

homes

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INTERIOR
DESIGN®



the shape of things

AThome

In the dining room, Ronan & Erwan Bouroullec pendants dangle above vintage Joe Colombo chairs in their original velvets; the chinoiserie panel was a thrift-store find. >



living large

*firm: michael k chen architecture
site: new york*

New York architect Michael K. Chen knows his way around a tight floor plate. Sliding, pivoting elements that maximize micro-apartments are his name-sake studio's specialty. But Chen proves just as adept with more commodious spaces. To wit: a 2,800-square-foot Park Avenue prewar renovated for a young couple, Laura and Jason Schwalbe, and their two children.

The four-bedroom co-op's living and dining rooms were well proportioned, but the threshold between them—a small portal—was insufficiently porous. So, Chen and project architect Natasha Harper enlarged the opening and replaced the door with a Crittall-style aluminum-

lombo chairs come in their original burnished-blue and wine-red velvets. The azure of the living room's custom sofa—"it's the centerpiece, large enough for the whole family to plop down on," Chen says—was sparked by Gio Ponti's Parco dei Principi hotel in Sorrento, Italy. "We have an abiding love for post-war Italian and Scandinavian design," he adds.

In the same room, contemporary artworks by Ilana Savdie and Karin Haas join graphic-edge furnishings—the black lattice of a 1904 Charles Rennie Mackintosh chair, for instance, juxtaposed with a curvy console handpainted to look like bone marquetry. In the kitchen, the clients' favorite zone, glossy dimensional tiles ➤

At home



and-glass partition that provides liminal, light-funneling demarcation. "I look for ways that spaces can slip into and overlap with one another," he says. "It's how most of our clients actually live."

Crowded service areas were transformed into efficient functional zones, like a cloakroom Chen adorned in an embossed, flamingo-print wall covering spotted at a Brooklyn shuffleboard club. Colors throughout are bold yet dusky, playing against the crisp architectural details. The dining room is painted a desaturated pink (an eleventh-hour switch from white), while vintage Joe Co-

Clockwise from left: Near the living room's onyx fireplace, mohair-covered ottomans rest on a custom synthetic-silk rug. The newly enlarged opening between living and dining rooms is framed in black-anodized aluminum. A section of the kitchen's rear wall was replaced with acid-etched glass that filters light from the service entry beyond. Erich Ginder Studio sconces flank an Enzo Mari print in the breakfast nook; the table is Studioilse and the chairs are Jean Prouvé. Bower's tinted mirror and a brass ceiling fixture by Lambert et Fils join a vintage Italian console in a hallway leading to the kitchen.



BROOKE HOLM

BROOKE HOLM

Clockwise from top left: Formerly a closet, the powder room boasts a Rosa Aurora marble-top vanity, glazed ceramic wall tile, and stone flooring. The cloakroom's lacquered built-ins integrate LEDs; original floorboards here and throughout were bleached and stained. The master bedroom's custom sconce is blackened brass.



bounce light, and an Enzo Mari *Il Gorilla* print livens the breakfast nook. "Everything is different and interesting," says Laura Schwalbe. Throughout, the mix is just that: a mélange of eras and styles that speaks to a knowledge of, and reverence for, the history of art and design. It's the way we live—and design—now. —**Georgina McWhirter**

AT home

FROM FRONT FLOS: PENDANTS (DINING ROOM). **ALEX DREW & NO ONE:** TABLE. **BIANCO LIGHT & SPACE:** SCONCES (LIVING ROOM). **HOLLY HUNT ENTERPRISES:** OTTOMANS FABRIC. **CASSINA:** LATTICE CHAIR. **STARK:** CUSTOM RUG. **RH:** PICTURE LIGHTS. **MARTIN ALBERT INTERIORS:** CUSTOM SOFA FABRICATION. **MAHARAM:** SOFA FABRIC (LIVING ROOM), BENCH UPHOLSTERY (KITCHEN). **MICHAEL ANASTASSIADES AT THE FUTURE PERFECT:** CEILING LIGHTS (KITCHEN). **ANN SACKS:** WALL TILE. **HENRY GLASS:** GLASS. **DORNBRACHT:** SINK FITTINGS. **GAGGENAU:** COOKTOP. **DE LA ESPADA:** TABLE. **VITRA:** CHAIRS. **ERICH GINDER STUDIO:** SCONCES. **FLAT VERNACULAR:** WALL COVERING. **LAMBERT ET FILS:** CEILING FIXTURE (HALLWAY). **BOWER:** MIRROR. **HEATH CERAMICS:** WALL TILE (POWDER ROOM). **PARIS CERAMICS:** STONE FLOOR. **PEILL & PUTZLER:** PENDANT. **ALBANY AT WALLPAPER DIRECT:** WALL COVERING (CLOAKROOM). **ALLIED MAKER:** CUSTOM SCONCE (BEDROOM). **WATERWORKS:** WALL TILE (BATHROOM). **KALLISTA:** SINK FITTINGS. **THROUGHOUT ABC STONE, SUPERIOR SELECTED STONE:** STONE SUPPLIERS. **JR FURNITURE FINISHING CORP.:** WOODWORK. **THINK CONSTRUCTION:** GENERAL CONTRACTOR.