

HOME TOUR

Tour an Uptown Apartment Transformed Into a Rich, Layered Enclave

Alexa Hampton Interiors and Ferguson & Shamamian Architects reinvent their client's longtime Manhattan home

By Troy J. McMullen

Photography by Frank Frances

Styled by Mieke ten Have

January 13, 2025



Art: © Rudolf Polansky. © 2025 Robert Rauschenberg Foundation / Licensed by VAGA at Artists Rights Society (ARS), NY.

Soon after deciding to sell their Manhattan home of 30 years—where they amassed an enviable collection of art, books, and vintage furnishings—the owners of this expansive [Upper West Side](#) residence came to another important decision: not to sell it.

“They ultimately decided there was just too much history and too many memories in the space to leave,” AD100 Hall of Fame designer Alexa Hampton says of a prewar apartment that stretches more than 3,000 square feet. The owners, key players in the Manhattan art scene, purchased the home just as their careers

were blossoming, Hampton explains. “So they wanted to stay, but they also wanted to envision the place to reflect their personalities in this stage of their lives and careers.”

The task of reinventing the residence fell to [Hampton’s practice](#) and [Ferguson & Shamamian Architects](#), two firms noted for creating timeless interiors grounded in warm, modern elegance. The 15-month collaboration yielded a layered interior with a downtown 1970s vibe tucked inside the envelope of a more traditional uptown apartment. The renovation included beefing up the architectural details to create stronger definitions within the space and a more cohesive scheme.



Interior designer Alexa Hampton chose rich colors for each room in the apartment. The shades are bold enough to stand alone but designed in a way that the transitions between one space to the next feel natural. The library/office is painted in a custom lacquer red. The custom tufted daybed is in Arabel’s Como linen. The vintage mahogany [Weiman Regency coffee table](#) has a leather scroll top. The shelving was built by a friend of the clients with input from the design team. Art: Paul Anthony Brown

That meant expanding the entry with new molding profiles to infuse the residence with a stronger sense of character. And adding a new plaster cornice and classical overdoor details to the foyer and entry into the library to make it more of a focal point of the space. The designers also installed a new kitchen with custom cabinetry and a papered ceiling and added mosaic tile work to the Moroccan-inspired bathroom. “We wanted to create better moments within the space and hide the less interesting aspects of the home,” recalls architect Jonathan Hogg, a senior associate at Ferguson & Shamamian who led the project for the firm. Hogg, who worked alongside studio colleague Andrew Oyen, adds, “The clients wanted to push us to go beyond any fixed ideas of where things belonged and instead create a much more inviting space.”

Color also played a critical role in the transformation. Designers replaced neutral tones with rich hues inside each room. The infusion of deep shades of teal, brilliant reds, and alluring depths of jade energizes formally staid spaces while influencing how the clients live and feel in their newly renovated surroundings, Hampton says. “The color in each room is bold enough to stand alone but also blend with the overall vibe of the interiors, which was a curated nod to the bohemian style of true artists found in old New York,” she explains.



*The renovation included beefing up all the architectural details inside the home and creating stronger definitions of the spaces to make the interiors feel cohesive. New plaster cornice and classical overdoor detail create focal points in the entry. The space is lined with custom white oak wood herringbone flooring in Jacobean Brown finish and includes crotch mahogany doors. Both are by [John Hummel & Associates](#). The late-19th-century console table in oak is by James Shoolbred. The artwork above the console is by [Mark Grotjahn](#). The Georgian Hall antique table to the right of the door is carved oak, circa 1880. A work by Jeff Koons called *Three Puppies* sits atop the table. Art: Barbara Kruger/Sprüth Magers. © Cecily Brown. © Jeff Koons. *Silver Livres*, 1974 © 2025 Bruce Nauman / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York.*

While the interiors include the homeowners' wide-ranging art collection, the soul of the residence is animated by the clients' furnishings. Nearly every piece of furniture has a special detail that helps the decor elude neat classifications. Antique chairs in Cowtan & Tout silk paisley upholstery in the dining room, original schoolhouse pendant lights in the kitchen, and a vintage Weiman mahogany coffee table in the home's office help capture the elegance of a classical interior while also creating a residence for contemporary life. Custom drapes and the clients' own bone inlay desk in the office balance the room's aesthetic scaling with authentic craftsmanship.

"It was important to really get a sense of how each of the furnishings in the room related to the space," Hogg says. "Everything is reimagined to create great focal points in the apartment while also helping the clients find and express their own distinctive style."



Designer Alexa Hampton sought to install a downtown 1970s vibe in the envelope of the clients' more traditional apartment. The sofa in the living room is upholstered in an antique Kilim rug. The artwork above the sofa is by [Rudolf Polanszky](#) and the piece to the right of the sofa is [Robert Rauschenberg's Buffalo I](#). The table in front of the settee is a midcentury black lacquer and gilt coffee table with Chinoiserie decoration. The sofa is upholstered with [Arabel Fabrics' Como](#) linen velvet. Custom [Pierre Frey](#) silk drapes with [Houlès](#) tassel trim accent a room bathed in [Benjamin Moore's Azure Water](#). Art: © Rudolf Polanszky. © 2025 Robert Rauschenberg Foundation / Licensed by VAGA at Artists Rights Society (ARS), NY.



Designers installed a new kitchen in the home that includes a custom stainless-steel counter at the sink. They also updated all of the space's electrical systems to make the location more viable for contemporary living. The kitchen floors are [Globus Cork](#) with a nugget texture and herringbone pattern, the custom cabinetry is by John Hummel & Associates, and the custom stainless steel hood has a [Wolf liner](#). The ceiling wallpaper is [William Morris](#) in Windrush. Art: Roxy Paine



The papered ceiling in the kitchen is from William Morris. The cabinetry hardware is from [The Brass Center](#). The pendant lights are the client's own.



The homeowners have lived in the apartment for 30 years and decided there was too much history and memory in the space to leave it. But they also wanted to envision the apartment to better reflect their lives today. The client's own antique chairs in [Cowtan & Tout silk paisley](#) surround a table with an underskirt from [Pindler & Pindler Clifton](#). The tabletop skirt is [Jane Clayton Wardle](#) embroidery. The draperies are custom from [Pindler & Pindler Paisley](#) with [Bullion trim](#). A Robert Therrien drawing hangs to the left of the window. Art: © 2025 The Robert Therrien Estate / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York



The bone inlay desk in the office is the client's own. The leather dining chair is [William IV](#). The lamps are [Galerie des Lampes](#). The draperies are custom: [Lee Jofa](#), [Oscar de La Renta](#), [Emilia Damask](#), [Garnet](#). The ceiling fabric is [Twigs Pheasant in Rust](#). The flooring is wall-to-wall beige wool animal print with an antique area rug layered over it.



New molding profiles throughout the apartment are among the many architectural changes that give the sprawling space its sense of character. A friend of the client built the library in one of the home's offices. The space is lined with custom white oak flooring by John Hummel & Associates. The lamp is from [Galerie des Lampes](#). The [picture lights](#) are customized by Visual Comfort. Art: Steve Gianakos/Fredericks & Freiser, NY



The entire apartment is a riot of color and pattern and yet nothing is too precious. The custom bed hangings in the primary bedroom are [William Morris Honeysuckle & Tulip](#) in Wine and Bayleaf. The antique rug in front of the bed is a Kerman rug. The leather dining chair in front of the window is [William IV](#).



Designer Alexa Hampton sought to create an apartment filled with stories including the Moroccan-inspired primary bathroom. "The clients wanted to bring something unique to virtually every room in the house," Hampton says. The wallpaper is [Pierre Frey Le Grand Corail](#). The wall and floor tile are from [Mosaic House](#).



The custom cabinetry in the guest bathroom is by [John Hummel & Associates](#). The countertop is Carrara marble and the [Verona mirrored sconce](#) is from [Visual Comfort](#). The wallpaper is [Aurelia by Harlequin](#). The wall tile is [Mosaic House](#).