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survivors.) But Gowdy persevered, digging his way through the long demolition process without settling on a single less-than-perfect design element.

Fortunately, he had enlisted the right help. Machnik is a whiz with details and handled much of the tedious task of creating Gowdy's dream home even while his client was out of town. For example, before choosing a shade of graphite for the walls in the kitchen and dining area, Machnik went through more than 10 different colors of gray. "We didn't want it to feel like a dungeon," Machnik says, "so the color had to be just right."

To cast a soft glow onto those dark walls and to spotlight Gowdy's

**Opposite:** Custom kitchen cabinets with a cherry wood finish and stainless steel framing and upper cabinets with frosted glass fronts, both from McDuffee Design Group, Inc. The 'Millennium Hope' dining room table is designed by Claudio Silverstin for Cappellini, at Luminaire. **Above:** The master bathroom features English slate tile, along with a floating crystal-glass sink and the 'Spoon' white-stone tub, both by Agape at Luminaire.

ever-growing art collection, Machnik chose recessed, low-voltage lights from Chicago-based Lightology. The result is not only complementary; it's smart. The entire system—called 'RadioRa' by Lutron—is controlled by the push of a button and is pre-programmed to create different light scenes, such as those needed when entertaining or working. The window shades are also integrated into the system and can be programmed to open or close at particular times of the day.

Those window shades are up while Gowdy makes his way around his well-appointed kitchen, complete with a huge stainless steel island, top-of-the-line appliances and clever cooking gadgets. "I'm a big fan of Italian food," he says. "So I learned how to make the perfect risotto from a chef in Milan last year." But the shades go down while Gowdy's de-stressing in his deep, white-stone bathtub. And he's not the only one who enjoys an occasional soak in the Agape tub. "I think I've been able to keep a girlfriend because of that tub," he jokes.

Dim lights, dinner and a dip in the tub? Maybe it's time we redefined the stereotypical bachelor pad. Gowdy certainly has. ■



*DINNER, DIM LIGHTS AND A DIP IN THE TUB? MAYBE IT'S  
TIME WE REDEFINED THE STEREOTYPICAL BACHELOR PAD.*



## THE MAN SHOW

*Home is where the art is in this downtown bachelor pad*

BY MEREDITH LANDRY | PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROBERT COSCARELLI

When Bob Gowdy, 50, bought his South Loop condo almost three years ago, he had one theme in mind for its renovation: bachelor pad.

"I've already built four houses," says Gowdy, "but I've never done anything that was just for me. This was my first chance to do whatever I wanted."

But he couldn't do it entirely on his own. As an executive for Microsoft Corporation, Gowdy has a packed travel schedule that demanded the support (and several sleepless nights) of an attentive designer. Also, because those travels have taken Gowdy to every continent, greatly refining his tastes—and art collection—along the way, that designer had to understand that this pad couldn't be just another single guy's place to crash.

To help create his upscale stag suite, Gowdy turned to 28-year-old Chicago designer Lukas Machnik, who has previously worked with local art authorities Aldo Castillo and Kasia Kay. "Bob knew what he wanted, and I helped him figure out how to get it," Machnik says.

The result is 2,000 square feet of open, light-filled space that is as elegant as it is masculine. Bold colors, functional essentials and robust furniture mix with artistic accents, soft textures and indulgent extras.

Utilizing a floor plan that was formerly occupied by three separate units, Gowdy's 12th-floor condo boasts two bedrooms, two and a half bathrooms, a gourmet kitchen, unparalleled city views and, of course, a very high-tech office.

"Even when I work from home, I keep a close eye on the news and the stock market," he says of the three flat-screen TVs surrounding his desk.

But such a personal, refined look didn't come without work... make that a lot of work. Over the course of 14 months, all of the condo's walls, electrical and plumbing fixtures were removed and replaced. (The front door and the windows are the original structure's only



**Left:** The main hallway features a wooden chair by Marc Newson, at Luminaire, and the 'Giant Dora Maar' vase from Jonathan Adler's Muse Collection. In the living room, two large ceramic sculptures by Maribel Portela from the Aldo Castillo Gallery overlook the South Loop. **Above:** *Caricias Tatuadas*, a hand sculpture by Maribel Portela from the Aldo Castillo Gallery, sits on the marble kitchen countertop.

