



# NEW YORK CITY RETREAT

MADISON AVENUE DUPLEX  
BY LEONORA MAHLE

84 design et al

design et al 85

## Design et al

Published on Apr 23, 2018

design et al Magazine, we look at the design schemes transforming the face of design.

HOME DECORATING

 design et al  
FOLLOW 1578











This project involved the remodel of a residential duplex apartment located in a Manhattan Cooperative building on 65th Street and Madison Ave. The clients on this project are semi-retired and spend their time between Florida, Vermont and New York. The NYC apartment is a pied-à-terre for them, he is originally from New York and she is Austrian. Both love design and were very involved in the selection process.

The clients wanted a space that felt "calm and peaceful," with a neutral scheme that was warm and welcoming. The living room area rug, which is a 19th Century Kerman antique purchased from Beauvais Carpets, determined the colour palette for the lower floor, where the den and dining room are also located. Leonora Mahle liked the idea of using classic modern design pieces with the antique rug and accessories, keeping things open and airy, with the focus on the views and art.

The existing living room, den and dining room built-ins were of very poor quality and craftsmanship, with cheap adjustable shelves. While the clients liked their general layout, Leonora Mahle agreed to remove them and start from scratch, making the shelves thicker, the crown and baseboard mouldings simpler, and adding sconces to the den built-in, where the TV is located. The designer also agreed to replace the existing flooring throughout the lower floor, which was a combination of poor quality parquet and marble tiles and replace it with walnut planks throughout to unify the space.

While the living room and den are large open areas, the dining room in this apartment is actually quite small and enclosed, so Leonora Mahle needed a table with a simple design. The Saarinen table works well in the space, making the small room look uncluttered. Both table and

chairs also compliment the Asian-inspired pendant from Carpyen and many of the Asian artefacts the clients collect and have on display in the dining room.

Speaking about the project, Leonora Mahle explained she believes that the design works so well "as it is a perfect reflection of the clients' taste and style, and it seamlessly met the requirements that they had briefed me with when the project commenced".

Leonora Mahle, LLC is a full-service interior design studio located in Brooklyn, New York. A native of Brazil, Leonora brings a creative approach to each of her projects, combined with a cultural sensitivity gained from a life-long interest in history and travel. Every project is a dialogue with her clients focused on interpreting their needs from a fresh and uncomplicated perspective. Whether modern, traditional or transitional, Leonora continually strives to offer projects of distinctive character. Her emphasis on quality materials and dedication to craftsmanship is a guiding principle in all the work she undertakes. The Madison Avenue Duplex is a testament to this and was recently shortlisted for the Interior Design Scheme Global Award in the International Design & Architecture Awards 2018. Leonora said of the awards, "It is a great opportunity to showcase our work and see what design firms in other parts of the world are doing".

**“calm and peaceful.”**

Leonora had great fun working with the clients on this project and has designed a suitable New York apartment for well-travelled clients.

