

# MODERN AMBIENCE

Midcentury Italian pieces shape a designer's vision to transform a traditional New York apartment into one where the '60s meld with the present.

**PHOTOGRAPHY BY** GAP INTERIORS/COSTAS PICADAS **PRODUCED BY** FAWN GALLI



**THIS PHOTO** One of several striking uses of marble in the home come from this antique Louis XVI mantel in Breccia Medici marble.



**BRING THE  
LOOK HOME**  
Optimizing views  
of nature and  
maximizing natural  
light is key to  
Mediterranean-  
style charm.

**THIS PHOTO** Curves enchant in the 1960s Italian brass wall sconces and the custom-upholstered 1980s Italian lounge chairs in two-tone corduroy and wool.



**BRING THE  
LOOK HOME**

A 1960s sconce  
and pendant  
lamp over the  
piano create  
stylish vintage  
mood lighting.

**THIS PHOTO** Overlooking historic  
Central Park, the stage is set for  
elegance with hardwood floors laid in  
a chevron pattern and walls painted  
Benjamin Moore's Tundra gray.



## BRING THE LOOK HOME

Few things breathe life into a room like live plants on a large scale. Palms are a classic that also lend height.

Penthouse views can be spectacular, but the real place to be is closer to the tops of the trees, where the views are equal parts earth and sky. That's what drew interior designer Fawn Galli eye while taking in Central Park West from this sixth-floor apartment, part of a historic building designed by Robert T. Lyons in 1898. It cozies up to Central Park, where the city's seasons are always on display.

Galli's clients loved the location and the views. But inside, the four-bedroom space was divided into a series of awkward, small rooms that hadn't been touched since a light renovation in the 1970s. The new owners wanted to re-create the feel of a fashionable Milan, Italy, home, where they could display their 1960s Italian pieces. To Galli, this meant seamlessly blending their midcentury modern finds with a modern Italianate aesthetic to achieve the "Milanese" look the family of five desired.

Galli collaborated with the homeowners and New York City-based architect Douglas C. Wright to reimagine the fragmented 3,200-square-foot space and give it a more open floor plan. Walls were knocked down to create a lofty living room and dining area that capitalizes on the breathtaking views.

Opening up the space also allowed for three sets of bay windows along the east-facing exterior wall. They welcome in more light—and more extensive views of Central Park and the historic surrounding buildings.



**ABOVE LEFT** A pair of stools by the living room bay window are upholstered in African mud cloth found at a market in Harlem.

**ABOVE RIGHT** Custom details, such as the arm that wraps around the cushion on the living room's splashy yellow sofa, make a contemporary statement. A glass wall separates the living space from the entry.

**OPPOSITE** A 1960s pendant lamp adorns the dining room table, complementing the Italian modern side chairs upholstered in gray and black.

For an even more open feel, Wright separated the entry from the living room with a glass partition instead of a traditional wall. It allows light from the living room to pass into the moody yet modern entryway. Galli selected a slate-teal paint color for the entry to juxtapose against black-and-white terrazzo floors. She repeated threads of teal in the apartment's window treatments and artwork to connect the spaces. The teal accent also acts as a dramatic counterpoint to the apartment's pale gray walls

The dining room, visible through the entry doorway, is set off by a spacious table and a 1960s brass dome pendant light. Around the corner awaits the light-filled living room.

A marble fireplace anchors the space. It's surrounded by a floor-to-ceiling mirrored wall to reflect interior and exterior views and optically enlarge the space. The furnishings are a combination of tasteful antiques and modern pieces in bold, colorful fabrics that play together nicely while keeping rooms lively.





**BRING THE  
LOOK HOME**  
Floating shelves  
on floating wall  
panels give  
dimension to the  
one-wall library



**THIS PHOTO** A classic Eames lounge chair meets a 1960 glazed-tile coffee table by Roger Capron and Domino tables by Mathieu Matégot.



Nearly every room holds a coveted piece from the Italy's midcentury heyday. Many of the pieces are up high—like the brass pendants, a hexagonal textured glass-and-brass flush-mount light, and a brass-and-opal glass chandelier. Wall sconces by Tobia Scarpa bend away from the walls in curls of brass. They lend warmth—and a warm glow—to the living room and the library.

The library's '60s glazed-tile coffee table is set off by a sofa re-covered in cypress green velvet and a custom bookshelf wall.

The homeowners' much-loved midcentury pieces easily mix with the contemporary design to create the Milanese look they desired. Now the 100-plus-year-old apartment feels fresh and modern. It's the perfect place for the homeowners to relish the views—inside and out.



**RIGHT** From the midcentury French sconces with bare bulbs to the slabs of Italian marble, the primary bathroom has international flair.

**OPPOSITE** A low settee placed in front of the window in the primary bedroom makes an interesting alternative to the expected bench at the end of the bed.



### BRING THE LOOK HOME

Tap nature to give a room drama—like a shower made from slabs of varied-veined Arabescato Corchia marble.



**BRING THE  
LOOK HOME**  
Simply framed  
family portraits  
lend a meaningful  
touch to any room.