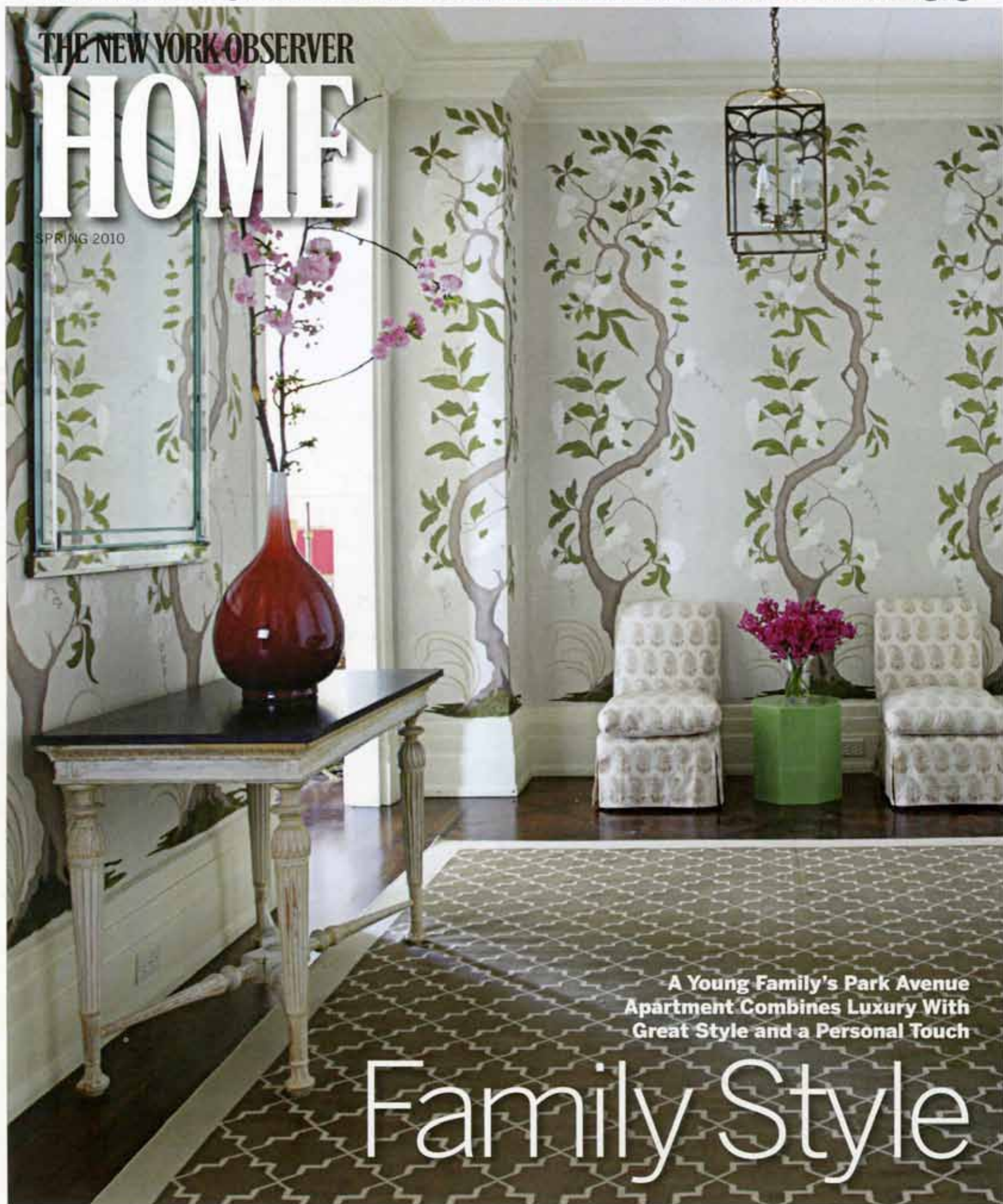


Seven Kids, Country House and a Bravo TV Show ■ Inside the World of Real Estate Staging

THE NEW YORK OBSERVER

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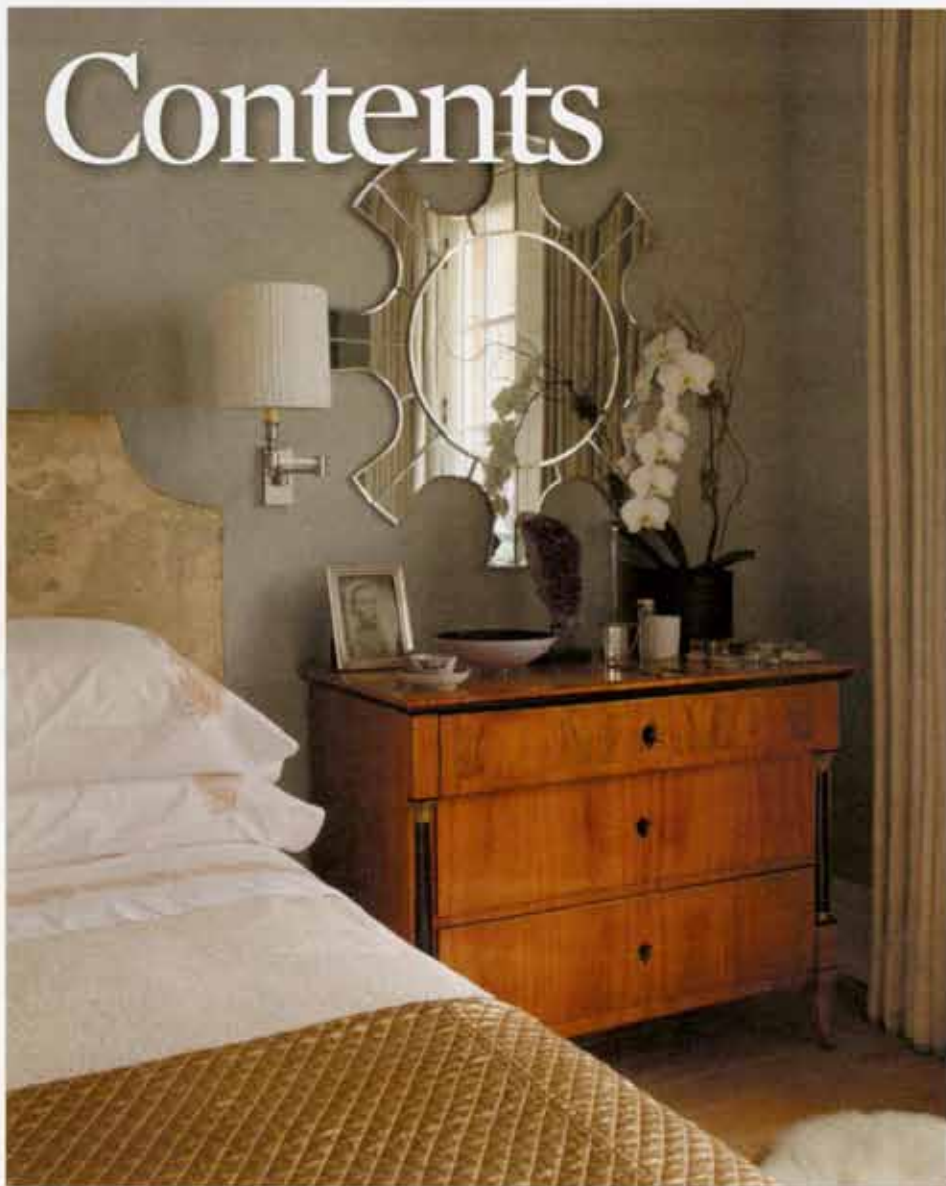
SPRING 2010



A Young Family's Park Avenue
Apartment Combines Luxury With
Great Style and a Personal Touch

Family Style

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH BY TIM STREET-PORTER





A Family Affair

A young couple with two children find serenity and style in a Park Avenue Classic 8 that once belonged to Barbara Walters

Back in 2005, New York decorator Timothy Whealon got a call from a stylish couple in their mid-30s who needed help with a new apartment. "They heard about me from a mutual friend, and they liked a published house I decorated," he explains. The couple were moving from a downtown loft, but didn't want to sacrifice their hip urban lifestyle in the transition to their new Upper East Side apartment, with its formal and conventional layout. After all, it did once belong to Barbara Walters, who is from quite another generation. When he walked over from his

nearby office to take a look, Whealon realized that not much rearranging was needed—the three main rooms lined up in an attractive enfilade, and three of its four bedrooms had great views over Park Avenue.

"The big changes were really cosmetic," explains Whealon's assistant, Sarah Klug, "but we totally redid the kitchen, bar and bathrooms. Every room in the apartment has new wall treatments which include decorative painting, combing and wallpaper." This is obvious right from the entry, which has

PHOTOGRAPHY BY TIM STREET-PORTER



The dining room is anchored by a Hurvin Anderson painting. Opposite: A demilune table occupies a corner of the main living room.



In the living room, Bridgewater chairs in Lee Jofa's Herbert's Carnation Weave flank a sturdy brown sofa. An abaca rug provides texture.



The library, paneled in reclaimed pine wood, has a view through to the dining room at the other end of the apartment. The sofa is covered in Velvet Mogador in Foret from Old World Weavers, and the ottoman is covered in a pale cowhide.

been hand-stenciled in a dramatic tree pattern, based on 18th-century wallpaper in Sweden's Drottningholm Palace, the current home of the Swedish Royal Family. The main dining and living rooms lead off to the right, where Whealon has given the couple a fresh contemporary style of decorating that suits their new uptown lives. Especially as they have now had two children in quick succession. "Their mother kept the original guest bedrooms as they were, she just gave them children's beds and added her own personal touches," adds Whealon.

The dining room came together all at once when the couple bought a graphic painting by Hurvin Anderson, which anchored the whole apartment, as it can be seen from all of the main rooms. The living room is a fresh and pretty space, with

comfortable armchairs upholstered in Lee Jofa's Herbert's Carnation Weave, which flank a sturdy brown corduroy-velvet sofa. Whealon brought the formality of the room down with a rustic abaca rug, and gave the walls a pale cream yellow treatment to keep it fresh. This room leads onto a comfortable library with reclaimed pine paneling, designed by architect Leonard Woods; it includes bookcases full of books and baby pictures. A cowhide ottoman holds piles of magazines and flowers, and a round table by the window struggles to support mounds of books.

The master bedroom is incredibly peaceful, considering it overlooks busy, traffic-filled Park Avenue, and Whealon decorated it to be a calm space, adding the large comfortable bed,



Above the living room fireplace hangs a glass-framed mirror from the 1920s.

The former guest bedroom was adapted by the client for her new baby. Below: The powder room was wallpapered to create a jewel-box feeling in this tiny space.



"My client had a lot of interest in this room; she loved the new Lulu DK fabric, which we used for the curtains and ottoman," says Whealon. "I wanted to bring more geometry into the room, so we added a blue-and-cream David Hicks carpet." Whealon painted the walls a pale blue, then decided to give the woodwork a warm, cream-colored trim to balance the cool hues of the room. He hung an early 20th-century raw crystal chandelier to bring a bit of glamour and reflected light into the space.

After months of work, this is now the sophisticated apartment of a well-traveled couple who were lucky enough to find the right decorator to help them create a family home in enviable comfort and style. —A.K.

Styled by Carlos Mota, whose new book *Flowers, Chic and Cheap*, is coming out on May 4 from Random House.



For the tranquil master bedroom, Whealon designed the bed and used Paradise fabric by Lulu DK for the curtains and bench.