

INTERIOR DESIGN ELIAS ASSOCIATES

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EDDA ELIAS INJECTS A FUN, FRESH AESTHETIC INTO AN OLD-WORLD APARTMENT IN THE LANDMARKED APTHORP

MODERN CLASSIC

LIGHT & AIRY In the living room, drapery fabric from Kravet in a gray and yellow geometric pattern sets the mood. The custom-sized Hive coffee table offers a bit of edge with a lace-like cut-through. On the wall, cleverly arranged three-dimensional Boom sculptures from Global Views create a sort of freeform art piece.

PAST & PRESENT *This page:* Project designers Alicia Kinloch and Robert Lynch Steed found artist Karen Slive's colorful *Market XXIV* at the Affordable Art Fair. Eames fiberglass La Chaise chair. *Opposite page, top and bottom:* A long, narrow bench upholstered in a striped fabric from Harlequin plays off the artwork by Van Cauwenbergh. In the dining room, a Gino Sarfatti 1950s light fixture melds beautifully with the marble-topped Saarinen dining table and chairs and Warp & Weft's color-blocked Horizon Adriatic rug.



HISTORY HAS WITNESSED HUNDREDS OF BEAUTIFUL, architecturally significant buildings fall victim to the wrecking ball. The Apthorp, the c. 1908 Clinton & Russell-designed Italian Renaissance Revival building in the heart of the Upper West Side, owes its existence in part to this hindsight. The block-long structure, originally built for William Waldorf Astor, received landmark status in 1968—a mere three years after the creation of the Landmarks Preservation Committee.

When longtime clients approached Edda Elias, of Elias Associates, to do a stem-to-stern renovation of their newly purchased, 3,700-square-foot hideaway at The Apthorp, she turned out to be the perfect choice. The layout of the three-bedroom residence was already ideal, with public rooms up front and private rooms in the rear. Further, the surviving interior craftsmanship, north- and south-facing exposures, and 10.8-foot-high ceilings were hard to rival. Given all that, Elias decided to retain the original floor plan and surviving neoclassical backgrounds and inject a more modern feel with carefully selected furnishings and artwork. "You don't gain appreciation by repeating your period or playing it safe. The best jolt and impact comes from creating a bit of chaos—by mixing architectural elements and furnishings from different periods and styles," says the designer.

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