing we have a lot of time," Schrenk says. "I never understood until I started this why someone would come down and buy someplace furnished. Now I do." ♦

## Focus

As part of their passion for photography, George and Wynnell Schrenk support the Naples Philharmonic Center's Student Photography Institute, a photography program for high school students, through the Schrenk Family Foundation.

J. Tomas Lopez, director of electronic media at the University of Miami and an internationally known photographer, serves as the primary instructor. He has works in many collections, including the Smithsonian and the International Museum of Photography.

Students attend four weekend workshops and two-week seminars in various areas of photography.

"The students are magnificent," Wynnell Schrenk says. "It offers an opportunity for them to go to better schools."

Below: Wynnell Schrenk looks at lighting at Van den Akker Antiques.



Looking at carpet samples at Stark; some of the many sconces viewed in one shopping trip; considering chairs.

