

INTERIOR DESIGN BY **DIANE PAPARO**TEXT BY **MICHELE KEITH**PHOTOGRAPHY BY **GIANNI FRANCHELLUCCI,  
MARINELLA PAOLINI AND ERIC PIASECKI**

# third time's A CHARM

Midtown provides the final perch  
in a couple's trio of homes

A MEDITERRANEAN-STYLE HOME IN New Jersey. A contemporary pied-à-terre in Nevada. The only thing missing for an entrepreneur and his wife? A cosmopolitan Manhattan residence. The city locale would speed the husband's work travels out west, thanks to its proximity to airports, plus provide a spot for the couple's extensive business entertaining. Then there were the wife's frequent New York trips with their children for shopping and fun. So to complete their triumvirate, the pair called on Diane Paparo, principal of Manhattan's Diane Paparo Associates, before they even had an apartment to design.

"I had done their first two homes," Paparo says, "so I thoroughly understood their needs and taste, and they trusted me implicitly." Together, the three reviewed 10 midtown residences—all in new-construction buildings. After hearing what the designer could do with each, the couple settled on a 4,000-square-foot four-bedroom condo in the Bloomberg Tower.

A main factor in the decision: massive floor-to-ceiling windows that provided a 270-degree panorama stretching north beyond Central Park to the George Washington Bridge, east to the Queensboro and south past the Verrazano-Narrows toward the ocean. Problem was, walls between the kitchen and living room made it impossible to take in much of the vista at once. So Paparo's first step was to remove the partitions and create a 55-foot interior



A lounge-like living room layout coupled with a newly open kitchen design create a city pied-à-terre perfect for entertaining.



In the kitchen, above, lacquered cabinets from Poggenpohl are paired with Italian Basaltina stone countertops. The custom island combines lacquer, natural claro walnut and French float glass. The dining area, opposite, features a black claro walnut table. The design incorporates remnants of barbed wire.

sight line. Yet once the space was opened up, those same windows presented challenges of their own.

"In a place like this," says the designer, "if there is too much artificial light, you get a terrible glare, losing the view. But, of course, too much sun tends to fade furnishings."

Her solution was to add curving soffits, ambient lighting complemented by recessed spots and a partially dropped ceiling to circumvent the restrictions of concrete construction. Sheer draperies are paired with sunproof linings that operate on separate tracks. That way, the degree of natural light in a room is kept exactly as desired. The motorized movement of the coverings, like all of the home's electronics, is controlled with the press of a button.

To outfit the interiors, Paparo employed what she calls an "international modern" style, using organically shaped furniture and a mix of textures within a neutral palette. "Natural materials are easy



Left: Gianni Franchellucci and Marinella Paoletti; right: Eric Piassecki

A large-scale painting by Karl Neuroth echoes the expanse of the windows in the living room. The island bar, with its polished granite and Silestone top, features front panels made of a woven stainless-steel fabric.

Stamen / From the collection of Marenella Fogliani



Bright colors pop in a child's bedroom, with hand-carved wool carpeting and a custom wall unit made of aniline-dyed figured maple and lacquer. A convertible sofa provides plenty of room for visitors.



to live with and compatible with each other," she notes. "And each has its own character."

In the living room, a New Zealand shag rug and chenille-covered chaise offset a high-gloss ebonized mahogany wall unit and polished granite bar. Furnishings are arranged for a lounge-like feel to accommodate the owners' penchant for entertaining. That effect is enhanced by the new open kitchen, which is visually divided from the living room by a lacquer and walnut server flanked by custom blown-glass panels. Just beyond, the creamy-toned dining area boasts a silver-leaf Ingo Maurer lighting fixture. The table was crafted in Montana of claro black walnut.

The slate-blue and bronzy-brown master suite, which includes a glass-walled bath, his-and-her dressing rooms and walk-in closets, features a wool-upholstered bed balanced by a Cavallini-leather detailed bench and a lamp with an organza and satin-ribbon appliqué shade. A footboard houses a pop-up LCD television that swivels 360 degrees for perfect viewing anywhere in the room. It's just such technical touches within the sophisticated styling that defined the project.

"Designing the space took as much mathematical logic as artistic creativity," Paparo says. "The couple commented that it's the ultimate in New York living. A designer couldn't ask for more." □