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COTTAGESANDGARDENS.COM | MAY/JUNE 2017

**BROOKLYN
CHELSEA
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UPPER
EAST SIDE**



THE APARTMENT ISSUE



A Bright Canvas
The living room (THIS SPREAD) features swivel chairs from Knoll, a cocktail table from CB2, and a DDC sofa that converts into a queen-size bed. The Cibachrome prints on the aluminum picture rail are by homeowner Lorenza Panero, as are most of the works throughout the apartment. See Resources.



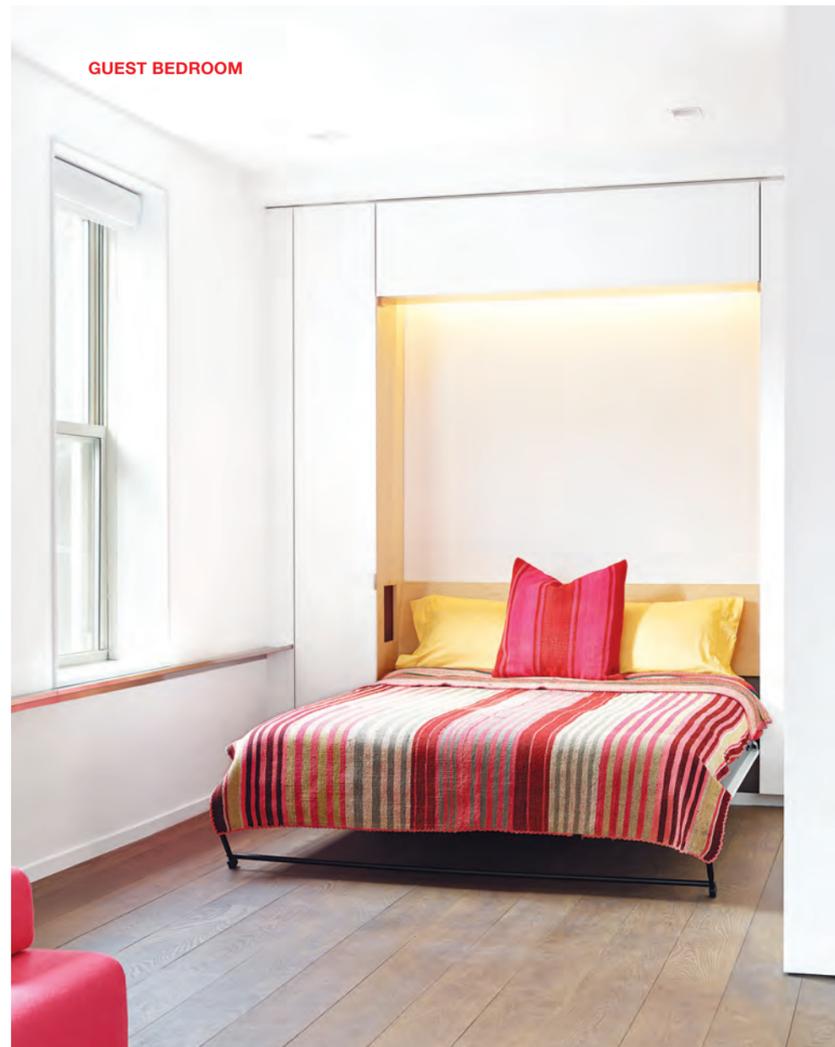
For a client on the Upper East Side, architect Ted Porter embraces the adage, “A place for everything and everything in its place”

BY **ALYSSA BIRD**
PHOTOGRAPHS BY **TY COLE**

HIDDEN GENIUS



DINING AREA →



GUEST BEDROOM

Now You See It, Now You Don't
 A custom cabinet masks the television in the living room (RIGHT). Positioned along one side of the hallway, the compact kitchen (BELOW) can be hidden with folding doors. The countertops are Corian and the faucet is from Vigo Industries. See Resources.



CONVERSATION →



TV

“I wanted to hide the functional parts of my apartment and have a neutral white space”

Quick-Change Act
 In the dining area (THIS PAGE), a custom collapsible table and Design Within Reach folding chairs can be stowed in a closet, making room for a Murphy bed that accommodates overnight guests. A sliding partition closes off the space from the living room. See Resources.

Bogotá-based artist Lorenza Panero waited more than a decade for her turn-of-the-last-century Upper East Side co-op on Madison Avenue to become available—but hers isn't the typical New York “real-estalker” story. “I bought the apartment from my sister,” says Panero, who was born in the city and has also lived in Italy, Spain, and Miami, in addition to Colombia. “I had tagged along to see it when she was first looking for a place, and I told her, ‘You have to buy it. And the day you want to sell it, sell it to me.’ You just don't find natural light like this in New York.”

Even though Panero currently travels to Manhattan just five times a year, she knew that the 1,075-square-foot pied-à-terre would require a revamp to suit her needs, including flexible guest quarters for her peripatetic sons—aged 16, 18, and 20—as well as exhibition space for her work: colorful, nature-inspired Cibachrome prints that she produces in a darkroom. To complete the transformation, she called on her friend Ted Porter of New York-based Ryall Porter Sheridan Architects,



HALLWAY →



KITCHEN

“We reconfigured the apartment’s walls to make the space feel like one large volume”



whom she met more than two decades ago, while she was living in Manhattan full-time. She told Porter about a residence hotel she had once stayed at in Rome, fondly recalling how certain areas of her room could be closed off, resulting in a clean, sleek look. “It was so efficient and pretty,” she says. “I wanted to be able to hide the functional parts of my apartment and have a neutral white space for showing artwork to potential buyers and dealers.” Porter devised a plan that features a master bedroom with a dedicated storage closet for artwork, a dining area that can be converted into a second bedroom—thanks to a Murphy bed and a movable partition that closes off the space from the living room—and a compact kitchen along one side of a long hallway

that, when concealed by sliding doors, looks like a wall of closets. “The apartment was originally set up as a choppy two-bedroom, so we reconfigured the walls to make it feel like one large volume when she wanted it to,” says Porter. There’s even a pass-through space above the sink that links the kitchen and dining areas, as well as a glass upper cabinet that can be accessed from both rooms while allowing natural light to spill into the kitchen. (A privacy panel covers the opening when Panero has overnight guests.) In the dining area, a collapsible table and Design Within Reach folding chairs are tucked away in a closet when the Murphy bed is put to use, and in the adjacent living room, a custom cabinet hides the television and a DDC sofa transforms



Color Theory
When it came to deciding on furnishings for the living room and dining area (OPPOSITE), Porter was inspired by the vibrant hues in Panero’s artwork. “I’ve always lived with a lot of reds,” says Panero. “We didn’t specifically discuss that—Ted just hit on it himself.” In the master

bedroom (THIS PAGE ABOVE), photographs sit atop a custom leather headboard with built-in bedside tables; Panero purchased the bed covering in Cusco, Peru. The bathroom (THIS PAGE LEFT), which is sheathed in Carrara marble, includes a custom floating vanity with a Duravit sink and a Hansgrohe faucet. See *Resources*.

into a queen-size bed. Throughout the apartment, an aluminum picture rail runs along most of the walls, providing Panero with endless options for displaying and rotating art. The neutral backdrop gets a colorful kick from seating pieces and textiles in shades of hot pink and primary red, yellow, and blue—similar to the vibrant hues found in Panero’s work. While bold by any account, it’s definitely not the kind of palette typically found on the risk-averse Upper East Side. “Lorenza wanted color to give the rooms character, making the apartment feel less like an art gallery and more like a residence,” Porter says. “It was refreshing to have a client who was so fearless.” ✨