bustle of the Entertainment District, where both enjoyed unwinding after 5 p.m. "At a certain point we thought we should start adulting," says Ms. Oh, an executive at a kitchen and bath company. So they moved to Markham, Ont., a nearby bedroom community, and for more than a decade, owned a 3,200-square-foot-home, with a lawn and garage and none of the conveniences of downtown life. Sometimes, adulting means recognizing you've made an error, then fixing the mistake. "We eventually realized it didn't make a lot of sense to be way out in the suburbs," Ms. Oh says. "I travel all the time for my job so I was never home. Eddy had to commute over an hour to work every day." In a full-circle moment, the couple ended up back in a condo, a block from their old abode at Adelaide and University. "We're very social and love to go out," Mr. Ra says. "We missed all the restaurants," says. Ms. Oh says. STORY CONTINUES BELOW ADVERTISEMENT ABOVE & BEYOND EXCEEDINGLY CAPABLE. **EXCEPTIONALLY REFINED.** Interior designers Samer Shaath and Kevin Chan of design studio Nivek Remas created a sophisticated look for the 2,100square-foot penthouse. SCOTT NORSWORTHY/SCOTT NORSWORTHY Condo 2.0, though, was in no way a throw back to their cramped pad of 20 years before. Mr. Ra and Ms. Oh bought a 2,100-square-foot penthouse near the top of the Shangri-La, a hotel and residence where the likes of George Clooney and Johnny Depp have been spotted during the Toronto International Film Festival. Working with interior designers Samer Shaath and Kevin Chan, founders of design studio Nivek Remas, they created a sophisticated space that's very much grown-up. The dining room table from Desalto is clay-topped and built for outdoor use. SCOTT NORSWORTHY/SCOTT NORSWORTHY At the outset, Mr. Ra and Ms. Oh's unit was a blank canvas. It had previously been used a model suite by the Shangiri-La's developers, and was hollowed out when the couple purchased it five years ago. The design could have gone in any direction. "At the beginning, I started sending Kevin and Samer Pinterest images of beautiful Parisian apartments," Mr. Ra says. "They said these are nice, we love Parisian apartments too. But you do not have a Parisian apartment." Instead of applying ersatz French moulding to the walls, Mr. Shaath and Mr. Chan embraced the particularities of a modern Toronto skyscraper – expansive windows, sharp lines, views overlooking hundreds of glass-and-steel towers. Sometimes, condos are described as boxes up in the air, often in a negative way. Nivek Remas made the concept beautiful. The studio hired an artist, Christina Ott, to plasterfinish the walls in just the right tint of grey to play off the blues of the sky. "She came several times to study the light," Ms. Oh says. "The walls might look uniform but they have a wonderful variation."

Luxury downtown Toronto

box in the sky

SPECIAL TO THE GLOBE AND MAIL

PUBLISHED 59 MINUTES AGO

MATTHEW HAGUE

BOOKMARK

TORONTO

penthouse feels nothing like a

🔲 1 COMMENTS 🔸 SHARE 🔃 A 🛕 🛨 TEXT SIZE

Home of Janet Oh and Eddy Ra, a condominium residence

When Janet Oh and Eddy Ra first married 20 years

ago, they lived in a small condo at the corner of

Toronto's Adelaide Street West and University

Avenue. The location was perfect for two young

urban professionals, right between the Financial

District, where Mr. Ra works in finance, and the

above the Shangri-La Hotel, Toronto.

SCOTT NORSWORTHY/SCOTT NORSWORTHY

of grey to play off the blues of the sky. SCOTT NORSWORTHY/SCOTT NORSWORTHY A custom wool-and-silk rug was commissioned in dozens of shades of green, mimicking the look and feel of peering down, way down, at a canopy of trees from the 60th floor. Over the dining room table, ethereal, smoky orbs cluster together like the passing clouds. STORY CONTINUES BELOW ADVERTISEMENT In the same way that the aesthetic was thoughtfully attuned to the context, the furniture and layout were carefully considered to suit Mr. Ra and Ms. Oh's lifestyles. "Before we ever started talking about style, Kevin and Samer asked us a lot of questions about how we live," says Ms. Oh. "We realized we only have people in to entertain maybe twice a year. So we didn't need a big dining area. We wouldn't use it." Likewise, the dining room table itself, from Desalto, is clay-topped and built for outdoor use. "Our old table was glass," says Mr. Ra. "It always made me nervous. I could drop anything on this one, jab it with a fork, and it would be fine." Cutting down the eating area freed up more room for a gracious living room. Deep-seated Montauk sofas face a clean-lined stone fireplace, all surrounded by windows that twinkle with city lights at night. It's an elegant aerie for post-work relaxation. The living room boasts a clean-lined stone fireplace. SCOTT NORSWORTHY/SCOTT NORSWORTHY One of the biggest challenges of Mr. Ra and Ms. Oh's downsize was losing all the storage of their Markham home. "We used to have three bedrooms and we don't have children," Ms. Oh says. "There was a lot of space to put things." As part of their downsize, the two adopted a new habit. "If we buy one new thing, we have to get rid of something," Ms. Oh says. "It's one in, one out." Nikek Remas also lined a wall in the master bedroom with a bank of custom cupboards, with grey doors that complement the grey panelling on

Artist Christina Ott plaster-finish the walls in just the right tint

When possible, Mr. Ra accompanies Ms. Oh on her work travels (in pre-COVID time, she found herself on the road most days of most weeks). He loves staying at high-end hotels. One of his favourites is the Park Hyatt in Seoul, a tall, glass-y modern tower with simple, wood-lined rooms and commanding city views. He first stayed there before buying his condo. "I can remember standing in our room, looking out the window," Mr. Ra says. "I remember thinking: if we ever can, it would be my dream to live in a place like this." Your house is your most valuable asset. We have a weekly Real Estate newsletter to help you stay on top of news on the housing market, mortgages, the latest closings and more. Sign up today. Learn more **FOLLOW RELATED TOPICS** 十 **HOME AND GARDEN** HOUSING **(i)** 十 **REAL ESTATE RELATED ARTICLES** A modern family-home renovation that puts play first SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 Modest modernism for Mom and Dad's new house AUGUST 28, 2020 Over two generations, a family turned this Westmount 'wreck' into a modern living space JUNE 12, 2020 **FOLLOW US ON TWITTER** @GLOBEANDMAIL (!) REPORT AN ERROR **E** EDITORIAL CODE OF CONDUCT 1 COMMENTS **CONTINUE READING** Home of the Week: A high tech live/work space with a heritage vibe Live U.S. election results map: Watch Donald Trump and Joe Biden's presidential battle, state by state

the adjacent walls. The panelling gives the effect

of a luxury hotel suite, something the couple

appreciates.

Cautious Calgary buyer cuts a deal on Sage Hill row house SPONSOR CONTENT How demographics are reshaping health care investing U.S. election live updates: Vote too close to call as presidency hinges on kev states U.S. election results: Deadlocks in key states raise prospect of prolonged contest between Biden and Trump Bidder lays down extra \$436,000 for Little Italy duplex **U.S. ELECTION DIALOGUES** The Global Economic Impact of the 2020 U.S. **Election | In Conversation** with Gary Cohn Watch The Globe's Senior Business Writer and Columnist Rita Trichur explore the economic outcomes riding on this historic American election with Gary Cohn, former chief economic advisor to President Trump and former director of the National Economic Council. **WATCH NOW** PRESENTING SPONSOR

TRENDING

U.S. election live updates: Vote too close to call as presidency hinges on key states LIVE NOW Live U.S. election results map: Watch Donald Trump and Joe Biden's presidential battle, state by state **EXPLAINER** The U.S. election is a deadlock that could take days to sort out. Here's what we know so far

OPINION The night of jabbering fools: U.S. TV news fails

U.S. election: Trump vows to fight election

results to Supreme Court as presidency hangs in

COMMUNITY GUIDELINES

© Copyright 2020 The Globe and Mail Inc. All rights reserved.

351 King Street East, Suite 1600, Toronto, ON Canada, M5A 0N1

Phillip Crawley, Publisher

App Store

Google Play

PRIVACY PO

on election night

JOHN DOYLE

the balance

ERMS & CONDITIONS

BUSINESS SERVICES

READER SERVICES

SUBSCRIBE

CONTACT US

ABOUT US