

SMART ABODES *for today's luxurians*

AUSTRALIA

RELAXED RUSTIC
MASSERIA
MAGNIFICO

CHIC ROOMS
for young stylistas

LOVE IT
or zhuzh it!
86+ pages of
inspiring interiors

All kinds of

BLUE



BLUE HEAVEN

The exuberant colour and pattern in this Manhattan apartment reflect the owner's fearless approach to decorating.

Photographs **RICHARD POWERS** Words **DOMINIC BRADBURY**

This page The library dazzles with 'Russian Blue' lacquered walls and a gold leaf ceiling. Banquette, custom designed by Kelly Behun is in a cotton velvet from Schumacher. Vintage 'Memphis' side tables from JED. Photograph by Bert Stern. 'Beatrice' carpet from Stark. Opposite page The owner's existing twin metal armchairs are placed beneath a painting by Farideh Lashai in the sitting room.



With its combination of seductive 'Russian Blue' lacquered walls and a dazzling gold leaf ceiling, the library is one of designer Kelly Behun's favourite spaces in this characterful Park Avenue apartment. It sums up, in the best way possible, the nature of the collaboration between Kelly and her client: a globetrotting art collector with a large, extended family. Having seen some of her previous work in magazines, Kelly's client contacted her with the challenge of creating a welcoming New York base to suit the needs of three generations.

"The library is a real favourite of mine," says Kelly. "It was all about getting the right shade of blue. My client had used this blue in one of her homes in the past and it had to be this very precise colour. I really wanted to do the gold leaf ceiling, which is something that she had not tried before and I love what it did for the space. It's her personal retreat in the apartment."

Kelly – who worked with hotelier Ian Schrager, as well as Andrée Putman and Philippe Starck, before founding her own New York studio – started with a blank canvas. Her client had bought two and a half apartments in a prestigious 1940s building with the aim of creating a single new home. At 510 square metres and with the opportunity for seven bedrooms, the size and scale were generous. But there were no period details left, allowing Kelly and her client to collaborate on adding character and interest to the interiors.

"She is an adventurous client, fearless about colour and pattern, and willing to take some risks," says Kelly. "I really let her take the lead, more than any other project I have ever worked on. I'm not always known for such layering of pattern, and my palette usually tends to be more neutral and quiet. But it was really fun to work with my client because she pushed me in directions that I might not normally go and I loved the results."

As well as in the library, Kelly explored a variety of wallpapers and colourways for the bedrooms, particularly the bunk room for the younger grandchildren, who range in age from babies to teenagers. The family room is another exuberant space, with a bold Schumacher zig-zag blue wallpaper, a Moroccan rug and a custom sofa plus a Memphis-inspired armchair, also by Kelly. Yet the use of colour and pattern is balanced with more restrained spaces, including the neutral tones of the generously sized sitting room.

The client's art collection plays a key role throughout. Some pieces were brought from a previous residence, while others were selected especially for the new home. Among the most striking pieces is the video art installation of Lady Gaga portraits by Robert Wilson, which forms a vivid conversation piece in the dining room.

"The art collection was very important for the project as a whole," says Kelly. "My client is an avid collector with a keen eye, who is very well regarded in the art world. She chooses pieces that have an emotional connection for her and, similarly with the furniture, it was what she loved rather than something that might be the perfect size for a space."

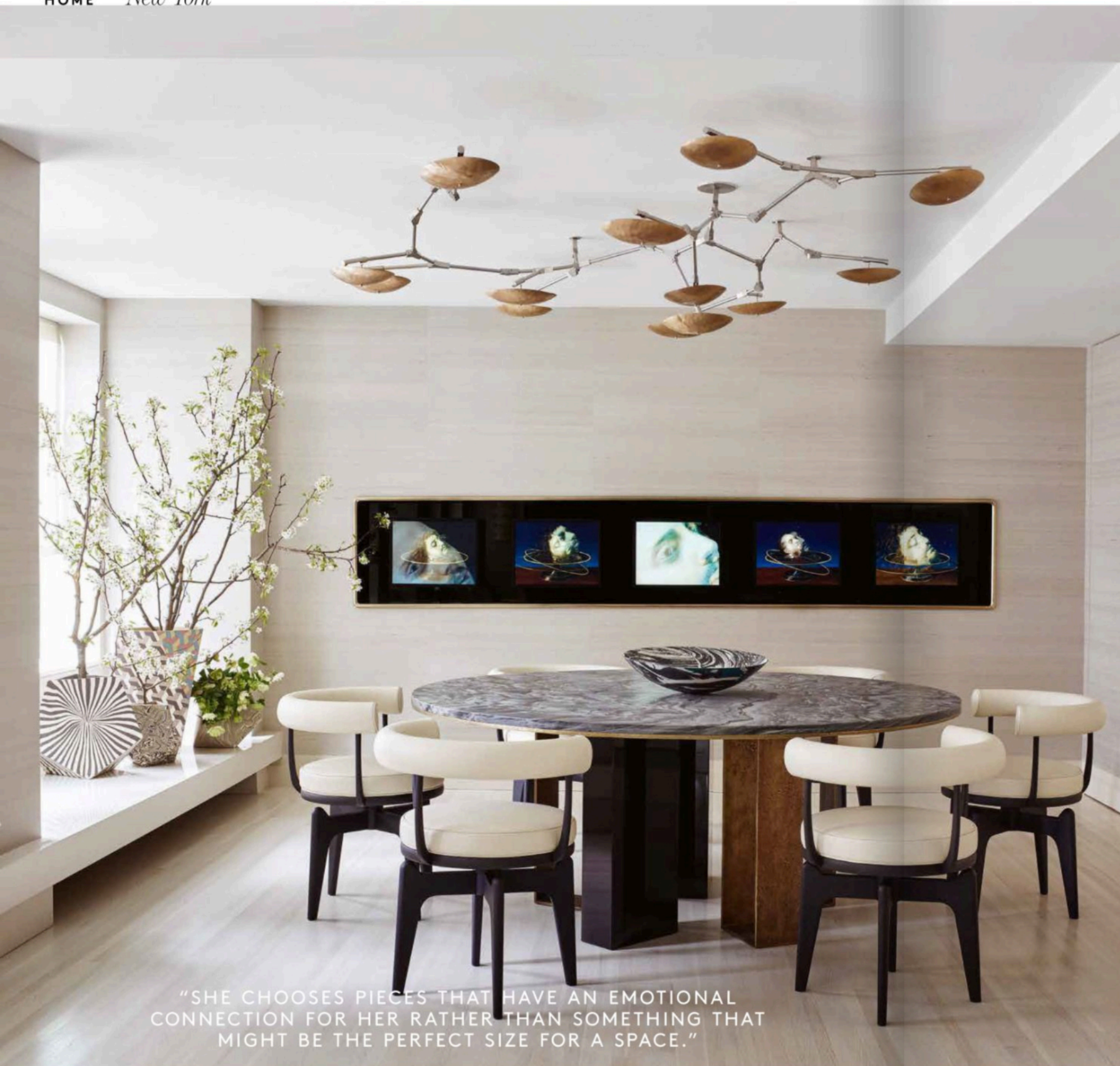
Among the favourite choices are the Campana Brothers armchair made of tennis racquets in the main bedroom. In the sitting room, key pieces by Hervé Van der Straeten, such as the sculptural, suspended golden pendant light, are complemented by bespoke elements by Kelly and pieces of vintage provenance too, including designs by Josef Hoffmann and Piero Fornasetti.

For Kelly, it was a highly rewarding and enjoyable project, enhanced by the warm relationship with a sophisticated client. "The apartment is such a beautiful expression of her character and that was the goal," she says. ■

For more go to kellybehun.com.



The rug in the family room is a bespoke sectional sofa designed by Kelly Behun in a Pindler linen. Striped chair is a Kelly Behun design. Nada Debs coffee table from Twenty First Gallery. Joe Colombo for Flexform 'Tube' chair from R & Company. Schumacher 'Fez' wallpaper in Lapis. Berber rug from Marrakech. Photographs by Grey Malin from One Kings Lane.



"SHE CHOOSES PIECES THAT HAVE AN EMOTIONAL CONNECTION FOR HER RATHER THAN SOMETHING THAT MIGHT BE THE PERFECT SIZE FOR A SPACE."



These pages, from left A Hervé Van der Straeten table from Ralph Pucci is matched with chairs by Charlotte Perriand for Cassina. Bespoke light by Lindsey Adelman. Video art installation by Robert Wilson. Ceramics by Cody Hoyt from Patrick Parrish. A view through to the kitchen and Matégot 'Nagasaki' chairs from Suite NY under a custom light by Kelly Behun Studio.



This page, from top The main bedroom has a bespoke bed by Kelly Behun upholstered in Dedar velvet. Bedside tables are vintage by Enrique Garcel from Porter & Plunk, with Porta Romana lamps. Vintage mirrors from Thomas Gallery. Campana Brothers chair. Gracie Studio wallpaper. An art deco Chinese rug in the main bathroom. Poliform vanity and Dornbracht taps. **Opposite page** A guestroom is wallpapered in Schumacher 'Fez' paper in Lapis. Bespoke daybed by Kelly Behun upholstered in a Kravet suede.



SPEED READ

» A globetrotting art collector who had purchased two and a half apartments in a prestigious 1940s Park Avenue building contacted designer Kelly Behun to create a welcoming home for her extended family. » The adventurous client favoured colour and pattern and encouraged Kelly to take risks with the design. » The result is an exuberantly colourful space punctuated by more restrained areas. » While there are some fabulous furniture selections, including vintage and bespoke pieces, it is the client's extraordinary art collection that really shines.