A working household



The open, beamed ceiling and loft create a Swiss chalet ambiance

STORY BY BARBARA BOWERS

PHOTOS BY ROB O'NEAL

Bob Goldman's penthouse apartment at 619 Eaton St. Is more than a treetop aerie for Largo, his 13year-old African gray parrot, who huxuriously cohabitates in sight of wild birds winging by. It's also center stage for Corky, his terrier and long-haired Dachsy mix born 11 years ago at the Florida Keys SPCA.

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"I wanted a space big
enough for Corky to have
maximum room to play in
and where both Largo and
Corky could always be in the
center of things," Goldman
said. "Mine is pretty much a
working household — at least,
I always bring work home on
weekends — and to be fair to
my pets, I needed

to accommodate them with a design that worked for all of us."

us.* Located above commercial space on the first floor, the animals have free run of the big two-bed-room/two-bath apartment without Goldman's concern for any disruption to neighbors. He's a practicing attorney, and Largo, who perfectly milmics Goldman's voice, dispenses legaleses, talks baseball and orders Corky into excitable romps across the hardwood floors.

The apartment is entered from the gated rear garden of the property, and the house-hold hub



When Bob Goldman moved in three years ago, the lavender-blue cabinets already were in place. He added the accent colors.

of living, dining and kitchen space — overlooks the pool. The soaring, beamed ceiling and natural Dade County pine walls feature a loft and a "Swiss chalet look" that aesthetically works for Goldman. he's been paring down the antiques he collected formerly, when he lived in the Midwest.

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me, and during a hurricane, there's no place I'd rather be than in a rented apartment built as solidly as this one."

one."
Since moving to Key West
15 years ago,
Goldman said

antiques he collected formerly, when he lived in the Midwest. Some things still remain, though, like an old Noah's ark etching, which suggests that Goldman's soft spot for animals is deeply rooted. Hanging in the living room,

Hanging in the living room, too, is a framed clue to his appreciation for most things aged and aging. "That's a letter to Donald

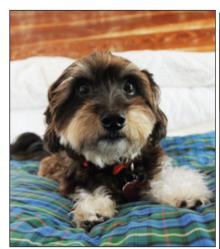
"That's a letter to Donald Samuels, congratulating him on his election to the New York Stock Exchange on March 27, 1929," he said. "I did some research and learned that the seat cost Mr. Samuels \$432,000; when he sold it in November of 1949, it was only worth \$40,000."

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Paring down, though, is tied less closely to financial cycles than to meandering decorative tastes. Banished to Goldman's official business office on

See APARTMENT, page 21

Largo the African grey parrot luxuriously cohabitates with his pals Bob Goldman and Corky the dog in a treetop aerie on Eaton Street.



Corky lounges on the bed.



Southard Street are a couple of antique chairs, including one with uniquely carved arms. Gone from the household repertoire of fine furniture is the long, hand-carved Chinese coffee table.

Gone, too, is a blue, satinupholstered sofa, replaced with an overstuffed white one, and another sofa that converts to a bed, which doesn't necessarily support his "downsizing" efforts.

"The sofa bed is for guests," he explained, without any edge of defense for trading in one sofa for two. "The loft is for storage and the other bedroom isn't much bigger than a closet so it's about the right size for my in-home office."

Goldman's in-home office is lined with poster art, law books and an up-to-date wine library. And for efficiency sake, the closet in the closet-sized office is outfitted with a wine cooler, just one of three in the spacious apartment.

"Moving each one of those wine coolers is like moving a refrigerator," Goldman said, cringing at that thought, but

smiling with another bit of tongue-in-cheekiness: "I try to keep a birth-year bottle for every memorable woman I've dated.

Two black, rectangular wine coolers contrast nicely with the kitchen cabinets' rounded edges and lavender blue - a color that's reflected in a similar shade on the liv-

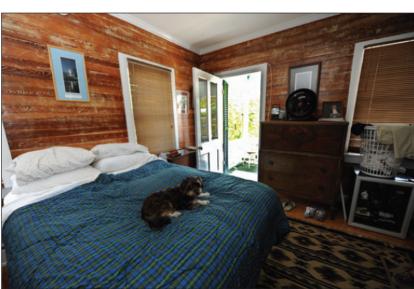
ing room's coffee tabletop.
"The blue-mirrored table is an art deco piece I just couldn't get rid of," Goldman said. "They just don't make solid furniture like that anymore."

Another solid wood piece of furniture, but this one lime-green, is multi-purposed. It sits flush with the kitchen counter and serves as an extension with drawers for storage. When an attached white leaf is hoisted in place, it becomes a desktop or an informal

kitchen table. Formal dining is reserved for a natural teak boat table retrieved from an old yacht probably art deco vintage that folds in half, seats six people comfortably when it's opened, and currently is tucked away beneath a deepred shelf hanging between the entry door and the double French doors that lead to the rear balcony.



great room is insulated from Eaton Street noise because it's located at the back of the house



The master suite receives airflow from doors that open to the front balcony.

A front balcony overlooking and one from the bathroom, Eaton Street is accessed from the master suite, which is roughly one-third the size of the great room. Two balcony doors, one from the bedroom

enhance the balmy airflow throughout the apartment almost as much as the lavender, red and lime-green colors present a Caribbean ambiance.

In case the tropical influence is too subtle, there's always the talking parrot.

Barbara Bowers is a writer and member of the Key West

Historic Architectural Review Commission. To suggest a home feature, send an e-mail to Barbara@bbowers.com. Homes listed for sale will not be considered.