

NYC & G

New York Cottages and Gardens

COTTAGESGARDENS.COM | MAY/JUNE 2019

THE APARTMENT ISSUE

CHELSEA FIFTH AVENUE **GREENPOINT**
GREENWICH VILLAGE **RYE** UNION SQUARE



Married To The Mod
 In the den (THIS PAGE), which doubles as a guest room, the rug, large throw pillows, and fabric on the Avery Boardman sleeper sofa are all designs by homeowner Carla Weisberg. (OPPOSITE) Leather armchairs from Matter complement largely vintage furnishings in the living room, where artwork includes an Ellsworth Kelly lithograph and a Hermes typewriter advertisement by Herbert Leupin. The rug is by Weisberg for Crosby Street Studios. See *Resources*.



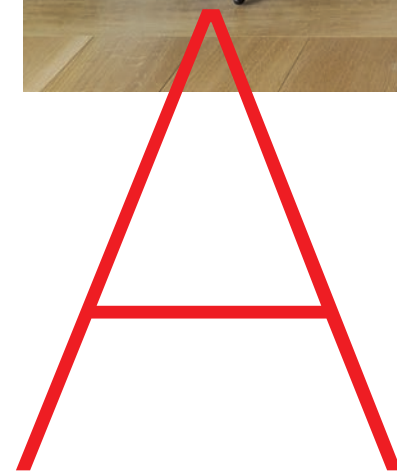
WINNING COMBINATION

In Chelsea, a textile designer and her architect friend expertly meld the old with the new

BY ALYSSA BIRD | PHOTOGRAPHS BY PETER MURDOCK



Visually Astute
A plaster work by Cindy Poorbaugh hangs above the living room's marble fireplace (THIS PAGE NEAR LEFT), next to a rocking chair designed by Peter Cooper for R. W. Winfield & Co. in 1860. (BELOW) The kitchen features custom cerused-oak cabinetry, Stellar White marble countertops and backsplashes, and a Wolf range. (OPPOSITE) Bertoa chairs from Knoll surround a custom travertine table in the dining room, where a Vitsoe shelving unit displays vintage ceramics and personal mementos. See Resources.



fter living in her family-owned rental building on West 12th Street all her life, Carla Weisberg suddenly found herself wondering where to go next after she decided to sell the property a couple of years ago. “My husband and I looked at some doorman buildings, including a few places uptown,” recounts Weisberg, a textile designer who ultimately settled on a parlor-level unit in a circa-1900 Chelsea townhouse. “We realized that we wanted to stay downtown, and this apartment has a lot of charm. It wasn’t necessarily what we were looking for, but it won us over nonetheless.”

Along with the charm, though, came extensive renovations, so Weisberg asked a close friend of 25 years, architect Chandler Pierce, to help create a home that would live up to the spacious duplex that she had known so well for so many years. After leveling the floors and reinforcing the front façade, Pierce went on to make the 1,500-square-foot two-bedroom—which is double the width of an average townhouse, thanks to a 1980s redevelopment of two adjacent homes—feel even airier. The architect reimagined the L-shaped



Sweet Repose

Weisberg designed the wall covering and rug in the master bedroom (THIS PAGE). The chair is covered in a mohair from Maharam and the bed is by Piero Lissoni for Cassina. (OPPOSITE) Bamboo-filled planters line the terrace off the living room. Architect Chandler Pierce designed the teak cabinet to conceal the air-conditioning unit and store bicycles. See Resources.



“We wanted to stay downtown, and this apartment has a lot of charm”

kitchen as a longer pass-through, connecting the living and dining rooms, and widened the adjoining hallway to allow for a more gracious entry. He also brought more natural light into both ends of the home by reconfiguring the windows—a feat that required permission from both the Landmarks Preservation Commission and the building’s co-op board. In the dining area, which faces the street, Pierce restored the window openings to their originally intended height and installed new triple-hung windows. And off the living area, a pair of glass doors was replaced by a modern steel-and-glass wall of windows and a door leading to the terrace. “We kept the private and public areas separate throughout,” comments Pierce, “because the clear definition between them makes the residence appear larger than it actually is.”

With the construction out of the way, Weisberg and Pierce began collaborating on the interiors. “I tend to go more modern than Carla does, while she goes more colorful, so we temper each other,” says Pierce, who worked with Weisberg to map out a neutral scheme with a minimal palette of materials: The cabinetry and floors are oak, Stellar White marble anchors the kitchen, baths, and fireplace surrounds, and wall colors in every room extend to the ceiling. The result, Weisberg says, is a “calming, beautiful envelope” for the furnishings, roughly 70 percent of which are vintage pieces that she previously owned. “My parents were both industrial designers and sculptors, so I had a lot of great stuff from them, plus artwork from friends. Some people want to start totally fresh, but that’s just not the case for me.” ✨

