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Photography by Steven Mays Produced by Susan Leaderman By Mervyn Kaufman



LEFT: Family portraits and a mix of 18th- and early 19th-century English and American furniture make the living room an inviting space for entertaining.

ABOVE: Antique sconces supplement ceiling lights in the entrance hall. An 18th-century English chest is flanked by un-matched demilune tables.

RIGHT: Iliana Moore drew on design skills and a love of antiques to redo this Manhattan apartment.



Family treasures have enriched the surroundings of the resident of this New York City apartment since childhood. The owner, a clergyman, grew up in the Virginia countryside, where he met and married his late wife. It was from there that he brought the art, antiques, and furnishings inherited from both of their families into the apartment that has been his home for more than 30 years.

With his children grown and living on their own, the owner decided to redecorate and sought advice from interior designer Iliana Moore, of Columbine Antiques and Decoration in Bronxville, New York. "We looked at everything in the apartment—all of the furniture, the porcelains, and the collections," she says. "Anything that needed restoration or regilding, we took care of. Gradually, we began to realize that since everything was going to be so beautiful, it all deserved a proper setting. We both agreed that the apartment had a worn look that needed refreshing. That's when I went to work."

The apartment, in a sturdy pre-World War II building, had large windows but poor views. Moore's challenge was to capture the light and direct the focus on the interiors:



"My client told me that, back in the 1930s, his mother-in-law regularly went antiques shopping in New York City, where she kept an apartment. She also had a huge, Georgian-style house in Virginia, so there was plenty of room to distribute her purchases. Many of them are now at home in her son-in-law's apartment. Although he cannot identify every piece as to its style and period, he appreciates their beauty and recognizes their worth. He told me he considers himself a curator by nature; thus it's important that he take care of his possessions, all of which will be passed on to his children."

To create appropriate settings for the antique furniture, prints, and paintings, many of them family portraits, both owner and designer agreed on an overall brightening of the interiors. Down came dark wallpaper, much of it worn-looking; in its place went coats of paint in colors enhanced by natural light and track lighting discreetly installed on the high-beamed ceilings.

The entrance hall, crowded with a wall of built-in shelves and cabinets, was little more than a pass-through from the front door to the living room. Moore (Turn to page 135)



OPPOSITE: Velvet covers the shield-back chair seats in the dining room, where the owner displays 18th- and 19th-century English silver. Antique stemware on the table is from Blenheim Palace, "before the Duke of Marlborough married Consuelo Vanderbilt," the designer points out. The 18th-century wood urns flanking the portrait are knife holders. **ABOVE:** In the library, antique Chinese porcelains are displayed in the 18th-century English secretary. Next to the piece is an 18th-century tapestried side chair. The footstool has the needlepoint image of the owner's mother-in-law's Virginia estate. **RIGHT:** The two built-in cabinets flanking the bed were salvaged from the former entrance hall of the apartment.

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New York Apartment

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removed the built-in units, but salvaged two to create a niche in the guest bedroom. She placed some of her client's most important furnishings in the space: an 18th-century English marquetry chest, a demilune table with an apron featuring Adamesque inlays; and a 19th-century Caucasian rug. Wood floors were cleaned, hand-waxed, and polished. The living room parquet became a gleaming backdrop for a custom rug in a traditional Chinese pattern. Curtains frame one of the owner's prized possessions, an 18th-century spiral-legged Dutch console table.

Because there was no outdoor view, the owner wanted his formal dining room to be a special environment. Moore remembers the once greenish walls as drab and uninviting. "We needed a sunny color for what was a dark place," she recalls. "I chose a bold yellow but I was a little afraid of it at first—it's almost a taxi-cab tone—but it turned out to be a great choice."

The owner also had specific ideas as to how his daughter's and son's rooms should be transformed. One became a guest room incorporating the two entrance hall cabinets. The other room became a library, and now features a collection of first edition books as well as a number of Chinese Export and Imari objects. The red of the Imari dictated the color of the English wallpaper, which has a mottled look. "The walls had a matte finish," says Moore, "so we coated it with polyurethane to give the paper a lacquered sheen." ❧