



MY BLUE HEAVEN

Inside Chase Lenfest's record-breaking penthouse pad BY SUE HOSTETLER

LOCAL PHILADELPHIA MEDIA ENTREPRENEUR and philanthropist Chase Lenfest is known for being a pioneer and pushing the envelope when it comes to business and charity. So it shouldn't come as a surprise that his new, swank Center City apartment has already broken all kinds of records. Located in The Residences at Two Liberty Place, the 5,850-square-foot condominium sits on the 46th floor in the luxe contemporary high-rise crafted out of former insurance offices. When Lenfest purchased the unit in March 2009 for \$7.6 million, he set the record for the highest price ever paid per square foot for a Philly condo (subsequently broken just a few months ago by money manager Theodore R. Aronson). If that weren't enough, his pad includes a 2,040-square-foot private terrace—the highest

residential outdoor space in the state. This, coupled with the fact that the building sits on the highest point in the city, provides Lenfest with some killer views. He concedes that the colossal patio was what ultimately sold him. "I looked at all of the highest units in all of the downtown buildings," he says. "I have a huge deck with east, west and south views—no other place had a space like this. And it's one of the few high apartments where you can actually open the windows." Lenfest combined three of the six units for sale on the floor (one-time mayoral candidate Tom Knox bought the other three) and with the help of interior designers Kathryn Veronica Schaefer of KVS Designs, along with apprentice Kelli Young and intern Brian Plaum, turned the space into a sleek urban oasis.

"I had never seen raw space in Philadelphia so vast and open and full of potential," says Schaefer, adding that the patio is so high up and wind-battered that workers had to be tethered to the building during construction. "On a cloudy day there is zero visibility," Schaefer says. "You're in the clouds." Lenfest loves being right in the heart of Center City. "The area just keeps growing," he says. "So many restaurants, the Kimmel Center, art museums, parks, great culture and history... everything is within walking distance." The terrace flooring is an epoxy-coated mixture made to look like an aggregate stone tile. The outdoor furniture is by IL Gusto.



Chase Lenfest in the foyer of his condo at The Residences at Two Liberty Place

PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAUL S. BARTHOLOMEW (INTERIORS), BEN WELDON (LENFEST)



◀◀ Schaefer designed the airy, loftlike kitchen that features a double-sided custom limestone fireplace that opens to the living room. The white Carrara marble tile backsplash by Artistic Tile and floating Snaidero cabinetry soften the contemporary stainless steel island and countertops. Schaefer focused on durable, sustainable materials that provide a sophisticated and timeless palette for an active family. "My inspiration for the kitchen design was taken from the many sleek, clever and efficient kitchens I've seen in Italy," says Schaefer. A good example is the porcelain tile chosen for the floor. "It's from Holland, and everyone thinks it's slate," Schaefer says, "but it's a fraction of the cost and easier to maintain." All appliances are Miele and the Sub-Zero refrigerator is smartly hidden behind wood paneling.



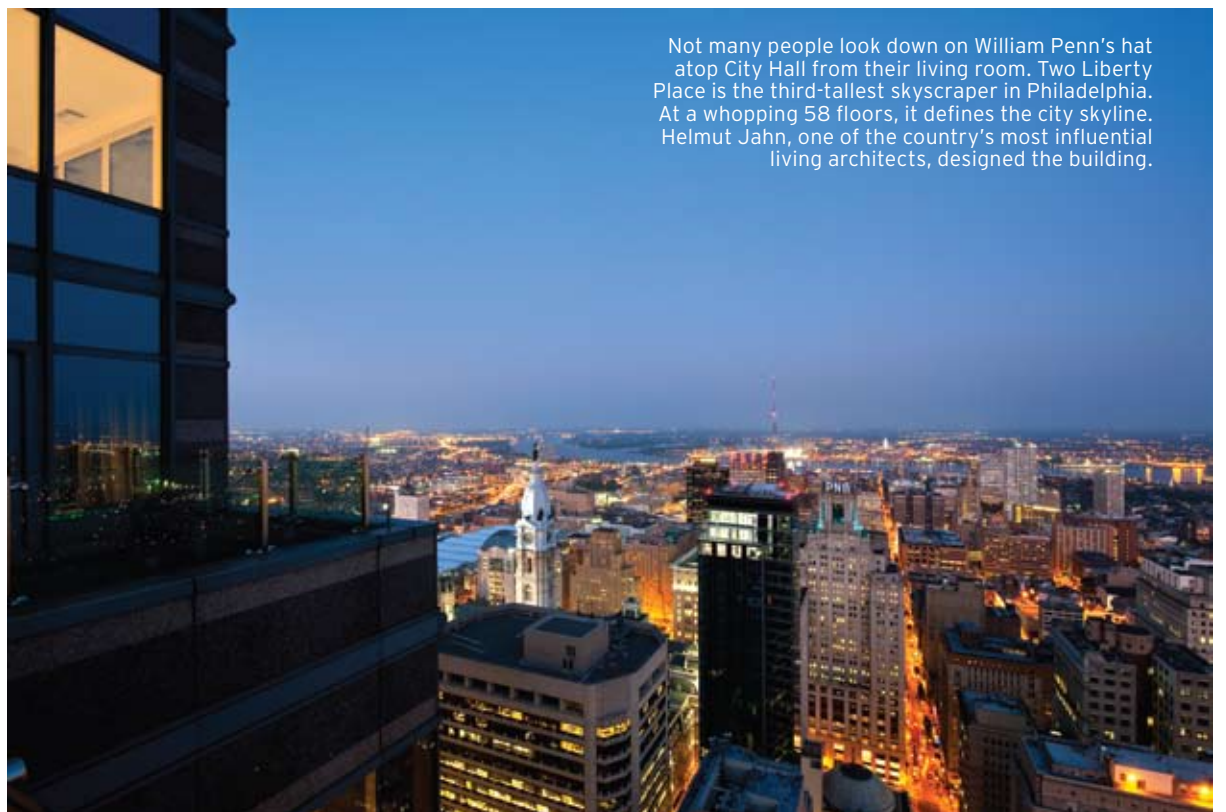
The sheer size of the living room, coupled with the breathtaking panoramic views, adds to the singularity of the residence. "I wanted a huge, open living space," Lenfest says. "No clutter... a big, beautiful, open space." Mission accomplished. The design is continuous, providing an ethereal fluidity that doesn't impede the stellar views. Schaefer chose strong, clean lines, juxtaposed against the hazy blue color of glass and steel trim. "From the moment I experienced the 46th-floor wrap-around terrace and those spectacular views, I knew that the interior design should not try and compete with that feature," says Schaefer. The furnishings are visually subtle, bespeaking comfort and a masculine elegance. Five vendors were used, standouts being the soft upholstered seating by B&B Italia, a pair of classic Knoll Barcelona chaises and iconic Saarinen marble side tables. An organic limestone tile wall houses the TV on the living room side and anchors appliances and cabinetry in the kitchen—a design and engineering feat.



Lenfest's favorite room in his home is the expansive master bedroom. "It's 1,600 square feet," he explains. "We put two bedrooms together. And I love that you can see South Philly and the Ben Franklin Bridge." These are custom surroundings, to be sure. Schaefer designed the bed frame and matching panel headboard wall in supple Spinneybeck leather and the alabaster TV cabinet at the foot of the adjustable oversize bed by Hollandia International. The Carrara marble-topped gray oak credenza (AT FAR LEFT) that houses a Sub-Zero refrigerator for late-night snacks was custom designed by Brian Plaum. (Beck & Ness handled construction of the TV cabinet and marble-topped credenza.) The dyed cowhide rug was manufactured by Kyle Bunting. Its stunning platinum color pops off of the ebony-stained walnut floors.



« Lenfest and Schaefer originally met in 1996 when she worked as a design consultant on the 55,000-square-foot Lenfest Community Center in North Philly, which the entrepreneur built to house his after-school programs that mentor neighborhood children. When it came to designing his home, Lenfest says he wanted, "someone that I could trust... that mattered more than just a bunch of credentials." He clearly placed a great deal of responsibility in the hands of Schaefer and consulting architect Ted Mondzelewski Jr. of Architectural Concepts. "It was my vision and is my aesthetic," Lenfest explains, "but they did all of the hard work." In the foyer, guests are met by a Karim Rashid white credenza and a low-slung, double-dip stainless steel bench (ON RIGHT). On the far left, state-of-the-art Switchlite privacy glass delineates the entry to Lenfest's office, custom designed by KVS so as not to obstruct the views of the Delaware River.



Not many people look down on William Penn's hat atop City Hall from their living room. Two Liberty Place is the third-tallest skyscraper in Philadelphia. At a whopping 58 floors, it defines the city skyline. Helmut Jahn, one of the country's most influential living architects, designed the building.