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New York Cottages and Gardens

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GREENWICH
VILLAGE
SOUTHAMPTON
TURTLE BAY
UPPER
WEST SIDE

INSIDE!
THE 2021
HAMPTON DESIGNER
SHOWHOUSE
PRESENTED BY
HC&G



FESTIVE FLAIR



AS SEEN IN
HC&G
 Hamptons Cottages and Gardens

Poised And Polished
 (ABOVE) A Studio Van den Akker cocktail table and a custom sofa covered in a Castel velvet anchor the front parlor, accented by accessories including a reeded glass mirror from John Himmel Decorative Arts, a lizard-upholstered Klismos chair from Scala Luxury, and a rug by Kelly Wearstler for the Rug Company. (LEFT) The early-1900s structure sports a cream-toned façade. See Resources.

THE HOUSE WHISPERER

While being gently revamped, a fine-boned century-old townhouse in Turtle Bay gives subtle design cues to decorator Cari Berg

BY DAVID MASELLO | PHOTOGRAPHS BY KARYN MILLET



“This house could easily skew traditional, so it was important to amplify its sophistication and elegance”

When decorator Cari Berg received the commission to design the interiors of the Turtle Bay townhouse featured on these pages, she heeded the wishes of two very discerning clients: The owners, of course, but also, curiously enough, the building itself. “The moment I saw the house,” recalls Berg, “I knew it was giving me a very clear design direction. Its bones are incredible, and because the structure is so stately and elegant, I wanted to do right by it. I wanted the design to be a perfect fit. I’d say the building was giving me a path to follow, not a prescription.”

Located on a shady street just blocks from the United Nations, the five-story townhouse is the Los Angeles-based Berg’s first complete New York project, although she was already familiar with the homeowners, having decorated prior residences for them on the West Coast. Berg found the new

challenge exciting. “In Los Angeles,” she says, “I can run around picking up accessories and throwing them in my car, but it doesn’t work that way in New York.” A quick study, she soon memorized where and when delivery trucks are allowed to park and unload on crowded Manhattan side streets, particularly on days when she was installing. “In L.A., wall-to-wall carpeting can be laid out on a driveway and cut to fit, but not in New York. Having done this project, I feel so much more a part of the city.”

The condition of the circa-1900 building, inside and out, was excellent, and most of the decorative finishes, extant paint colors, and built-ins were in near-ideal shape. Even the existing heavy satin draperies in the primary bedroom were so fresh and luxurious that the decorator kept them in place. But the homeowners, still based in Los Angeles, were planning on spending

Sweeping Notions

(ABOVE LEFT) In the dining room, a Lindsey Adelman chandelier hovers above a custom table and chairs by Cari Berg Interior Design. (ABOVE RIGHT) In the rear parlor, an Ellsworth Kelly lithograph hangs behind a custom sofa covered in a Jim Thompson fabric. The cocktail table is by Nada Debs. (NEAR RIGHT) The bar area’s custom slipper chairs are covered in a de Le Cuona fabric. The lamp is from Vaughan. See *Resources*.



Statement Pieces
(THIS SPREAD) A custom settee and console, both by Cari Berg Interior Design, occupy opposing walls in the front parlor. The West Knoll Elizabeth nesting table is from Liz O'Brien and the oil on canvas is by Lionel Sabatté. See Resources.





Love Life

(OPPOSITE CLOCKWISE FROM TOP) The primary bedroom features Kerry Joyce's Low Tide in silver on the headboard and Holland & Sherry's Solstice in Obsidian on the bench. Twin beds in the son's room are

upholstered in a Jim Thompson fabric. A mirrored vanity in the primary bath reflects a sculptural marble tub. (THIS PAGE) The Klismos chairs and pedestal table on the patio are from RH. The cushions are covered in a Perennials fabric. See Resources.



more time in New York and fully embracing life in the Big Apple. "This house could easily skew traditional, so it was important to amplify its sophistication and elegance," say Berg, who dutifully set out to find furnishings, accessories, and artwork that fit the bill.

For inspiration, Berg looked to the existing oval-shaped staircase. A curvaceous foil to the rectilinear lines of the townhouse, its organic form influenced a host of her choices, starting with a circular walnut cocktail table from Studio Van den Akker. Fortuitously, she had bought the table years earlier and kept it in storage. "I regularly file things away," she

says, "not often knowing when I'm going to use them. When I saw the townhouse's parlor floor, I knew it was the perfect place for the table." Other pieces among the heady mix include a lizard-upholstered Klismos chair and a multi-globed Lindsey Adelman light fixture. But perhaps more important than the furnishings themselves is the home's prevailing neutral color palette, all the better to show off her clients' art collection. "They entertain a lot," Berg notes, "and I like the idea of the artwork and the people inside the rooms adding all the color and vibrancy. People in a home often complement what's already there." ❖