

THE HOME OBSERVER

SPRING 2012

*minty
fresh!*

DOUBLE YOUR FUN
THE 2MICHAELS DESIGN TWINS
REINVENT AN UPPER
EAST SIDE PREWAR DUPLEX

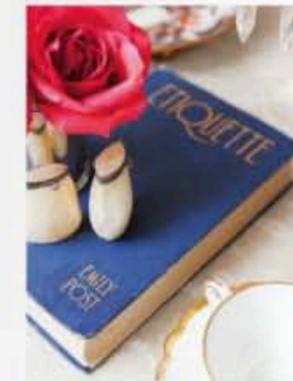
**AND MORE
SIBLING REVELRY!**

*East Side, West Side
with Maison 24's
Allison Julius and
Louis Marra*

plus

**THE CITY AT YOUR FEET RECLAIMING NYC'S WATER TOWERS (AS FLOORING!)
HIGH RISE HIGH STYLE PAMELLA ROLAND AT HOME**

An antique Oushak rug layered on seagrass defines designer Jenny Wolf's living room. The Verellan sofa ("as deep as a twin bed!") is clad in oatmeal Belgian linen. Lars Bolander secretary. Right: A copy of Emily Post's *Etiquette* belonged to Wolf's great-great-grandfather.



TRIBECA

Southern Comfort

A little South Carolina, south of Canal Street. Interior designer Jenny Wolf brings a touch of coastal style to her Tribeca loft.

SEAGRASS, SHELLS AND WHITE LINEN. The whirr of a brushed-steel fan. The smell of sandalwood in the air. On a hazy summer day, you can feel the breeze coming off the water—and the haze rising from the asphalt beneath the traffic jammed outside. This seaside escape, you see, is in Tribeca, not Hilton Head; though here, crossing the threshold of the freight elevator feels a bit like crossing the Mason Dixon line.

It was love at first sight when interior designer Jenny Wolf and her husband (then fiancé) saw the sprawling, airy loft; in an old warehouse building, it had light from two exposures, original details and exposed brick. What it didn't have, the Wolfs added: details like reclaimed, seven-inch-wide white-oak plank floors, three-panel barn doors on a sliding track, and a cast iron Cheviot pedestal tub. And that freight elevator? Stripped of wood panel-

BY REBECCA MORSE PHOTOGRAPHY BY EMILY GILBERT



Above: The tiles in the kitchen were handmade in Sonoma County. The distressed-wood bar stools are from Restoration Hardware. **Right:** The brushed-nickel Rohl faucet is reflected in a mirror set in a vintage copper window frame from the Flatiron Building, found at Olde Goode Things.

ling and treated with acid for four days, removing old paint to expose its original steely grandeur.

“Playing in these industrial spaces has been really fun for me,” says Wolf of her projects in Tribeca and Brooklyn. “The juxtaposition of antiques with more traditional furniture looks really nice in an open industrial space.” That’s not to say that clients’ homes look similar to hers: “I typically don’t do what I did for my home for everyone else,” she says. “Your home is your sanctuary, and for me the seagrass and the soothing colors have a really calming effect and make me feel like I’m home again.”

For Wolf, “home again” means the coastal shores of South Carolina and Louisiana. “The relaxed feeling of my home can be attributed to growing up on an island, Hilton Head, and New Orleans, a city where anything goes!” she says. Soft colors and billowing, neutral linens create a comfortable, relaxed background to showcase art and antiques. “I have always had an appreciation for the old. Antiques and family heirlooms are



A 19th-century British flag, purchased in Nantucket, hangs above the faux bois console table. French crystal girandoles found in a Stonington, Connecticut, antique store date back to the 1800s. An antique stool is covered with a vintage prayer rug from Eliko Rugs.



Clockwise from top: A black Chinese Chippendale chair in the master bedroom is a family heirloom; it belonged to Wolf's grandmother, also an interior designer. Wainscoting was added in a bathroom and painted with Benjamin Moore's cool Glacier White. Designer Jenny Wolf.

very precious to me," says Wolf. "I love being able to look around at objects and furniture, knowing their significance and the mystery of the many lives they lived before entering my home." Antique pieces with deep family history in the South are juxtaposed with those that refer to new family roots in the East: A Chippendale chair from her family's home in New Orleans sits in the master bedroom, across from an interior window originally imbedded in the original *New York Times* building.

Covered in a rich quilt of history, her family's home has become for Wolf a sanctuary of calm within the city. "The goal was to create an environment that has a very relaxed and calming feel, a far cry from the New York City streets below. You really don't feel like the hustle and bustle is right beneath you," she says. And now, a new generation exists to enjoy that genetic coastal ease—the Wolfs' baby daughter, Ella, who someday soon will enjoy summer afternoons sitting in the sun on the front porch (even if it is a stoop).



TOWN & COUNTRY

Jenny Wolf's tips for creating an urban retreat at home

■ **COLOR ME HAPPY** "When choosing colors for the walls," says Wolf, "always consider the amount of light that filters into the space. Neutral colors create a soothing and calming effect and help to keep the space light and airy." Wolf used colors like Farrow & Ball's Shaded White and Benjamin Moore's Gray Cashmere.

■ **RELAXED FEELING** "Soft, comfortable fabrics like Belgian linens have a very relaxing effect, whether they are used for upholstery or drapery."

■ **OH SAY CAN YOU SEA** Reclaimed wood, wainscoting and seagrass add an unexpected touch to a New York apartment, says Wolf, and create "a feeling of being transported (possibly to a cottage at the beach) from the city streets that lie directly beneath."

■ **MENTAL VACATION** To invoke a sense of getting away, Wolf opts for "items that create a slice of nostalgia or bring you to another time or place. There is always some kind of peace when I look around at my belongings and remember the vacation where I bought them or the family member they once belonged to."

■ **STOP TO SMELL THE ROSES** To create a haven for relaxation, Wolf loves Cire Trudon's Ernesto candle (above). She fills her apartment with hydrangea, garden roses and peonies: "Such a nice way to bring the outdoors in!"



Above and left: A coastal vibe in the windowed master bathroom. The Perrin Rowe exposed thermostatic shower system compliments Cheviot's Balmoral Pedestal cast iron tub. The drapes are custom white Belgian linen. A Dash & Albert indoor/outdoor striped mat protects the reclaimed white-oak wide-plank floors. The vanity is from Restoration Hardware's Shutter Collection, with a hand-applied weathered oak finish.