

Fairytale of NEW YORK



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Pre-war apartment

ROOMS Sitting room, dining room, kitchen, pantry, cloakroom, playroom, den, four bedrooms, three bathrooms

LOCATION

New York

HALLWAY

Lisa embraced the drama of a dark and elaborate wallpaper.

Caned Bergere chair, 1stDibs. Willa console table, Hickory White. Hankeou wallpaper in Kaki, Pierre Frey. Gramercy large double sconce, Visual Comfort & Co. Grand mirror, Carvers' Guild

Designer Lisa Frantz reveals how she transformed this formerly dark Park Avenue pre-war apartment into a stunning and light-filled family home

WORDS JULIET BENNING | STYLING FRANCES BAILEY | PHOTOGRAPHY PETER MURDOCK



KITCHEN
The all-white scheme makes the space appear larger, while a vintage rug provides an enhancing pop of colour and texture. Vintage Turkish runner, J&D Oriental Rugs Co. Blind in Glisten LE1403 Aura fabric, Hartmann & Forbes. Fellini Bianco matt tiles, Claybrook, are similar



‘The sitting room walls are venetian plaster with silver mica powder mixed in to make them luminous – this helps to bounce the light around’

HOW DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT?

I’d worked with the client and many of her closest friends previously. I did the interiors of her first home about 15 years ago when she was pregnant with twins. She and her husband now have three children together and this is their ‘forever home’.

TELL US ABOUT THE PROPERTY AND THE GOALS OF YOUR CLIENT.

It hadn’t been renovated in about 25 years and lacked colour and pattern. It belonged to a family with four children and during Covid they had gone to live at their second home so this one sat empty. It was very dark and dated with partitions and walls in strange places. The clients were concerned about the lack of light as the building is about half a block long and some of the windows look onto the courtyard. They wanted to open the apartment up and make it more family friendly.

HOW DID YOU MAKE THE APARTMENT FEEL LIGHTER?

If we couldn’t get light, we were able to fake it. We used lots of tricks, for example hanging mirrors, to bounce light around. We added recessed lighting in certain areas by dropping the ceilings. We also added decorative lighting that would become a focal point and wow-factor. We didn’t shy away from darker colours but contrasted these with plenty of sparkle.

KITCHEN-DINER
The large pendant draws the eye upwards, while the botanical wallpaper makes a dramatic backdrop. Sorenson 18 lantern, Remains Lighting. Ascot wallpaper in Indigo, Scalamandré. Talia dining chairs, Habitat, are similar

DINING ROOM
The purple tones exude elegance. Botanical wallcovering, Aux Abris. Tole chandelier, latesta Studio. Adele side chairs, Century Furniture; upholstered in Madame Farfalla in lavender, Tulu. Custom table, MTC Studio Design



SITTING ROOM

The custom rug has been designed to fit snugly around the hearth and prompted the green tones of the scheme.

Beatrice rug in custom colours, Temple Studio.
Albert manor chairs in Madeleine Velvet in Cadet, Schumacher. Curtains in Aviary fabric in Golden Teal, Madeaux by Richard Smith





MAIN BEDROOM

A pair of pelmets frame the windows, providing a strong blackout. White sheers maximise privacy whilst allowing in light.

Curtains in Tea House fabric, Galbraith & Paul. Chaise, Century Furniture; upholstered in Shetland Stripe in Aqua, Cowtan & Tout. Sakura wallpaper in Grey, Scalamandré



‘The apartment has the feel of a brownstone and, being on the second floor, there are leafy treetop views’

TELL US ABOUT THE CHANGES TO THE FLOOR PLAN.

Changes were mostly in the kitchen which we opened up into an L-shape. We turned a hallway that connects the kitchen and dining room into a butler's pantry. It has an extra dishwasher, sink, a wine fridge and space to store all the china. We also transformed a dreary laundry room into a little gym.

CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE HOMEOWNER'S STYLE?

She loves colour and said, ‘Give me light, bright and happy.’ She especially loves more feminine colours like lavenders, pinks and purples, and she's very open to pattern. It's an open-door apartment so flow was important. I didn't want people to come in and start referring to ‘the pink or blue room’, so I opted for base colours that would carry over without any jarring transitions. The client is also a highly practical person so fabrics have all been stain protected and all the upholstery is performance fabric.

WHERE DO YOU FIND YOUR INSPIRATION?

I gravitate towards modern-traditional but often with offbeat colours. A lot of the companies I work with have been around for over 100 years but they're staying fresh and current. They'll keep some of their classic patterns but they'll refresh them with more modern colour combinations. I also tune in to UK, French and Spanish style which all have colour combinations you don't see in the US. 25

lisafrantzinteriors.com

BATHROOM

Elegant floor tiles pair with the grain of the marble.

Monte Carlo mosaic floor tiles; Carrara marble field tiles, both Studium. Liston wall light, Vaughan. Antique ceiling light, source similar 1stDibs. Aero Gooseneck faucets, Waterworks

CHILD'S BEDROOM

Bunks with a trundle bed underneath make great use of space, while the walls inside are upholstered for comfort.

Walls upholstered in Delphine in Neela/Oyster, Vanderhurd.

Blind in Lolly fabric in Fig, Leah O'Connell Design



DEN

Dark wooden panelling was stripped off to make way for a colour drenching of pink.

Walls in Desert Rose, Benjamin Moore. Solstice sectional sofa, Evan Spencer; upholstered Fulham linen velvet in Petal by Lee Jofa. Custom oak coffee table, MTC Studio Design. Blinds in Saule Pleureur fabric, Camengo at TM Interiors. Rug, Temple Studio

