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# SUPER CHIC!

# Airy Abode

With an eye toward simplicity, Kemble Interiors knocks the stuffy out of a Park Avenue pad

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AS SEEN IN  
**NYC&G**  
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**Branching Out**  
The wall covering in the living room is a custom de Gournay silk. The chandelier and table lamps are from Visual Comfort & Co. and the armchairs are from Century Furniture. See Resources.

**Grand Entry**  
A Celia Rogge photograph complements a bench from Casamidy in the foyer. See *Resources*.



When you've just upgraded to a larger apartment that's in need of some TLC, it doesn't hurt to have an in with one of New York's preeminent interior design firms. While preparing to move her husband and two kids into their new 3,500-square-foot Park Avenue residence, Durre Nabi went straight to Celerie Kemble, an old college acquaintance (their kids are now schoolmates). Nabi

describes her own taste as "more minimalist and neutral" than Kemble's trademark blend of whimsy and color, but "from the first meeting," she says, "Celerie and Samantha [Bisger, the lead project designer] adapted the company's style to fit my desire for a serene space."

"Durre had already figured out the layout changes with an architect, so we were brought in to add character and

**Sumptuous Scale**  
The dining room features Gracie wall coverings and Laurent dining chairs from Hickory Chair. The mirror is from Casamidy. See *Resources*.



voice,” Kemble comments. Stripped of “dated Park Avenue elements” like bulky moldings, fussy mantels, and dark floors, the unit was a literal clean slate. Although, as Bisger explains, “it’s difficult to make modern spaces feel warm and soulful.” Accordingly, the designers tapped into Nabi’s fondness for plants and foliage in a big way. One wall in the dining room is covered in a Gracie botanical print with an olive green ground, a color used on the space’s other three walls. “The room looks onto a courtyard,” says Nabi, “so it feels like you’re having dinner in a tree house.”

In the living room, a hand-painted silk wall covering features a custom combination of two different de Gournay designs resulting in a resplendent asymmetrical tree motif, which creeps toward the windows as if it’s chasing the light. The undertaking was “a labor of love,” says Bisger, who accompanied Nabi to the showroom on five occasions to get the pattern just right. “We really wanted it to feel like it’s one of a kind.” Other areas of the apartment are much more subtle, such as the entry, where walls are painted white in alternating flat and satin stripes. “It’s something you barely perceive until you move,” notes Kemble, “and then the space comes alive.”

As for the furnishings, the designers were able to keep a



**Neatly Appointed**  
(OPPOSITE) In the foyer, Opera armchairs from Casamidy are covered in a Muriel Brandolini fabric. (THIS PAGE ABOVE) The fabric on the kitchen’s channel-stitched banquette is CF Stinson’s Cassidy vinyl in Seashell. (NEAR LEFT) The desk in the study is from Made Goods. See Resources.



“S ometimes designers want you to throw out everything, but Celerie and Samantha were happy to reuse some of my old things”



few of Nabi's favorite pieces, including a mirror, a candelabra, and a bench from Mexico-based Casamidy, which just so happens to be a favorite source of Kemble's. "Sometimes designers want you to throw out everything, but Celerie and Samantha were happy to reuse some of my old things," says Nabi. "They never made me feel like what I had before wasn't nice."

"The majority of our work is maximalist," adds Kemble, "so it was a breath of wonderfully fresh air to look for fewer accessories that are really strong. When you don't have as many items, you have to make sure that everything resonates and has a function."

New kid-friendly additions include custom sofas upholstered in a white Perennials outdoor fabric in the living room and a custom banquette in the kitchen that's covered in leather-like vinyl. "I love white," says Nabi, "but we host play dates all the time, so our home needs to be practical." In fact, her housewarming party included several mothers and children from school among the guests. "It was funny to see the kids 'skating' around this perfect white space in their socks, stopping only to grab strawberries," recounts Kemble, who joined the festivities. "There's a sense of airiness throughout the apartment that you don't often experience in New York. It's like you're breathing something different." ✨

**Dreamy Lairs**  
 (OPPOSITE) The Cisco Brothers settee in the daughter's bedroom is covered in Arabel Fabrics' Comfy in Powder Pink. (ABOVE) The RH bed in the master bedroom is dressed in Matouk linens. The sconces are from Visual Comfort & Co. and the night tables are from Chelsea Editions. See [Resources](#).