



# Fresh Canvas

Decorator Katie Lydon conjures up a masterwork for an art-loving client on Central Park West

BY MICHAEL LASSELL  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY REBECCA MCALPIN

**Hushed Beauty**  
In the living room, tufted Roman Thomas sofas flank a 1950s Finn Juhl-designed cocktail table; the Vladimir Kagan lounge chair and ottoman are covered in Rogers & Goffigon's Cambon. Sigmar Polke's *Untitled*, a gouache, acrylic, dispersion, and enamel on paper work from 2006, is displayed on the wall. See *Resources*.

**Artful Fusion**

Jocelyn Hobbie's *Chimes* hangs above a bed from Dune in the master suite (FAR RIGHT); the bench is from Matthews & Parker, the sconces are from Ann-Morris, and the linens are by Frette. (THIS IMAGE) A vintage Louis XVI-style fauteuil sits at a custom desk, also from Dune, below a 1984 oil on linen by Yun Hyong-keun. (BOTTOM RIGHT) The Saxby tub and filler in the master bath are from Waterworks. See Resources.



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For the interiors, Lee hired British-born decorator Katie Lydon. “It was a clean white space, which is what Helen wanted so that she could curate the decor along with her art collection,” says Lydon, who was challenged with accommodating pieces by art-world heavyweights such as Donald Judd, Willem de Kooning, Wolfgang Tillmans, and Sigmar Polke, as well as emerging and unknown artists. “The project really was a collaboration in the best sense, because we talked about every detail and how everything would work together. The look of the apartment might seem a bit stark on first sight, but it’s all about balance. We wanted to let the artwork breathe and leave space for new pieces, and accent the spare interiors with the vibrancy of the views. The picture windows are like massive expanses of wallpaper.”

The furnishings are just as deeply considered, providing a carefully weighted mix of functionality, comfort, and sculptural lines. In the living room, for example, two crisply tailored sofas contrast with a sensuous Vladimir Kagan

swivel chair and ottoman, a mid-20th-century armchair by Brazilian architect and designer Jorge Zalsupin, and tables by T. H. Robsjohn-Gibbings and Finn Juhl. In the master bedroom, matching mohair-upholstered Marco Zanuso armchairs from the 1950s play against a Louis XVI-style fauteuil and a modern black desk with a hint of history in its legs. And in the breakfast nook, an Art Deco ceiling fixture from the short-lived S.S. *Normandie* hangs above a Saarinen table from Knoll.

The artful lair is a far cry from its previous incarnation, which was heavy on 19th-century furniture and taffeta-upholstered walls. “It was gorgeous,” Lee says, “but we never used it.” Fortunately, the formidable team of Frisch and Lydon k.o.’d their client’s fear of renovator’s remorse. “Everyone was wonderful,” Lee recounts. “Katie is a friend now, and I socialize with my architect and still love my contractor. It was crazy, but I’m really glad we did it.” ♦