

# Best of Manhattan Interiors

Comfortable Minimalism  
Bold Color & New Neutrals  
Spiritual Spaces for Home  
Make Your Bathroom an Oasis

Designer Libby Langdon uses dark walls with hits of color to create a home that's chic but livable. Photo courtesy of Libby Langdon





## Cutting-Edge Comfort

Charles P. Rogers' Stratford Flame Mahogany Sleigh Bed ushers in a new era in luxurious design. Photo courtesy of Charles P. Rogers.



Lladro's expressive porcelain sculptures add grace and warmth to any environment. Photo courtesy of Lladro



**“Form follows function, and function is most important.”**

In a city with the most cutting-edge interior and home furnishings designers in the world, every home — from the smallest apartment to the largest penthouse — is a potential work of art.

That said, Manhattanites, the most educated, fearless consumers in the country, care less about style for style's sake than about making their home work for their lifestyles, both functionally and aesthetically.

“Form follows function, and function is most important,” says designer John Barman, known for his stylish, contemporary look and bold use of color. “You have to define your lifestyle before you define your space.”

What this means in terms of trends depends upon whom you talk to. Manhattan's intense concentration of creativity and talent — and opinions — guarantees that its trends are as eclectic as its residents. Comfortable minimalism; traditional with a twist; contemporary styles combined with antiques — it's all “in.” The bottom line is that Manhattanites want furniture that not only looks good, but also feels good; a home that is warm and livable; a home that reflects the way they live their lives.

“There's a big movement of people walking away from the über-modern, hyper-contemporary stark look,” says Libby Langdon, the design expert for “Small Space, Big Style” on HGTV. “People want their spaces to be elegant, hip, cool and chic. They want modern elements in their furniture, but they also want their homes to be comfortable and livable.”

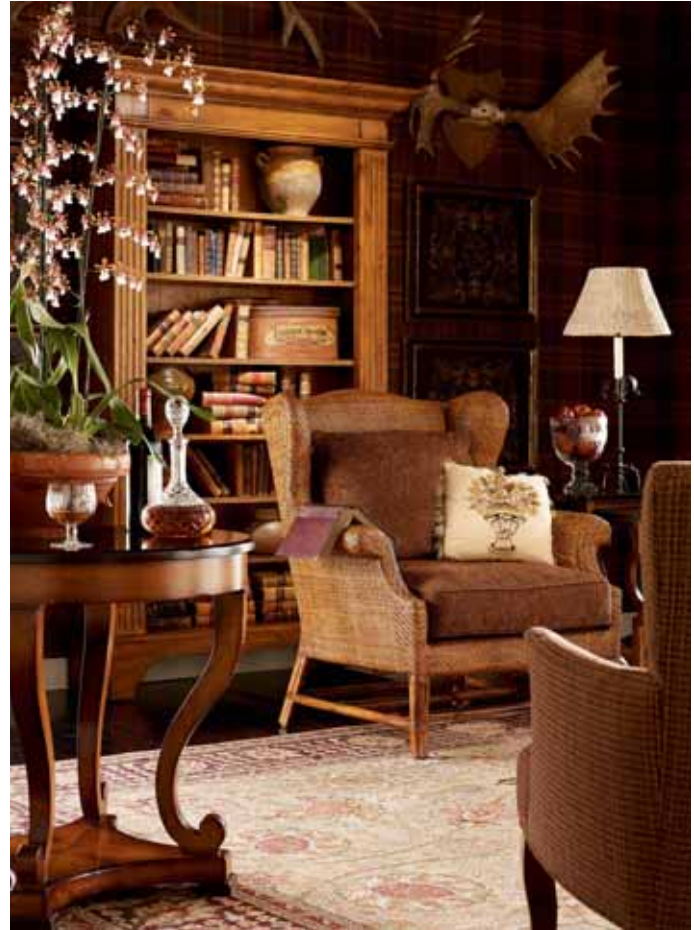
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Maurice Villency



Furniture and floor coverings from Einstein Moomjy create plush comfort with contemporary style. Photo courtesy of Einstein Moomjy.

“People want the minimalist look, but with comfort and warmth to it.”



Personalize space using an eclectic mix of furnishings from Safavieh Home Furnishings. Photo courtesy of Safavieh Home Furnishings.

Hence the trend toward “comfortable minimalism” — furniture with a modern edge that also maintains a degree of comfort. “People want the minimalist look, but with comfort and warmth to it,” says Eric Villency, president of Maurice Villency. One example is the popular Maurice Villency sectional with a retractable back. When the back is folded down, the piece looks sleek and modern; when it’s ratcheted up, it provides chilled-out comfort.

For a more traditional look, The Devon Shops makes custom hand-carved French and English furnishings. These pieces will suit your needs in a way antiques rarely can — an exquisite antique-looking armoire, for example, can be designed to accommodate a plasma television; or a round, hand-carved dining room table can be created to perfectly fit a Manhattan apartment. “We make furniture you can put alongside antiques so as not to embarrass them,” says Charlotte Barbakow, owner and designer of The Devon Shops. All pieces are made to order with the shape, size, wood finish and fabric of your choice.

The Devon Shops, established in 1929, has found its market expanding with the trend toward buying antiques and mixing them with modern pieces. “Young people are realizing that a piece of quality furniture with a touch of French looks beautiful, that it doesn’t go out of style,” says Ms. Barbakow. “They like knowing that they’re buying heirlooms for tomorrow, and there’s so much satisfaction in getting a really good piece of furniture.” Indeed, buying a piece at The Devon Shops is an experience — you can watch the creation of each piece from start to finish as it is designed, carved and signed in Devon’s onsite workshop.

Then there is the trend toward taking Grandma’s traditional pieces and giving them a modern look. “People are taking furniture they inherited from their parents or grandparents and covering it with contemporary fabrics,” says Sara Smarr, manager of Stickleby, Audi & Co.’s Manhattan showroom. “They want to live with these pieces, but they want the pieces to reflect more of themselves in their living spaces.”

People are definitely moving toward traditional styles with a contemporary edge, says Joe Murphy, merchandise manager for Safavieh Home Furnishings. “They’re looking for sleek furniture that has a classical element, and that’s also comfortable,” he says.

The mix of contemporary and traditional designs is reflected in the beds of Charles P. Rogers, the oldest bedmakers in the United States. The gorgeous Wing bed, one of their most popular, is made of top grain leather with a tall, high headboard with brass studs, mahogany wood and an open footboard. “It’s classic but refreshed,” says Linda Klein, president of the company. Indeed, a bed is as much a piece of furniture as a sofa or dining table, and deserves at least the same amount of consideration and investment. “The bed anchors the room,” says Ms. Klein. “Five or 25 years from now you can change the carpeting, the paint, the window treatments, and you’ll still have your beautiful bed.”

Charles P. Rogers is the last company in the country building solid brass beds with wrought iron, rather than with hollow aluminum steel tubes, or with plastic-coated, baked-on finishes that may look good when you buy it, but will get scratched and banged up in a year or two. “New Yorkers especially have the confidence and security to select a look they love,” Ms. Klein says. “They know they’re not going to wake up five weeks from now and say: ‘Oh, what did I do.’”

Farah Kathwari, director of style communications for Ethan Allen, agrees that the public, especially New Yorkers, is more educated about interior design than ever before. To that end, suites and ensembles are out. “People understand that everything doesn’t have to match exactly, that you can mix styles, that you can have variety,” she says. “It’s all about interior design now, it’s about helping people personalize their living spaces.”

Perhaps the ultimate way to add a timeless personal touch to a home is with a piece of art or sculpture. Lladró’s classic porcelain collections depicting intimate moments of daily life add beauty and warmth to any environment. “When people think of Lladró, they think, ‘Oh, those are the figurines sitting behind glass that my mother or grandmother collected,’” says Diane Nielsen, director of Lladró’s New York City boutique. But Lladró isn’t just for Grandma anymore. The family-owned Spanish company has expanded its collection to include all manner of subjects, from sensuous nudes to Asian spiritual symbolism. “We make sculptures with soul that celebrate life,” says David Lladró, son of the founder. “Our sculptures are forged in a language that goes beyond words; it’s art that springs from life; art that makes a home truly beautiful.” ♦

Stickley

a



Maurice Villency's black lacquer table (above) and cushy white sectional sofa (below) are set off by red furnishings and white walls. Photo courtesy of Maurice Villency.

## Black and White and Red all Over

**If 90's interiors whispered beige, this decade screams color and contrast.**

"People want color," says Eric Villency, president of Maurice Villency. "Beige is out." is the Color of the moment include orange (think the 80's and the New York Mets), purple and dark pink.

"We're seeing a lot of tangerines and corals, oranges mixed with browns, and deep pinks, everything from the red family," says Sara Smarr, manager of Stickleby, Audi & Co.'s Manhattan showroom. "Whether people go with a bright red leather club chair or a bright throw pillow or other accents depends on how much color they're comfortable with."

Even Pompanoosuc Mills, the Vermont-based hardwood furniture maker, is seeing an increase in pigmented finishes with more of a colored look than ever before. Extremely hot right now is a black sable stain which Robert Chapin, vice president, director of marketing describes as "an espresso with a hint of red, which tends to hide the grain more than the traditional brownish stain would. It's a very elegant color."



Einstein



Designer Libby Langdon creates a seamless look with dark walls contrasted with light accents.  
Photos courtesy of Libby Langdon.

**“Don’t be afraid of black.  
It’s the ultimate neutral.”**

Joe Murphy, merchandise manager for Safavieh Home Furnishings, which recently expanded its New York store to include a full floor of home furnishings, is also seeing fresh fabrics with hints of black to add life to a neutral color, as well as an explosion of black leather furniture.

Indeed black, contrasted with flashes of color, has become the new fashion statement for interiors — it goes with everything, and can add amazing ambience when used well. “Don’t be afraid of black,” says designer Libby Langdon of HGTV’s “Small Space, Big Style.” “It’s the ultimate neutral.”

Ms. Langdon is so convinced that black is back that she painted the



entire living room of a 40th-floor Upper East Side apartment a dark charcoal gray and the radiators black. The highlight of the apartment, home to a never-home-during-the-day cardiologist, is its floor-to-ceiling wrap-around windows. “The whole apartment is about nothing but the view at night,” says Ms. Langdon. The dark interior (complete with black linen curtains) creates a seamless look at night, and standing in the apartment after dark is almost like being outside. “If you had light walls, that’s all you would see reflected at night,” she says. Needless to say, the ambience and the view are phenomenal.

To break up the black, Ms. Langdon added hits of bold color — oranges and pinks — on the walls, the coffee table and at the bar — as well as cream-colored dining room chairs in microsuede, and a light chandelier and light rugs. “The light contrasts add a comfort factor,” she says. “If it were all black and dark, who would want to be there? It’s important to have bold colors and rich tones to balance the dark with a lighter palette.”

On the other side of the coin, white as a canvas for contrasting colors is equally trendy. “We’re seeing whites, taupes and natural colors with bright punches of color in limited spots, like red leather chairs at each end of a room,” says Joe Murphy of Safavieh.

When designer John Barman tackled a newly created Harlem duplex, he left the entire apartment white (cutting out the expense of a new paint job), thus creating a backdrop for splashes of color in the furniture and the red in the cherrywood floors.

The former carriage house was built in the 1880’s; developers maintained the façade, gutted it, and created three brand-new duplexes with



# Waterworks



Using a white backdrop to set off bold color, designer John Barman creates a contemporary but warm and inviting living room that gives an Uptown apartment a loft-like feeling. Photo by Peter Vitale.



Photo by Andrea Brissio.

“We’re seeing whites, taupes and natural colors with bright punches of color in limited spots.”

soaring ceilings and six-foot-high windows with mahogany casings. But having also been a warehouse, the condo’s rooms are of unusual shapes and sizes. Mr. Barman’s job was to make the best use of the space and tie it together with color.

To create extra seating, Mr. Barman took the long, narrow, L-shaped main room and built a banquette along the short wall, covering it with a tufted mattress-cum-cushion upholstered in persimmon-colored velvet, adding room for bookshelves underneath. He added a chocolate-brown sofa that curves with the opposite wall and a turquoise chaise, creating an open feeling with a focus toward the fireplace. He reupholstered antique chairs in multicolored vinyl that can be easily wiped down (the kitchen flows off of the living room.)

“I used neutral walls with a chocolate brown sofa to ground the space, then added spurts of bright color,” says Mr. Barman. “The brown,

Safavieh



Designer Bruce Bierman uses playful touches of color to create a bright, airy feeling in the living room, (above) and the dining room, (below) in this Chelsea loft. Photo courtesy of Bruce Bierman.



Exotic birds from Custom Paradise Aviaries bring vivid color to any space. Photo by BriteLitePhotography.com.



Designer John Barman livens up a room with red and purple. Photo credit by Andrea Brizzi.

**It's maintenance-free,  
ever-changing, living color.**

turquoise, cinnamon and cream chairs tie it all together for a fresh, young, bright and 'up' look that is sophisticated and pleasant to live with."

Then there's the ultimate in color for the home — custom-built aviaries filled with exotic, brightly colored finches and canaries. Custom Paradise designs aviaries of various shapes and sizes, to be leased or bought, and fills them with 10 to 25 tiny birds, depending on the size of the aviary. A staff member visits the aviary weekly or biweekly, cleans it, checks the birds, replaces the food and the waterfall (yes, they have a waterfall) and the background mural if you so choose (selections include tropical scenes, mountains, and woods). It's maintenance-free, ever-changing, living color.

"Aviaries are constantly entertaining and constantly busy," says

founder Michael Sinyor, who serves both residential and commercial properties. "They're also very therapeutic, calming and relaxing." And educational. If you choose breeding birds, a hidden camera is included inside the nesting box, with a flat-screen monitor suction-cupped on the back wall, so you can watch the mother bird feeding her chicks, and even watch eggs hatch.

Unlike parrots or other birds that can be noisy, finches and canaries, Mr. Sinyor says, "make very quiet, sweet sounds. They're barely audible." Unless, of course, you specifically request a male canary, which sings loudly "to impress the females."

And unlike tropical fish which, let's face it, are beautiful but don't appear to be engaged, birds will react to you; if you whistle at them, they'll sing back at you. "It's a microcosm of nature," says Mr. Sinyor, a lifelong bird lover. "The birds are stunning — one little bird alone is red, black, royal blue, purple, yellow and green. There's no better way to add color to your home, and to your life." ♦

# Manhattan Cabinetry



This Iron & Brass Sleigh Daybed by Charles P. Rogers provides two beds in the space of one. Photo courtesy of Charles P. Rogers.



A home entertainment center from Manhattan Cabinetry makes a place for everything. Photo courtesy of Manhattan Cabinetry.

**“We need to get away from the existing conventions about separate bedrooms, dining rooms, living rooms.”**

“We need to get away from the existing conventions about separate bedrooms, dining rooms, living rooms,” says the German-born designer. “With the large single population in Manhattan, we don’t need all of these privacy factors like doors anymore.” And what about bathrooms? “A bathroom needs to have a door,” he concedes, “but it doesn’t need to be completely enclosed. There are other ways to create visual barriers.”

Of course, families need private spaces, and Mr. Andernach suggests creating rooms with moving panels — floor-to-ceiling pocket sliding doors — so that the space can be effortlessly divided and then reopened. “I get claustrophobic very easily, and I think a lot of people do in Manhattan — not just in their apartment, but everywhere — we are always running out of space,” he says. “We need to let rooms serve more than just one function.”

Even within a traditional room, using every bit of space wisely is key to maximizing space. Collapsible furniture that can be stored easily frees up precious space, as does furniture that serves two or three functions, like Ethan Allen’s oversized chair with a deep, comfortable seat that opens up to a twin bed, with an ottoman that opens for storage. Other stylish, multifunctional Ethan Allen pieces include a set of three red lacquer boxes in expanding sizes that open for storage and that can be used as coffee tables, end tables, or stacked as decorative pieces. “Our latest collection is made with Manhattan in mind,” says Farah Kathwari, director of style communications for Ethan Allen. “It is very multifunctional, and easy to use in smaller homes and apartments. We also make all our lines very mixable, and in a variety of painted finishes that coordinate with each other; this really opens up design options.”

The sofa bed is a staple for those who are spatially challenged. “In Manhattan, people don’t want to give up one of their rooms for guests, so a sofa bed in the office or the media room is a perfect solution,” says

## Finding Your Inner Space

### **Walls. They’re just so — confining.**

For Manhattanites desperate to create a larger, more expansive feel to their spaces, one solution is to just tear them down.

“No matter how small the place, I always try to convince my clients to rip out the walls,” says architectural designer Kurt Andernach. Mr. Andernach recommends replacing walls with built-in, freestanding, convertible furniture that divides the space while serving a function. Floating furniture that doesn’t touch walls or the ceiling makes a space feel larger and more airy, while walls necessarily create a boxed-in feeling.

Ethan Allen

Designer Bruce Bierman uses curves to make the most of the space in this Central Park West residence. Photo courtesy of Bruce Bierman.



Once you've maxxed out your furniture, it's time to look in the hidden spaces.



Crafted of wood and brass and lined with Chinese paper, these vibrantly colored boxes by Ethan Allen keep treasures safe and look nice stacked or alone. Photo courtesy of Ethan Allen.



Show off your plasma television in this home entertainment center from Manhattan Cabinetry. Photo courtesy of Manhattan Cabinetry.



Round or rectangular, Ethan Allen's Drop Leaf Chippendale Table offers versatility with high style. Photo courtesy of Ethan Allen.

Carlyle Custom Convertibles president Albert DeMatteo. "But it has to be a sofa bed that someone can actually sleep on."

After 50 years of making sofa beds, Carlyle, a Manhattan institution, has perfected them. "People come up with gimmicks and we've experimented with all of them," says Mr. DeMatteo. "But the only thing that makes sense is the mattresses that we manufacture ourselves, and that are guaranteed to give a good night's sleep." Carlyle makes six different-sized beds and six different types of fills; all beds are made according to your exact specifications. "You want it higher, lower, deeper, longer — you name it, we do it." Carlyle also has a huge selection of fabrics, and because its factories are local, you can order a sofa on Monday and have it delivered on Friday.

Pompanoosuc Mills makes a bed that has become extremely popular with Manhattanites. Showing off a European elegance and cosmopolitan flair, the Grafton bed (named for a town in Vermont), comes with spacious underbed storage drawers. "It blends style with functionality," says Robert Chapin. "Just what people are looking for in Manhattan."

Yet another sleeping option is the daybed from Charles P. Rogers, which designs and manufactures all its beds locally. The daybed, which hides another bed underneath, comes in a standard twin or, for smaller Manhattan apartments, a narrower 33-inch width. "The daybed solves so many problems," says owner Linda Klein, whose husband David designs all the beds. "It gives you two beds if your child has a sleepover, or, if you push the two together, a king- or a queen-sized bed." The beds come either two sided (with a head and footboard) or three sided, with a back. And like all of their beds, the Charles P. Rogers daybed is made by hand and comes in solid hardwood, iron, brass or leather.

To maximize space in your living room, Maurice Villency's multipurpose cocktail table is just the ticket. The table includes an integrated ottoman and magazine rack that pull out sushi-table style, along with storage underneath, providing three functions for the same amount of space. "We offer people a lot of flexibility in their furniture," says Eric

Villency, president of Maurice Villency, which custom-makes all its furniture in Italy and Turkey, configured according to your specifications.

Manhattan Cabinetry, as its name says, makes all manner of multi-functional custom furnishings specifically for Manhattan dwellers, in an almost unlimited selection of custom finishes. Starting with the living room, a simple credenza or an elaborate entertainment unit houses an L.C.D. television and all its equipment or even a computer secretary; for the home office, a radiator enclosure that's also a desk and file cabinet; for the bedroom, a wardrobe unit that includes a place for the television, hanging clothes, drawers, a vanity and even a Murphy bed.

"We always try to maximize the efficiency of the unit, and to maximize the storage," says Eric Heim, designer and manager of the 59th Street showroom. That might mean working in an extra drawer for nail polish or for paper clips. "We analyze our clients' needs, and take care of them from soup to nuts; from conception to production."

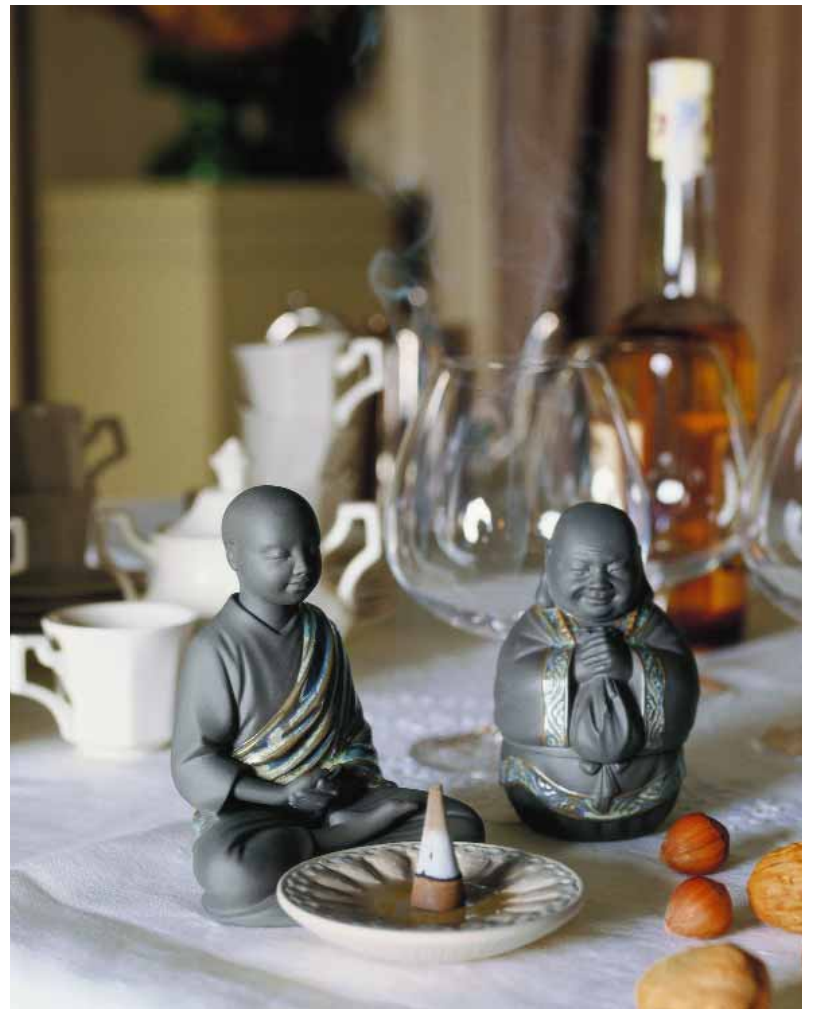
Once you've maxxed out your furniture, it's time to look in the hidden spaces. Designer Beata Galdi recommends utilizing soffits, vertical risers and ducts — which might have enough extra room for a spice drawer in the kitchen, or a pullout toiletries cabinet in the bathroom.

Finally, consider looking up, and taking advantage of extra vertical space. A high ceiling may allow enough room to build a platform or a second level within a room, like a dining room or bedroom atop a storage room or closet. Or the reverse. Kurt Andernach transformed a small, 5-foot-4-inch-high loft that had been used for storage into a relaxing home entertainment area, simply by clearing it out and adding a low, built-in couch. Be creative, and the results can be surprisingly exciting. ♦



Cancos Tile

# The Devon Shop



Tabletop ornaments from Lladro's "Emperor's Table" collection encourage serenity. Photo courtesy of Lladro

The latest trend in Manhattan design is meditation rooms and "spiritual spaces for the home."

## Just say Ommm...

**Give Carole Crittenden Reed a walk-in closet, small bedroom or turn-of-the-century maid's quarters, and she will transform it into your own personal sanctuary.**

Forget wine-tasting rooms and home theaters; the latest trend in Manhattan design is meditation rooms and "spiritual spaces for the home," as Ms. Reed calls them. "I help people create a utopic escape from the sights and sounds of the city, a place to get away from the chaos and get centered," explains Ms. Reed, a former curator of House of Blues Outsider Art Collection.

"People's lives are so stressful; they need a place to shut out the world, the kids, the television, anything distracting," she says. "My clients are successful in business and in life, and they need time to go within themselves to keep focused, and to get to the core of what's important."

Ms. Reed creates an environment that is warm, quiet and womblike, and resonates with her client's spiritual affiliation. She combines aged objects, like a 200-year-old wooden door, with personal mementos. To this she adds contemporary pieces that have "an effect on a deeper, more spiritual level." She pads the walls with thick insulation to create an insular effect, and covers them with a vibrant color. "Bright colors are 'anti' what most people think of in a meditation room, but amber or red walls create a warm environment," she says.

To create your own spiritual retreat, a good place to start is Einstein Moomjy's sumptuous selection of custom-made, hand-knotted Nepalese

Charles P. Rogers

“People are realizing how color affects their mood and spirituality.”



Carole Crittenden Reed of LUSH Design creates personal spiritual space. Photo courtesy of Carole Crittenden Reed.

rugs in soothing golds, blues and greens. The wool comes from the Himalayan mountains, and the high altitudes make it exceptionally soft. Even more luxurious are Einstein Moomjy's Nepalese rugs woven with a mix of Himalayan wool and silk. All are available in a variety of custom shapes, sizes and colors, and can include a sleeve on the back for hanging on the wall — to create that warm, insular feeling. “People are realizing how color affects their mood and spirituality,” says owner Andrea Moomjy. “Many people are leaning toward a softer palette with icy colors, which is calming, and they are specifically drawn to our Nepalese rugs, which have a real richness and spirituality all their own.”

In addition to thick, soft rugs on the floor and walls, Ms. Reed recommends keeping the space clutter free and adding objects that are beautiful and personal. Such objects might include pieces of art or sculpture; something old or new. A perfect fit in such an environment is a sculpture from Lladró, Spanish designers of fine porcelain objets d'art depicting intimate portraits of daily life. “The Emperor's Table,” Lladró's newest collection in soft blues and grays, includes a candleholder, incense burner, vase and potpourri boxes, delicately engraved with images inspired by Oriental symbolism.

Brian VanOrdsel, a 48-year-old strategic accounts manager who travels extensively for work, craved a calm space that would help him unwind during his precious time at home. The rarely-used guest/media room in his Upper West Side brownstone was ripe for transformation. He hired Ms. Reed to do the job.

Mr. VanOrdsel, a fan of Asian and Indonesian art, gave Ms. Reed free rein. Keeping his preferences in mind, Ms. Reed covered the floor with an oversized Sri Lankan rug in sepia, amber and coral (“all central chakra colors”); on the walls she hung a Chinese scale, a gold-threaded Sri Lankan rug and antique Gujarati fabric, hand-dyed in India. The fabric pads the walls and enhances the acoustics of VanOrdsel's high-definition sound system. Ms. Reed purchased Asian artifacts, including an antique armoire that stands in one corner, through private dealers. “It's got a Far Eastern, Zen feeling,” says Mr. VanOrdsel. “I don't meditate, but it is a really tranquil, calm place I can go and hang out in. It's comfortable, warm and quiet. And for the money I spent, it's the best possible use for that space.” ♦

# Carlyle Custom

# Your Bathroom as Oasis

**Consider your bathroom. Consider making it a place of repose — a place to revitalize.**

“Residential bathrooms have evolved from utilitarian rooms to luxurious private sanctuaries for the body, mind and soul,” says Drew Vandewart, marketing director at Davis & Warshow, one of New York’s oldest and largest plumbing distributors.

Luxury nowadays doesn’t necessarily mean fancy; it means space, function, practicality and beauty.

In that vein, people are moving away from elaborate, decorative tile, opting instead for simple designs with graceful molding. “What I’m seeing now are spaces that are clean and well edited, with an elegant simplicity without layers of decorative tile,” says Barbara Sallick, cofounder and senior vice president of design at Waterworks. “The clean, bare, minimalist look, which creates a Zen, serene kind of feel, is in,” agrees Bernadette White, co-owner of Cancos Tile.

Since bathrooms must be practical as well as beautiful, faux-wood planks made of porcelain, offering the look of wood without the maintenance, have become particularly popular for tiny Manhattan bathrooms. A bathroom can be elongated with 6-by-24-inch planks on both the floors and walls, Ms. White says. And stone, which is striking and durable, “remains a material that is well suited to the bath, and which designers keep using.”

Up-and-coming designer Kyle Timothy Blood relied on slate to create an elegant but functional high-traffic bathroom. Mr. Blood began by covering the bathroom’s floor and shower walls with “Sunburst Slate” from Waterworks in varying shapes and sizes, custom-tumbled smooth on the walls and honed on the floors. He then combined the slate with polished glass from Italy, creating a contrast with scale and texture.

“I juxtaposed rugged stone with sophisticated glass; the rustic with



Waterworks fixtures provide a contemporary look that's full charm. Photo courtesy of Waterworks

the more precious,” says Mr. Blood, design editor for the online magazine for “trendy parents and their homes,” TheFamilyGroove.com. “The glass reflects light, compared with the more static slate. The stone on the floors and walls make the bathroom indestructible, but the glass gives it a refined, more polished beauty.” The combined effect keeps the overall design from looking too industrial.

Rather than using one or two standard showerheads in the large, double shower, Mr. Blood used Waterworks’ Etoile ceiling-mounted swivel 12-inch shower rose which gives the sensation of standing in a heavy

## Pompanoosuc Mill

# Davis & Warshow



“A spa-like bathroom alleviates the stresses of the day or invigorates your morning in seconds.”

Designer Kyle Timothy Blood mixes slate and glass in a shower vestibule for an elegant look that's also indestructible (above). A custom vanity with large Waterworks sink (below) creates more storage space. Photos by Lisle Richards.

# Jennifer Convertible

rain. “It’s a life-changing experience, having that much water cascade all over your body,” he says. “It alleviates the stresses of the day or invigorates your morning in seconds.” Mr. Blood also used Waterworks’ Pier Large Lavatory 39-inch sink with a vanity he designed to hold an ample amount of towels. “Luxury doesn’t have to be fancy-dancy,” says Mr. Blood. “To be able to incorporate a sink this large makes you feel like you’re in a beachside resort, and in New York, to have a sink you could soak a baby or small dog in is not only utilitarian, it’s quite luxurious.”

But, let’s face it, luxury is also about all those cutting-edge gadgets and gizmos, many of which can be incorporated into even the smallest of bathrooms, with the promise of perfect relaxation and of rendering your therapist obsolete.

With the right mechanics in place, you can get a tub with more options than a luxury car and more services than a day spa: hydrotherapy, chromotherapy (lights that sit in your bath and cycle through the spectrum of colors to provide a therapeutic effect), heated backrests, electronic controls, integrated sound systems and ceiling-mounted tub fillers.

Even with all these possibilities, many Manhattanites are opting to relinquish their small tub in favor of a larger, more luxurious shower. “People start out wanting to keep their bathtub,” says Waterworks’ Ms.



Porcelain mosaic tile (left) in terracotta provide an earthy, soothing effect.

The black and white ceramic wall tile (right) combined with the two-tone marble cut into a basket-weave pattern on the floor offers an updated retro look. Photo courtesy of Cancos Tile.

Sallick. "But they find that in the space occupied by the tub they can have a double shower with a large shower head, a steam unit, and seats so they can sit down and have water pouring over them."

Who wouldn't give up a tub for a shower that incorporates invigorating body sprays, a large rain head, steam and dry-heat therapies, aromatherapy, a stereo speaker system and L.E.D. and fibre optic lighting?

Heated towel bars and heating units under the bathroom floor are popular with pets and people alike. "Heated floors also add an ambient warmth to the entire bathroom," says Ms. Sallick.

And don't forget your luxury toilet, which comes in tankless and wall-hung designs, equipped with water-conserving dual flush mechanisms, electronic actuation (that's flushing), adjustable chair heights, heated seats with anterior and posterior washing features, and deodorizer.

Wall-mounted fixtures of all types, standard in Europe for a long time, are finally creeping into style. Wall-mounted vanities and consoles, particularly designs from Spain, Italy and Germany, are the latest craze;

Davis & Warshow also sells a variety of high-end, wall-mounted designer toilets mainly from German and Italian manufacturers. Besides their cleaner, more aesthetically appealing look, wall-mounted toilets also save space, since the tank is behind the wall; they're also easier to clean — imagine being able to simply mop the floor under the bowl.

"All these features distinguish today's at-home spas from the generic bathrooms of yesteryear," says Mr. Vandewart of Davis & Warshow. "You no longer have to book a room at a spa; you can walk into the bathroom, and be transported." ♦

# Lladro

ad to come

ad to come

ad to come

# Resource Guide

## Stickley, Audi & Co.

160 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10011  
(212) 337-0700  
(914) 948-6333  
[www.stickleyaudi.com](http://www.stickleyaudi.com)

## Einstein Moomjy

155 East 56th Street  
New York, NY 10022  
(212) 758-0900  
[www.einsteinmoomjy.com](http://www.einsteinmoomjy.com)

## Waterworks

225 East 57th Street  
New York, NY 10022  
(800) 899-6757  
[www.waterworks.com](http://www.waterworks.com)

## Ethan Allen

(888) 324-3571  
[www.ethanallen.com](http://www.ethanallen.com)

## Cancos Tile

22 West 21st Street  
New York, NY 10022  
(800) FOR-TILE (367-8453)  
[www.cancos.com](http://www.cancos.com)

## Manhattan Cabinetry

227 East 59th Street  
New York, NY 10022  
(212) 750-9800  
[www.manhattancabinetry.com](http://www.manhattancabinetry.com)

## Safavieh Home Furnishings

902 Broadway  
New York, NY 10010  
(212) 477-1234  
[www.safaviehome.com](http://www.safaviehome.com)



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## Charles P. Rogers

55 West 17th Street  
New York, NY 10011  
(800) 272-7726  
[www.charlesprogers.com](http://www.charlesprogers.com)

## Carlyle Custom Convertibles

1056 3rd Avenue  
New York, NY 10021  
(212) 838-1525  
[www.carlylesofa.com](http://www.carlylesofa.com)

## The Devon Shops

111 East 27th Street  
New York, NY 10016  
(212) 686-1760  
[www.devonshop.com](http://www.devonshop.com)

## Davis & Warshow

150 East 58th Street, 4th Floor  
New York, NY 10155  
(212) 688-5990  
[www.daviswarshow.com](http://www.daviswarshow.com)

## Maurice Villency

200 East 57th Street  
New York, NY 10022  
(212) 725-4840  
[www.villency.com](http://www.villency.com)

## Hip and Humble Home

143 West 19th Street  
New York, NY 10011  
(212) 675-1527  
[www.hipandhumblehome.com](http://www.hipandhumblehome.com)

## Asia Rustic

75 Franklin Street  
New York, NY 10013  
(212) 219-3475  
[www.asiarustic.com](http://www.asiarustic.com)

