





# east side story

A HISTORIC PROPERTY ON THE UPPER EAST SIDE IS REIMAGINED AS A COMFORTABLE YET SOPHISTICATED FAMILY HOME RICH WITH COLOR AND TEXTURE.

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INTERIOR DESIGN Lisa Frazer, Studio Frazer  
ARCHITECTURE Robert Finger, Fogarty Finger  
BEDROOMS 5 | BATHROOMS 5 | SQUARE FEET 5,700



When a couple decided to return to New York after several years of living in London, they faced a dilemma: They craved the less formal vibe of the West Village yet they wanted to achieve it on the Upper East Side, where their children were already attending school. The solution came in the form of an abandoned historic brownstone that offered the perfect combination of space, location and opportunity.

"This is a family who truly enjoys each other and really lives in their home," says interior designer Lisa Frazer, who has now worked on six homes with the family. "The character of the home and the pieces we brought together reflect that at every turn."

Reupholstered heirloom furnishings, such as the living room's slipper chairs that were made new again with Carleton V silk in Marrakech, mingle with some of the home's modern pieces. The large beach photograph is by Massimo Vitali and the wool stair runner is by Beauvais.



In the living room, a lithograph by Richard Diebenkorn hangs above the existing fireplace and adds a pop of color to the otherwise subdued living room. A custom Patterson Flynn & Martin wool rug sits below the tan Sandringham sofa.



The library is a gathering space rich with family photos and mementos from their travels. The owners' existing sofa was reupholstered in a cotton-velvet fabric from Ralph Lauren and paired with a vintage Georgian-style ottoman by Newel.



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Working with the homeowners while they were still in London, Frazzar chose colors and textures that would allow the owners to instantly feel at home upon their return. Steel and concrete in the kitchen, velvet and leather in the library, and linen and reclaimed walnut in the dining area all contribute to a home rich in both luxury and livability. "We tried to mimic a more funky West Village vibe with open shelving in the kitchen and modern lighting throughout the home," Frazzar says. "Nothing is too delicate or formal; there are different places throughout the home to hang out."

To begin, architect Robert Finger worked with the homeowners on crafting a new home within the historic shell that existed. "My inspiration was a turn-of-the-century brownstone that had really evolved over time," Finger says. For example, converting the ground floor to a more industrial-style kitchen with exposed beams and an informal dining area, and adding grand French doors that marry the space with the landscaped patio are things the architect envisioned "would have happened at some point in the home's evolution."

In the hallway between the living room and library, a custom-designed bar by Studio Frazzar casts a warm glow thanks to a combination of fumed white oak, an antique mirror, and sconces by Remains Lighting. The polished statuary marble on the countertop lends both beauty and durability.



An industrial vibe was created in the kitchen using subway tiles and open shelving from Urban Archaeology, right. A concrete countertop and Viking appliances suit the homeowners' passion for cooking; the brushed-aluminum stools by Emeco allow the family to gather while meals are prepared.

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The architect and his team also increased the home's size by more than 50 percent. They extended the back of the house on two of the four original floors and added a fifth floor that would serve as a bedroom for the homeowners' eldest child. In addition, they excavated the cellar to create a useful space that now doubles as the open kitchen and dining area, as well as a TV room where the kids can be near their mother, who loves to cook.

On the main floor—in an area that would have traditionally been devoted to a formal dining room—a space was converted into a library that the family can enjoy together. Upstairs from that floor lies the sprawling master suite, where the kids can be found nearly as often as their parents. "It's so rare for clients to carve out space for a library,"





An informal dining room was highly important to the homeowners. For the table, a base from Olde Good Things is topped with a slab of reclaimed walnut by Uptown Restoration. The linen-and-teak director's chairs are from James Perse; the flat-woven carpet by Madeline Weinrib serves as wall art for the space.





The soft palette in the master bedroom is highlighted with touches of color, as seen in the homeowners' existing ottoman reupholstered in a rich blue silk-velvet from Stark. An antique silver-leaf mirror from Polly McArthur & Associates in Seattle reflects the light of the bronze chandelier.



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says Frazer, mentioning the room as one of her favorites in the finished home. "The windows let in fantastic light, and it's full of family photos and travel memorabilia."

Throughout the home, favorite family furnishings—such as a pair of slipper chairs in the living room—have been passed down through generations and reupholstered to create a more suitable feel for the new home. Frazer worked to marry these heirloom pieces with more modern touches, emphasizing a less formal design scheme. In the library, a custom-colored lighting fixture by David Weeks adds a contemporary pop of apple green to the room, while the kitchen's concrete countertops give the home an industrial feel. "It's a very thoughtful home," Frazer says. "We used everything to our advantage—the heirlooms add character, and the newer pieces give it an edge. It's very personal." **L**

The beauty of the natural marble on the master bathroom walls is paired with a marble tub from Urban Archaeology and softened by the glow of brushed-nickel wall sconces by Waterworks. Sinks by Kohler are cradled in washstands, also from Urban Archaeology, lending a modern touch.