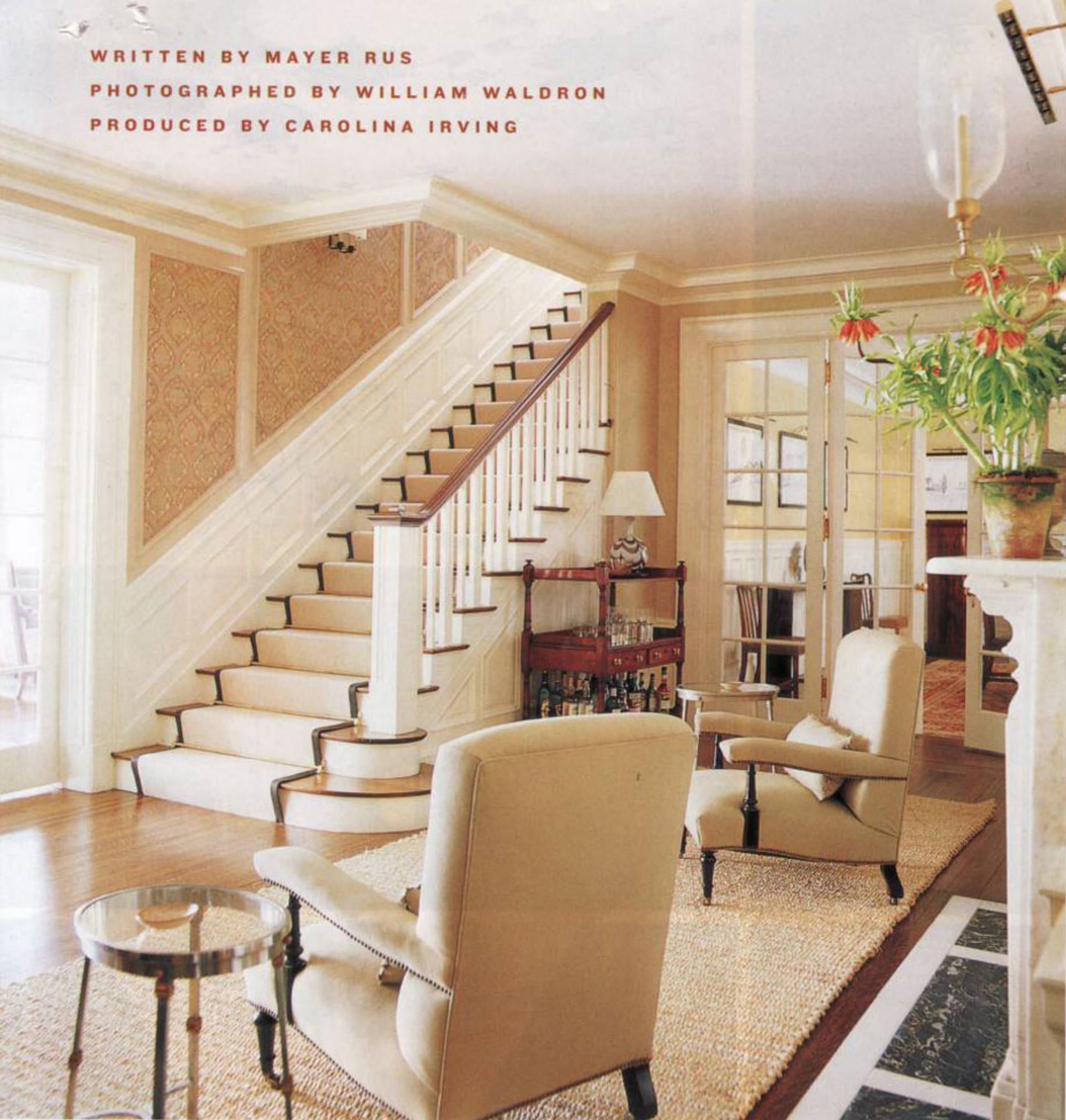


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# THINK

DAVID KLEINBERG DESIGNS A LIGHT-FILLED PARK AVENUE  
DUPLEX THAT GATHERS STRENGTH THROUGH SUBTLETY

# PEACE

**designer savvy** David Kleinberg's muted color palette and furniture scheme preserve the airiness of an uncommonly gracious New York entry hall.

**trade secrets** **FURNITURE** English mid-19th-century armchairs, Amy Perlin Antiques, NYC. Steel and bronze French side tables, ca. 1940, from Brahm's-Netski Antique Passage, NYC. Mahogany Italian neoclassical buffet against back wall was client's own. Late-19th-century English bar trolley, opposite page, topped by a Murano vase from Objets Plus, NYC, wired as a lamp. **CARPETING** Sisal rug from Patterson, Flynn & Martin, NYC. Seville Stripe cotton stair runner, opposite page, Elizabeth Eakins, NYC.





# CONFIDENT INTERIORS SHOW THE ELASTICITY OF "PARK AVENUE DESIGN"



**E**VEN FOR AN ACCOMPLISHED DECORATOR, it's not always easy to discern the tastes and desires of a new client. Magazine clippings collected by someone about to embark on a major design project can facilitate communication, but only to a point. What's a decorator to do if his client comes to the table with images that seem to speak totally different languages—images of rooms by, say, Andrée Putman, high priestess of understated chic, as well as by Renzo Mongiardino, the late maestro of unapologetic decorative luxe?

"When I saw those pictures, I knew this assignment was going to be tricky, but potentially very interesting," recalls interior designer David Kleinberg. The assignment, to be specific, was the renovation of a 3,500-square-foot Park Avenue duplex for a "youngish" couple about to wed. From the earliest stages of design development, Kleinberg worked closely with architects Ann Chara Bailey and Francisco Ramirez. "The couple didn't want a classic, formal Park Avenue apartment with a yellow living room and a red library," says Kleinberg, "but they were still drawn to traditional forms. We reinterpreted traditional decor with a lighter touch and a slightly freewheeling combination of furnishings."

Happily, the space offered Kleinberg the opportunity to create well-proportioned rooms that take full advantage of natural light. The commodious foyer, which encompasses a central staircase, a fireplace, and lounge chairs, has the feel of a great hall. French doors that open to the living room spread the light from street-facing windows. "You never feel like you're trapped in a box," Kleinberg says. "The apartment really feels like a home." >



**designer savvy** One side of the expansive living room, opposite page, accommodates formal seating, while the other, this page, was designed as an intimate library.

**trade secrets** **FURNITURE** Custom-tufted rolled-back chair and sofa, opposite page, and ottoman and sofa, this page, from Anthony Lawrence-Belfair, NYC. Lacquer tray from Takashimaya, NYC. Tiered burl walnut side table, ca. 1935, from Maison Gerard, NYC. **FABRICS** Sofa, opposite page, covered in New Daughtry from Hinson. Striped armchairs in Christopher Hyland's Riga Ciniglia. **RUGS** A Samarkand, ca. 1910, opposite page, from Darius, NYC. Linen area rug, this page, by Stark.



designer savvy A Murano glass chandelier complements walls finished in pale yellow stucco, while natural light animates the pristine white kitchen. trade secrets

FURNITURE The dining table and chairs, this page, were the clients' own. FABRICS The chair seats are Edelman Leather's Luxe Calf in Asparagus. Curtains are Lee Jofa's Wheatley casement in Natural. LIGHTING Paolo Venini chandelier, ca. 1930, Lobel Modern, NYC. A Poul Henningsen chandelier in the kitchen, opposite page. TILES Ann Sacks handcrafted Subway wall tiles. Sources, see back of book.



## STRATEGIC SHOTS OF COLOR ENLIVEN THE RESTRAINED DECOR



Kleinberg divided the large living room into two distinct areas. One side is furnished as a traditional living room, with a generous arrangement of upholstered seating; the opposite side is outfitted with bookcases of waxed oak that create the feeling of an intimate library. "We wanted to maintain the expansive, open quality of the room, but still allow it to serve multiple purposes," the decorator explains.

In the dining room, walls finished in pale yellow stucco *veneziano* provide a subtle backdrop for an uncluttered composition of furniture and artworks. Strategic shots of color, such as a green Venetian glass chandelier, enliven the restrained decor without disrupting the apartment's light, airy spirit. "We added depth and character to the neutral palette by using materials with interesting, rough textures, including stenciled burlap wall covering, linen and sisal rugs, and upholstery treatments of woven silk and leather," says Kleinberg. "It's a sophisticated roughness that has nothing to do with rustic."

Ultimately, Kleinberg's confident, unpretentious interiors make a strong statement about the elasticity of "traditional Park Avenue design," but they don't seem to have much to do with either Andrée Putman or Renzo Mongiardino. "The inspiration I drew from that exercise was not about borrowing specific design details," Kleinberg concludes. "It was about finding an appropriate expression for clients with a modern sensibility that embraces many ideas, traditional and contemporary." □