



OPRAH  
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THE URBAN ELECTRIC CO.

Someone to pick out sofas and drapes," Jill so over-the-top." Still, she realized, she'd need professional help to create the "grown-up" interiors for her. After polling the style mavens in her office and rejecting four candidates—one refused to take the apartment, another had ideas that seemed to be for a Victorian mansion—Jill signed on with a friend, Amanda Nisbet, who dispelled any first-time homeowner's fears about working with a pro. "I felt like I was working with an equal—I wasn't self-conscious," she said. "I knew that Amanda has as much energy as I do." Nisbet, she found her new client ideal: "Jill respects a professional because she's one herself—she'll do what I do best." That meant translating her ideas to make it feel as though the sun were shining in the condo's rooms—a tall order when the place was a cold white box. Nisbet knew just how to work with it, with a dramatic sweep of coral floor-to-ceiling curtains in the living room, melon-saturated guest room—study, and dusky lilac linens in the kitchen. With the color scheme in place, the designer worked to soften the apartment's hard edges, and to play up Jill's girlish side. A curvaceous round sofa, interlocking kidney-shaped ottomans and a pair of scallop-edged buffets all blunt the room's right angles. In the open kitchen, she added a pair of oversize drum shades above the island. A demilune console and a barrel-top table show up in other rooms, each deftly rounding out the space.

Jill took the scheme a step further. "The truth is, I'm a night owl, so I wanted the apartment to be luminous." That meant introducing polished aluminum, steel, nickel, and even brass. "It's fabulous," Jill says. "I still can't decide what I want to sit in when I get home at night." What she is sure of, though, is that her apartment is big enough to entertain colleagues. Another fact she's still the same person she's always been: "I love my swank surroundings haven't changed." Well," Jill says with a smile, "maybe a little. I'm a little more in front of the television anymore."

—Additional reporting by Rumaan Alam

The Urban Electric Co. and vases by Roost add to the powder room (top). Jill prepares to entertain in the master bedroom (opposite page). The duvet cover is from Leontine Linens and the lamp is from Gish, Madeline Weinrib, and Leontine Linens.



### The Final Word

**IDEA #105** Our publisher, Jill Seelig, says her smartest move was working with Amanda Nisbet. "I trusted her on every level." Jill offers the following suggestions for people looking to hire a decorator:

**Make sure you want the type of service the designer provides.** Some don't have time for impromptu meetings, and others expect clients to sign off on every purchase.

**Be honest about how you live.** If your decorator doesn't like your taste, it's probably not a good fit.

**Trust your intuition:** Will you be happy working together for months?