EDDA ELIAS INJECTS A FUN, FRESH AESTHETIC INTO AN OLD-WORLD APARTMENT IN THE LANDMARKED APTHORP

MODERN CLASSIC

LIGHT & ART: In the living room, drapery fabric from Kravet in a grey and yellow geometric pattern sets the mood. The custom-sized Eero coffee table offers a bit of edge with a long glass top through. On the wall, closely arranged threedimensional foam sculptures from Global Views create a sort of freedom art piece.
PAST & PRESENT

This page: Project designers Atelier Eliseh and Robert Gray meet 300-year-old Kerman Livorno carpet, Indian Art Deco office chair, La Chaise chair, Opalite page turner, top and bottom. A long, narrow bench upholstered in a bright blue linen fabric provides a stage for the artwork by Van Gogh. In the dining room, a Gino Sarfati 1950s light fixture hangs seamlessly with the marble-topped Saturnia dining table and chairs and Welp & Wilke’s color blocked Saturnia Astral rug.

HISTORY HAS WITNESSED NUMBERS OF BEAUTIFUL, architecturally significant buildings fall victim to the wreathing ball. The Astor, the c. 1908 Clinton & Russell-designed Italian Renaissance Revival building in the heart of the Upper West Side, owes its existence in part to this hindsight. The block-long structure, originally built for William Wilbur Astor, received landmark status in 1968—a mere three years after the creation of the Landmarks Preservation Committee.

When longtime clients approached Allies Elles, of Elles Associates, to do a stem-to-stem renovation of their newly purchased, 3,700-square-foot hideaway at The Astor, she turned out to be the perfect choice. The layout of the three-bedroom residence was already ideal, with public rooms on front and private rooms in the rear. For this, the surviving interior craftsmanship, north- and south-facing exposures, and 10.5-foot-high ceilings were hard to rival. Given all that, Elles decided to retain the original floor plan and surviving architectural backgrounds and inject a more modern feel with carefully selected furnishings and artwork. “You don’t gain appreciation by repeating your period or playing it safe. The best job and impact comes from creating a bit of chaos—by mixing architectural elements and furnishings from different periods and styles,” says the designer.

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