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Hooked on Classic
For a co-op located on Central Park West (THIS PAGE), California-based designer Paige Pierce outfitted the living room (OPPOSITE) with Pearson's Jocelyn armchairs covered in Cowtan & Tout's Rapallo linen and window treatments fabricated from Quadrille's Jardin des Plantes. See Resources.

TRAD TRIUMPH



On Central Park West, a four-bedroom pad is equal parts fine-boned, flexible, and family-friendly

BY KELLY VELOCCI | PHOTOGRAPHS BY KARYN MILLET

Double Vision
The entry foyer (THIS PAGE), which doubles as the dining room, features an Aerin chandelier for Circa Lighting, a Keith Fritz-designed pedestal table, and Artistic Frame chairs. The sconces are Vaughan. In the family room (OPPOSITE), a Laura Fayer painting hangs above a Cowtan & Tout-covered sectional from Hickory Chair. The Bunny Williams Home armchair is upholstered in a Schumacher linen. See Resources.



As an undergraduate student at Tulane University in New Orleans, Paige Pierce marveled at the Big Easy's intricate façades and rich architectural history. She also enjoyed design magazines and appreciated a well-decorated room. Even so, the California native decided to pursue a career in fashion, and a few years later found herself working on the merchandising team at Diane von Furstenberg in New York, helping to launch the brand's home line. That's when the epiphany struck: She realized she had taken the wrong path. "I loved playing with fabrics, colors, and patterns, but fashion is fleeting," says Pierce, who enrolled in night classes at Parsons School of Design in 2010. "What's in one second is out the next. But when you're decorating a home, you're working with clients to create something long-lasting, a place where families will spend their quality time together."

Shortly thereafter, Pierce joined Sara Gilbane Interiors, making

her way up to senior designer within four years. "Working in a small office, I got a better understanding of the nitty-gritty side of the business," Pierce recounts. "Sara taught me that the creative aspect is only a small percentage of being a designer. You spend a lot of time managing clients and billing."

When the owners of the Central Park West co-op featured on these pages hired Pierce to deck out their new digs, the interiors had already been gutted and architectural plans by Patrick Gerard Carmody were nearly finalized. (Pierce and the wife had first met when the designer was still working for Gilbane and helping to decorate her bachelorette pad.) The clients leaned toward "traditional and preppy," Pierce says, and desired rooms that could play multiple roles while steering clear of being precious. As a former New Yorker (she is now based out of Los Angeles), Pierce understood the importance of multifunctional spaces, even in a large apartment such as this one. Take the airy foyer: Depending on the day of the week, it handily doubles as the dining room. An expandable pedestal table holds court

Neat Nook

Decorative painter Dean Barger created a custom zigzag pattern and chevron trim for the walls in the breakfast area. The pendant light is from the Urban Electric Co. and the pedestal table base is a Julian Chichester design. See Resources.



Soothing Sanctuary

(THIS PAGE CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT) The kitchen's roman shade fabric is Ferrick Mason's Calliandra. The daughter's bathroom includes Walker Zanger tile

and a Rohl faucet. In the master suite, armchairs upholstered in Quadrille's Cube Cloth in Sprig Ivory sit in front of a bed dressed in Matouk linens. See Resources.



“**I**n fashion, what's in one second is out the next. But when you're decorating a home, you're working with clients to create something long-lasting”



Youthful Energy

A son's room (THIS IMAGE) features Serena & Lily's Webster beds and a pendant and sconces from Circa Lighting. The trim is Benjamin Moore's Hale Navy, walls are clad in a Phillip Jeffries grasscloth, and Donghia's Spatter wallpaper covers the ceiling. (OPPOSITE TOP) Framed animal prints from Minted hang above an Anthropologie bone-inlay dresser in the nursery. See Resources.



in the center, a brass-and-glass pendant light adds a touch of glamour, and a silvery-blue grasscloth on the walls, replete with hand-painted florals, adds further sophistication. Chairs are pulled from a nearby games table when additional seating is required. "It's the heart of the house," says Pierce, "since it leads to all the other rooms. And given its size, it wouldn't make sense for people to just pass through it."

An adjacent family room, meanwhile, acts as a playroom of sorts, thanks to toy storage in a bookcase. The clients initially expressed interest in lacquering the walls, but Pierce feared that they might become scuffed. The compromise: a high-gloss charcoal that mimics lacquer, providing a bold statement visible from the entry.

While striving for practicality, Pierce also employed custom details throughout, which "make the interiors feel elevated." In the kitchen, a hand-painted zigzag pattern on a curved banquette wall is framed by a playful chevron trim, with ambient light bouncing off its waxy finish. In the living room, too, high-gloss sky blue on the coffered ceiling reflects light into the room while complementing the soothing palette of blues, violets, and creams. Pierce describes the space, with its neatly upholstered seating and valance-lined windows, as the "most formal in the apartment," yet still "young and fresh," thanks to a more modern sisal rug and a graphic fabric on a pair of slipper chairs used in contrasting directions.

Trim and tailored, yet family-friendly—as a picture of the clients' kids leaping from the chaise longue proves. "That's not exactly what I expected to see," Pierce says with a laugh, "but watching my clients enjoy, and really use, their home is the fun part." *