

# NYC & G

New York Cottages and Gardens

COTTAGESGARDENS.COM | APRIL 2019

BRONXVILLE  
**GREENPOINT**  
MOUNT KISCO  
**SNEDENS LANDING**  
TRIBECA  
**UPPER EAST SIDE**



# GLAM PADS

# FAMILY AFFAIR



Upper East Side formality is cast aside in favor of pretty, polished, young, and fun

BY **ALYSSA BIRD**  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY **BRITTANY AMBRIDGE**

**Livable Luxury**  
The living room features a custom sectional, a Desiron cocktail table and sideboard, a Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams bench upholstered in a Romo fabric, a pair of RH shagreen cube tables, and a rug by Stark. See Resources.





When faced with the proposition of waiting nine months to move into their new Upper East Side residence because of an impending elevator refurbishment, Sarah and Jonathan Morris wasted no time. “We had six months before the elevators were going to go out of service,” says Jonathan Morris, “so speed was of the essence.” The Morrises and their 11-year-old twin daughters, Emily and Hannah, had been about to renovate their Upper West Side apartment when they decided to change course at the last minute and look for a larger place closer to the girls’ school. The co-op, a Venetian Gothic gem from 1929, “has an interior courtyard that provides cross-ventilation

and light from two directions, which is unusual for a prewar,” says project architect Kevin Lichten, who has worked on more than a dozen units at the address. “The building has great layouts, with generous foyers and public rooms that are set up perfectly for entertaining.” But some necessary tweaks came with making the 3,300-square-foot five-bedroom into the home of the Morrises’ dreams. Lichten “rescrambled” the former maids’ quarters to create new family and powder rooms, added a laundry room, and transformed the master bedroom into a private oasis with its own hall, larger closets, a more spacious bath, and a sitting room, which can be closed off to double as an office or additional guest room. All moldings and paneled doors



**Gather Round**  
Ligne Roset chairs upholstered in a Donghia fabric surround a table from Lepere in the dining room (THIS PAGE); the light fixture is from Ochre and the artworks are by Elger Esser. In the living room (OPPOSITE), works purchased at a New York street fair hang above a sideboard by Dune. See Resources.



**Trading Spaces**

The master suite sitting room (LEFT), which can double as an office or guest room, includes a Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams sleeper sofa and a West Elm coffee table; the sconces are by Schoolhouse and the

photographs are by Richard Misrach. (ABOVE) A custom banquette and table in the kitchen are paired with Bellini chairs from Design Within Reach, pendant lights from ABC Carpet & Home, and an ombre wall covering by Flavor Paper. See *Resources*.



**“Anne sat down with the girls, took in what they had to say, and made them feel like they had input”**



**Walls Of Wonder**  
 In the master bedroom (THIS PAGE), a Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams bed and an ABC Carpet & Home bench are set off by an Eskayel wall covering. (OPPOSITE) Osborne & Little's Butterfly House envelops daughter Emily's bedroom. Both the bed frame, which is upholstered in a Sunbrella fabric, and the nightstand are by Room & Board, and the lamp is from CB2. See Resources.

were swapped out for new ones with “more oomph,” he says, although the goal was to make it seem like the replacements have always been there. “The originals,” Lichten adds, “were just a little underbaked.”

While the revised floor plan was taking shape, Lichten was in constant contact with decorator Anne Chessin, with whom he had worked previously. “We know each other well enough that we have our own shorthand,” he says. “The process had to go fast, so communication was firing on all cylinders.” Chessin, who had been involved in the early planning stages of the Morrises’ Upper West Side renovation before the family decided to sell, “already had a good sense of their style and tastes,” she recalls, and “they were up for taking risks. The traditional undertones are still there, but in order to keep things from seeming stuffy, we layered in bright colors and clean, contemporary furnishings and lighting that make the place young and fun.” The jumping-off point for the living room, for

example, was a vibrant Stark rug that Sarah Morris had spotted in a former project of Chessin’s. “I wanted someone to help bring out our aesthetic, and I knew Anne wouldn’t push us into something that wasn’t us,” Sarah says. “We needed a place where we could be comfortable with our kids.”

Part of ensuring that comfort was providing the twins with their own designated spaces as well as a say in the design scheme. “When it came to the girls’ rooms, Anne sat down and listened to their ideas,” Sarah continues. “She took in what they had to say, elevated their thoughts, and made them feel like they had input.” A den also serves as a place for the girls to play and hang out with friends, and a corner banquette in the kitchen, upholstered in indoor-outdoor fabric, sees heavy rotation, too. “We went into this project with trepidation because of the horror stories we had heard about renovating in New York,” Jonathan says. “But it surpassed our expectations,” adds Sarah. “We live in every inch of this home.” ✨