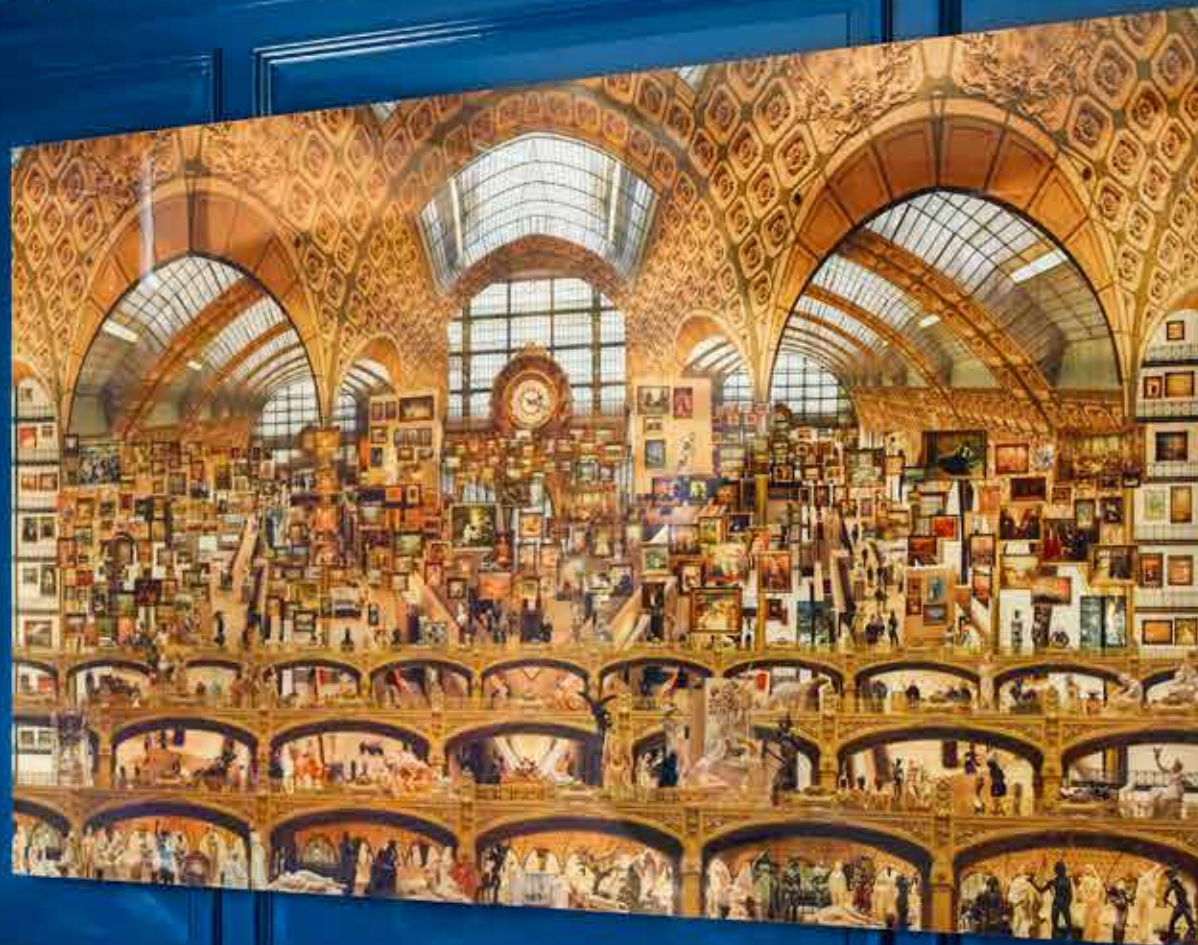


A Historian's DREAM

On NYC's Upper East Side, a classic McKim, Mead & White apartment is reimaged in vibrant color.



MEDIA ROOM
Fine finisher Uriu Nuance coated the walls in E25-61 by Fine Paints of Europe, a lustrous cobalt blue. **Art:** *Untitled*, Michael Goldberg (left); *Musée d'Orsay*, Jean-Francois Rauzier. **Chandelier:** Newel. **Drapery:** Kravet with Holland & Sherry trim. **Sofa:** Anthony Lawrence-Belfair in John Rosselli fabric. **Throw pillows:** Le Studio Anthost (pattern); Robert Allen (blue); Kravet (tweed). **Coffee table:** Hudson Furniture. **Carpet:** Beauvais.

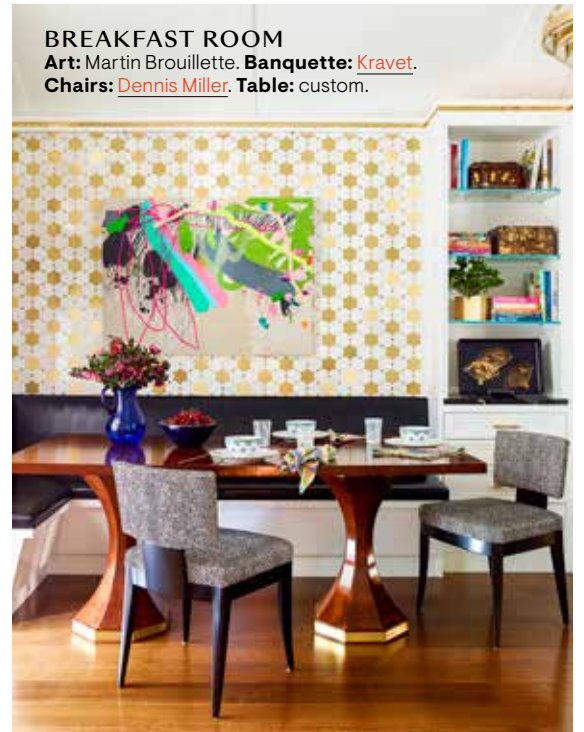
HANGING ART OVER PICTURE MOLDING GIVES IT A MODERN TWIST.

interior designer Cullman & Kravis / architect Douglas C. Wright Architects
writer Hadley Keller / photographer Eric Piasecki / producer Robert Rufino

KITCHEN

"It all started with the tile, which we used as a sort of wallpaper," says Wright of the [Stadium](#) cut-stone pattern. The brass reappears on the custom hood and along the cabinetry. **Lights:** [Charles Edwards](#). **Stools:** [Dennis Miller New York](#). **Range:** [BlueStar](#). **Faucet:** [P.E. Guerin](#). **Cabinet pulls:** [Katonah Hardware](#). **Sink:** [Franke](#).

A BARREL-VAULTED CEILING ADDS DRAMA—AND HIDES THE HVAC.



BREAKFAST ROOM

Art: [Martin Brouillette](#). **Banquette:** [Kravet](#). **Chairs:** [Dennis Miller](#). **Table:** custom.

GETTING TO RENOVATE A TURN-OF-the-century apartment by legendary firm McKim, Mead & White, complete with sweeping views of New York City, is "any architect's dream," according to Douglas C. Wright. He checked this off his bucket list with a 5,650-square-foot unit in an Italian Renaissance building on the Upper East Side.

To even the most devoted classicist, however, there are challenges in redefining such a storied space. "It was very, very traditional in a very, very traditional envelope," says Ellie Cullman, president of Cullman & Kravis, who, along with her design partner Sarah Ramsey, worked with Wright to make the historic home "look younger and cooler." The design team first reimagined the floor plan for a lifestyle that's less Gilded Age and more 21st century.

"With these kinds of old homes, you open them up to make them feel lighter and brighter," Wright says. That meant expanding door casings (the ones into the dining room now measure eight-feet tall) and creating more sight lines. They reimagined the "back of house," comprising the onetime servant's quarters, into a welcoming bedroom and adjacent bath and closet space.. Wright also worked with Cullman to devise a brilliant barrel-vaulted ceiling for the new kitchen, which speaks to the home's grandeur and serves a practical purpose: concealing a sorely-needed HVAC.

New layout in place, the team set about restoring the best aspects of the historic design. "Two things made a huge difference," says Cullman. "One is the color throughout, and the other is the contemporary art." She repainted an exquisite Stanford White-designed plaster ceiling in mint, ochre, and terra-cotta, and the media room and dining room respectively in high-gloss indigo and vermilion, topping them off with bold art. "It makes it young and vibrant," Cullman says, "without changing the architectural envelope." ■

ALL OF THIS TRIM WAS PAINSTAKINGLY HAND-STENCILED.

DINING ROOM
The design team added new millwork to complement the original crown molding, and covered all of it in custom-mixed paint by Uriu Nuance. **Mantel:** Chesneys. **Dining table and chairs:** custom. **Rug:** Beauvais. **Chandelier, consoles, 19th-century gilt-wood mirrors, and Chinese export vases:** client's own. **Art:** George Vranesh. **Drapery fabric:** Schumacher.



BEDROOM
Wallpaper: De Gournay. **Ceiling paint:** British Standard Pompadour, Fine Paints of Europe. **Armchairs:** Anthony Lawrence-Belfair, in S. Harris fabric. **Floor lamps:** Circa Lighting.



LIVING ROOM
Wallpaper: Nobilis. **Sofas:** Anthony Lawrence-Belfair in Clarence House fabric. **Coffee Table:** vintage Paul Evans, Lobel Modern. **Mirror:** Alexander's Antiques. **Carpets:** Doris Leslie Blau.

LIBRARY
Sofa and armchairs: Anthony Lawrence-Belfair in Clarence House (sofa) and Osborne & Little (chairs) fabric. **Coffee table:** custom. **Art:** Fritz Bultman (set on left) and Doug Argue.



ENTRY
 To modernize the soaring McKim, Mead & White foyer, Cullman painted the ceiling a colorful mosaic, a modern foil to the owners' antique furniture. The original marble floors were cleaned and polished to a reflective finish. **Art:** Kim Keever. **Drapery:** PinturaStudio. **Furniture:** client's own.