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Sky's the Limit

FOR A PIED-À-TERRE IN A SLEEK MANHATTAN HIGH-RISE, LONDON DESIGNER NICKY HASLAM BLENDS SINUOUS ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS AND SOFT TEXTURES TO CREATE A SENSUAL AND SOPHISTICATED RETREAT.



Curved paneling in the living area eliminates sharp corners, softening the space. Chandelier, Hudson Furniture; custom sofa and armchairs in Colony fabric; lamps, Vol. 1 Antiques.

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With its picture-perfect vistas and a glamorous palette of white, silver, and gold, the urbane retreat of Natasha and Konstantin Kagalovsky overlooking New York's Central Park is a visual thrill. Their apartment, high above Manhattan in the soaring Time Warner building, commands some of the most spectacular views in the city. Constructed with clean lines and walls of glass, "this place is all about the view," says London-based designer Nicky Haslam.

Initially, the apartment had little to offer architecturally. "It was an unexciting shell with separate living and dining spaces," Natasha explains. "But we knew that Nicky would excel at creating grandeur and coziness where none existed."

Haslam and his creative director, Colette van den Thillart, had worked with the couple on two previous homes: the renovation of an 18th-century house in London and a turn-of-the-century villa in the south of France. For the New York pied-à-terre, the couple had two directives: Create a refuge from the noise and thrum of the city, and keep it contemporary. "Each time we work together, Nicky perfectly translates how we want to live," says Konstantin.

The original layout proved tricky to work with, from massive support columns to awkward walls that interrupted the flow of the rooms. Natasha knew immediately that she wanted the wall dividing the living and dining rooms to be taken down to create one large living area. Likewise, despite Haslam's insistence, she also knew that she did not want to add a column in the dining room to match a structural one in the middle of the living room. But Haslam insisted that a second was necessary to create symmetry and to unite the two spaces. Each was clad as a Greek Doric column without a capital to emphasize height; paneled compartments were added to conceal storage and a bar.

To fashion architectural allure, sinuous lines were crafted for the ceilings and walls, which were paneled in a luminous silvered oak. Corners were rounded to soften sharp angles and inset with mica panels, which faintly shimmer when hit by sunlight or nighttime candlelight. "Truthfully, with this project I was channeling Jay Spectre," says van den Thillart, alluding to the late New York-

INTERIOR DESIGN BY NICKY HASLAM
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MELANIE ACEVEDO
PRODUCED BY CAROLYN ENGLEFIELD
WRITTEN BY RONDA RICE CARMAN



Shimmering details catch the light, bringing subtle drama to the dining area. Vintage chairs, Liz O'Brien; custom table; console, Wood & Hogan; rug, Borderline; art, Elliott Puckette. LEFT: Custom mercury-glass doors; ceiling and trim in Classic Gray, Benjamin Moore.



based designer who was known for his luxurious, eclectic interiors. "He had a knack for creating great contemporary warmth."

The furniture, most of which was custom made, had to be functional yet sculptural in the otherwise spare space. "In many ways, the furniture had to become the art," says Haslam. "We didn't want to overwhelm the simplicity of the rooms, or the views, with too much on the walls. The furniture really had to hold its own."

The sofa, for example, was designed to be clean-lined yet cozy. A woven wicker pattern provided the perfect solution. "Nicky and I always joke that any room is improved with a bit of wicker," says van den Thillart. "But in this instance it had to be more sophisticated, so we executed the motif in bronze."

And while the apartment exudes the fresh modernity his clients sought, Haslam also pushed them to include the unexpected, such as an 18th-century ram's head table in the dining area. "It was very important to jolt the contemporary vibe," Haslam says. "That table has probably never looked more wonderful than it does here."

"The goal was to make this place entirely Manhattan—seductive, flattering, a wonderful space for entertaining, but also very comfortable to spend quiet evenings at home," Natasha says.

"They understand the personality of a home," Haslam adds. "The best ones are always true to their locale." □

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In the Details

To create architectural interest in what was a series of boxy spaces, Haslam opened up the rooms and specified graceful, fluid lines for the apartment's ceilings, which evoke the feeling of being in a billowing cloud. In the bedroom, he opted for a subtle blue-gray color throughout for unity and a sense of serenity. The result is an apartment that is visually quiet and calming.



Plush, soft textures envelop the master bedroom. Custom chair and bench; bedside table lamps, Jane Churchill; bedding, Gayle Warwick Fine Linens; walls in Lee Jofa velvet; rug, Stepevi. For more details, see Sourcebook.

