

INTERIOR DESIGN®

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new york nonstop

A lamp by Achille and Pier
Giacomo Castiglioni stands in
the apartment's den, which also
features an archival C-print on
acrylic by Irene Maymiye. ➤

forward looking

firms: **highland associates;**
betty wasserman art & interiors
site: **chelsea**

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Reflecting a client's lifestyle

is a given for Betty Wasserman Art & Interiors. But Betty Wasserman went one step further at this Chelsea bachelor pad, created from a trio of apartments. Once she and her longtime architect collaborator Highland Associates principal Glenn Leitch, had squared away the basics—evening out the ceiling heights, installing

recessed halogen downlights—her job, as she saw it, was to make the apartment suitable for the kind of life the owner might have in the future.

A very successful thirtysomething banker, he had bought the place largely for its prime location and 4,000-square-foot size. Significantly less attractive was the lack of character “It was a vanilla box, done with minimal creativity,” Wasserman explains. To improve the entertaining flow between the kitchen and the living-dining area, she and Leitch sculpted two perpendicular walls into a gentle curve.

Some of the personality would come from art. Drawing on her previous career as a private dealer, Wasserman paid homage to the owner's Jordanian roots by filling the apartment with works by Middle Eastern artists who live or show their work in New York. She also camouflaged the shaftway outside a kitchen window, needed for ventilation purposes, by designing a screen with an Arabic calligraphy motif.

Implementing his preferred color scheme, gray and more gray, she ➤





***Clockwise from top left:** Betty Wasserman's daughter reclines on the study's custom daybed upholstered in viscose velvet. Rodolfo Dordoni designed the den's sectional, accompanied by a Robin Rice photograph. Sandstone wraps the kitchen island. Spalted maple fins front the living area. On their other side is the dining area, with its custom André Joyau chandelier and walnut-topped table. A walnut slab and a polished stainless-steel ring form a custom console in the entry.*



Clockwise from top left: A sofa by Studio Massaud sits next to a custom stained-teak planter on the concrete-paved terrace. An ethanol fireplace and a rolling cart, both custom, come to rest beneath the study's ink drawing by Mark Humphrey. Leather upholsters the custom sofa in the master bedroom.

accented it with polished plaster walls, gray or eggplant, to “keep it from feeling too drab or corporate,” she says. Upholstery on a pair of Milo Baughman armchairs and a tufted daybed is eggplant-colored. Brightest of all, improbably, are the displays of jelly beans, the client's favorite candy: rows of canisters in the pantry and an assortment of jelly-bean sculptures in the living area and master bathroom.

She convinced the bachelor, who rarely cooks, to sign off on a 12-seat table for dinner parties in the future. In the master bedroom, silvery fabrics “make it masculine enough for him but keep it soft enough that, when a woman does join his life, she can move right in without having to redo anything,” Wasserman says. Except maybe those jelly beans.

—Monica Khemsurov



FROM FRONT FLOS: LAMP (DEN). **VIOSKI THROUGH SUITE NEW YORK:** DAYBED. **MINOTTI:** SOFAS (DEN, LIVING AREA). **MERIDA:** CUSTOM SOLID RUG (DEN), CUSTOM RUG (LIVING AREA). **CLIFF YOUNG:** CHAIRS (DEN, DINING AREA, KITCHEN). **ROMO GROUP:** OTTOMAN FABRIC (STUDY). **SCAVOLINI:** CUSTOM CABINETRY (KITCHEN). **ARPER THROUGH SUITE NEW YORK:** STOOLS. **ET2 CONTEMPORARY LIGHTING:** PENDANT FIXTURES. **STONE SOURCE:** COUNTER MATERIAL. **ANDRÉ JOYAU:** CUSTOM CHANDELIER (DINING AREA). **PIERRE FREY:** BANQUETTE FABRIC, PILLOW FABRIC (KITCHEN). **DEDON:** SOFA (TERRACE). **JANUS ET CIE:** TABLE. **INTERIEURS:** LAMP (BEDROOM). **CRÉATION BAUMANN:** HEADBOARD FABRIC. **HOLLY HUNT:** SOFA UPHOLSTERY. **THROUGHOUT STEPHANIE ODEGARD COLLECTION:** CUSTOM RUGS. **DONALD KAUFMAN COLOR NEW YORK:** PAINT. **BLONDIE'S TREEHOUSE:** LANDSCAPING CONSULTANT. **HEPTAGON:** WOODWORK. **SERPENTINE STUDIO:** PLASTERWORK. **ELITE:** FLOORING CONTRACTOR.

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