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New York Cottages and Gardens

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# SUPER CHIC!

**Artful Layers**

In the living room, Lee Jofa's Library mohair in Thistle covers a custom sofa, and Maharam's Borders covers a custom ottoman. The Crosby Street Studios rug is a Sara Bengur design. See *Resources*.

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**NYC&G**  
New York Cottages and Gardens

Designer Sara Bengur dresses up a cookie-cutter apartment in Flatiron

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PHOTOGRAPHS BY RICHARD POWERS  
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# FOREIGN FLAIR

### Sensual Feast

In the dining room (THIS PAGE), 1950s chairs attributed to Gio Ponti for M. Singer & Sons surround a table from Thomas Hayes Studio. The lithographs are by Robert Rauschenberg. The kitchen (OPPOSITE) features cabinetry by Modiani Kitchens, a Dornbracht faucet, and Louis Poulsen pendant lights. See Resources.



Every designer-client relationship is unique. In the case of interior decorator Sara Bengur and homeowners Lynda and Nigel Greig, a mutual appreciation for travel and art laid the groundwork for a certifiable success story. Having already revamped the couple's Hollywood Beach, Florida, house, Bengur was enlisted to elevate their main residence, a two-bedroom Flatiron apartment near Gramercy Park, with her worldly design sensibility. Bengur, who was born in Washington, D.C., spent much of her childhood living in Turkey, her parents' home country, and Lynda Greig, a fine-art consultant, was keen on devising a decorating scheme that would bring to mind the City of Light, while simultaneously underscoring her and her

husband's growing art collection. "Parisian homes have an incredible sense of life and sophistication," Lynda says. "I liked the idea of the space having an older feel to it—like a patina, in a way." Bengur aimed to deliver: "In terms of textiles and colors," the designer says, "we wanted to have a real richness to everything." A pale dusty lilac mohair blend from Lee Jofa—it covers a custom sofa in the living room—served as the jumping-off point for the home's palette, with vintage textiles and carpets from Africa and India on display throughout, as well as a number of custom Crosby Street Studios rug designs by Bengur. In the largely neutral master bedroom, colorful pillows and throws complement American artist Jay Heikes's *Music for Minor Planets*



**Ethnic Appeal**  
 (CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT) A vintage Indian blanket from John Robshaw Textiles covers the bed in the guest room; the oil painting is by Rita Ackermann. A Moroccan rug lines

the bathroom floor. In the master bedroom, a work by Jay Heikes hangs above a bed upholstered in a Kvadrat fabric, which is flanked by 1960s Carl Fagerlund table lamps from Lief. See *Resources*.

(Cunningham), which hangs above the bed. "I am drawn to the fluid thought process that goes into abstract work," Lynda comments. "When I'm home, I want a very calm, meditative environment. I don't like things that are too dark or moody."

The Greigs collect smaller works and pottery, too, much of it artfully arranged on a custom wall-to-wall shelving unit in the living room. (A movable walnut screen, inspired by a piece the couple saw during a recent trip to

Japan, conceals the television.) "Everything really has its place," Lynda says. "I'm a Virgo, so that's really important to me."

"We played with accessories and furnishings in a refined, elegant way," adds Bengur, who established her Manhattan-based interiors firm in 1993. "When you layer things in unexpected combinations, you have more to contemplate. The apartment is ultimately a juxtaposition of different styles, periods, and colors. It's eclectic, with a modernist stamp." 🌟