





MARVELLOUS IN MANHATTAN

Challenge was to combine
two different aesthetics

PHOTOGRAPHS ERIC PIASECKI WORDS SHELBA CORNELISON

When interior designer Gideon Mendelson (above) and his team took on this extraordinary project in Manhattan for a recently married couple in their 40s – he an investment banker and she a small business owner – his goal was twofold: refinement and quality.

Having designed an apartment for the husband at an earlier time, Mendelson was thrilled to have the opportunity to design for him again, this time incorporating the ideas of both husband and wife in the process.

Mendelson feels it is always a fun challenge to marry two different aesthetics and create something unique and personal with two entities in mind. In this case, the husband likes handsome and modern with a touch of global. The wife chose pattern and colour with a touch of whimsy.

The focus was to create a home that works for both, a well curated, sophisticated space full of visual interest that shows off stunning views of New York's famous Hudson River and northern Manhattan.

Functionally, the aim was to create space for entertaining friends and family from overseas and have plenty of ample storage for their belongings.

This elegant home consists of three



bedrooms and three bathrooms, the end result being more than the sum of its parts. Entire rooms appeared larger, enhanced with personal accessories and delightful furnishings.

The living room was planned around a place to entertain friends and to unwind at the day's end. Aesthetically, Mendelson and his team kept the palette simple, the colours being shades of minty greens, charcoals and creams; a palette

that naturally evokes warmth and feeling. Textures, also, reigned supreme with the hemp and wool area rug, the nubby sofa fabric and lots of furry pillows.

The kitchen and bathrooms were totally redone, creating wonderful, spacious areas made even more delightful with refined surfaces and cosmetic changes.

For the dining room, a large round table made the



most sense architecturally, lending itself to intimacy and conversation. The custom table and chairs were custom made by Mendelson. A graphic wallcovering and dark trim adds drama to the room and immediately prompts interesting conversation, the views showing starlight both day and night.

Mendelson's custom mill work in the master bedroom also took the spotlight, ensuring plenty of storage. The various

soft blues and neutral colours are both inviting and relaxing. Again, the river views come into play, quite amazing for the couple to wake up to.

A mix of vintage furnishings in the sitting room keeps things eclectic and yet personal, its colouring soft greys, golden yellows and a shot of cranberry, the perfect place to curl up and read a book. For Mendelson, all of the vintage



pieces he and his team find after careful searching make the project extra special. Curating a collection of vintage looks for someone is very personal. He feels these pieces offer a nice sense of history and nostalgia. In the Manhattan project, for example, the art curated with Cynthia Byrnes Contemporary Art takes accessorising to a whole new level, as she works with so many incredible artists. Lighting, of course, can also bring

real artistry to a space. In this particular project, the husband-wife team was open to some pretty fun forms of lighting.

In its unassuming splendour, this home is unified by a carefully orchestrated play upon light and shadow. The ultimate goal: living comfortably and feeling good at home.

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