



Serenely Classic

With classical touches and delicate hues, this apartment rises high above the city's commotion.

She loves the pulsing energy of the city down below. But the owner of this New York City apartment hoped to find, within her own tall and charmingly detailed walls, a different mood to come home to. There she sought to create an atmosphere that, though cosmopolitan, was also peaceful and timeless.

The space itself offered a head start, with high ceilings and soaring windows, and such architectural flourishes as a handsome fireplace, built-in bookcases and fine moldings. The bad news? The rooms' small sizes. To open them up, the design focuses on light, easy-to-live-with colors, which are given sophistication with intriguing textures and patterns.

To soften the forceful first impression of the living room's lofty windows, lavish lengths of an inexpensive wide-width mus-



In a grandly tall but narrow living room, left, textures and patterns diversify a space-enhancing neutral palette. Muslin in a simple looped swag softens the oversized windows, and opulent Oriental rug pillows, above, add a spark of color to the upholstery's pale, plump curves.

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PILLOWS: ABC CARPET & HOME

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A white lace tablecloth draped on the bed's black metal frame, far left, fashions a simple canopy, gracefully in scale with the small room. Light walls, rose-toned rugs and dark accents, below, merge in a mood of restrained elegance.

CARPET ANSO NYLON WITH SCOTCHGARD
BLINDS HEARTWOOD BY JOANNA

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Slim-lined black-painted furniture and a table softly draped and lavishly set with glittering china and crystal create the dining room's air of gracious hospitality.

lin, (tracked down in a theater supply house) were draped in easy swags. The finely detailed fireplace was painted over so it wouldn't stop the visual flow, but its charm is apparent on a second glance. The room's narrowness didn't dissuade the owner from selecting the large upholstered pieces. Comfortably rounded chairs and sofa form a circle on the cream-tint-

ed area rug enlivened by a swirling sculptured surface. Rather than wedging a bulky coffee table into the tight space, the owner found a pair of slim cigarette tables. These dark wrought-metal pieces, along with the curtain rod, fireplace accessories, matte-brass furniture casters and artistic lamps, act as a kind of punctuation that lends definition to the pastel, plush surroundings.

The bedroom shares in the muted palette. Snowy walls,

wide-slat pickled-wood blinds and natural-cotton bed linens are warmed by petal-pink broadloom carpeting. Once again, black was used for accents. The frame of the dark metal tester bed holds a flat-hung white lace tablecloth as a casual canopy, which suits the space better than would heavy, formal bed curtains. Breaking up the bedroom's boxy format, the furnishings are placed at angles to the walls—a ploy that unabashedly plays up the grand size of the inviting bed.

Light colors also visually enlarge the dining room, and the decor doesn't appear constrained by the room's dimensions. As in the living room, the wide view of a terrace had to be both emphasized and integrated. Here a flow of tab-topped drapes in printed linen graces the tall doorway. A lavishly dressed table (with an underskirt of a sturdy unbleached muslin) finds a foil in the delicate lines of the black-painted chairs, inspired by classic French Empire styling. As in the living room, the monochromatic rug has a dimensional pattern, although the design is more small-scaled. An antique mirror in the corner is one of several scattered through the apartment to expand spaces.

Nothing is jarring in these rooms, but the final impression is far from bland, and even the bolder accents and one-of-a-kind objects seem to take part in an overall theme. By bringing together the narrow spectrum of smooth, flowing tints—often in hand-pleasing surfaces—and by leaning on classic ideas, this home now provides a sense of balance and repose not easy to come by within city limits. □

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The round table sits off center to clear the way to the door, but a table and hutch balance the composition. The folds of muslin and linen look light and airy.



CHAIRS: HICKORY CHAIR FLOWERS: VSF
DRAPERY FABRIC: OSBORNE & LITTLE
CARPET: TINTAWN STAIN TREATMENT: FIBER SEAL