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Make It Built to Last

ELLE DECOR HAS SPENT THE LAST THREE DECADES SHOWCASING THE BEST HOMES IN THE WORLD. NOW, ON THE OCCASION OF OUR **30TH ANNIVERSARY**, WE PROUDLY UNVEIL ONE OF OUR OWN.

BY CHARLES CURKIN PRODUCED BY PARKER BOWIE LARSON PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALISON GOOTEE

TO CELEBRATE 30 YEARS OF THE best in design, we recently enlisted A-List decorator Neal Beckstedt to design the House of ELLE DECOR—an actual residence that embodies the style and finesse of the projects we feature in the magazine. The penthouse apart-

ment is located at 108 Leonard Street, a new luxury residential conversion in New York City's TriBeCa neighborhood with development managed by Elad Group.

Built in the late 19th century as the New York Life Insurance Building, 108 Leonard was >

The living room of the House of ELLE DECOR, in a penthouse at 108 Leonard Street in TriBeCa, which was designed by Neal Beckstedt with interiors by Jeffrey Beers. The sofas and cocktail table are by Minotti, the dining table is custom, and the vintage club chairs and Jean Prouvé daybed are covered in Élitis fabrics. The Frits Henningsen wingback chair, Philip Arctander Clam chairs, and Louis XVI dining chairs and fauteuil are all vintage. The pendant and lamps are by Circa Lighting, the rug is from Mansour, and the artworks are by Larry Zox from Elizabeth Sadoff. The walls are painted in Strong White, and the ceiling cove is in Setting Plaster, both by Farrow & Ball.

In the wine room, the vintage sofa and armchair are upholstered in Élitis fabrics, the tables are by Molteni&C, and the ebony screen is by Liaigre. The brass wine display is by Amuneal, the lamps are by Circa Lighting, the rug is from Mansour, and the room is painted in Farrow & Ball's Picture Gallery Red. The Zox artwork is from Elizabeth Sadoff.



designed by the legendary architecture firm McKim, Mead & White, who also created Grand Central Terminal and the original Pennsylvania Station. The Italian Renaissance Revival-style facade, which is listed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places, was restored by the architect Howard L. Zimmerman.

Jeffrey Beers, an architect known for his hospitality interiors, was tapped to transform the building into a condominium with more than 160 residences. “To complement the heavily ornamented original exterior,” Beers says, “we designed them to blend old and new, with a light palette and a layout both functional and elegant.”

For Beckstedt, whose aesthetic often blends past and present (“I love John Pawson *and* the king of France!”), the venue could not be more suited. “The interior archi-

ture is traditional but in a modern way,” he says. All of the vintage and antique furniture used came from Beckstedt’s collection.

He designed the penthouse with a hypothetical client in mind: a well-traveled international couple with no children. For inspiration, he plumbed back issues of ELLE DECOR (he keeps years’ worth of copies neatly stacked in his Brooklyn apartment and at his house in Sag Harbor on Long Island). The thread he found running through every issue was a layering of color, pattern, and texture. “The ELLE DECOR projects I looked at were very avant-garde,” he says. “That’s what I wanted to capture.”

Here, those layers are immediately on display in the foyer, which is painted in three Farrow & Ball colors—Farrow’s Cream on the ceiling, Pigeon on the walls, and Blue Gray on ▷



Beckstedt in the living room.



The study's chaise longue, pillows, and throw are by Hermès, the Gio Ponti armchairs and cocktail table are from Molteni&C, and the chandelier and floor lamp are by Circa Lighting. The carved tribal stool is vintage, the Floored wallcovering is by Phillip Jeffries, and the shag rug is from Mansour.



ABOVE: In the foyer, the Pierre Jeanneret chair is vintage, and the console table is by Liaigre. The ceiling fixture is by Circa Lighting, the jute rug is from Mansour, and the Donald Traver painting is from Ralph Pucci. The wall is painted in Pigeon, the wainscoting in Blue Gray, and the ceiling in Farrow's Cream, all by Farrow & Ball.

In the kitchen, the Edward Wormley rosewood bar cart is vintage. The plates, decanter, glasses, vases, ice buckets, and flatware are by Christofle. The brass switch plates and dimmers are by Forbes & Lomax, and the wall is sheathed in gold leaf.



The kitchen's custom cabinetry and hardware are by Scavolini, and the vintage barstools have seats covered in an Élitis fabric. The pendants are by Circa Lighting, and the speakers are by Sonos.



“I love a Louis XIV chair, but I’m a minimalist.”

NEAL BECKSTEDT

the wainscoting—and furnished with a vintage Pierre Jeanneret chair and a contemporary Liaigre console. It’s a cozy prelude to the soaring adjacent living room, where large-scale abstract Color Field paintings by the late Larry Zox vibrate against stark white walls. The space contains a veritable Tut’s tomb of timeless furniture: modern sofas from Minotti, Louis XVI dining chairs, and 20th-century classics by Philip Arctander and Jean Prouvé, all upholstered in Élitis fabrics of

wild blues, purples, oranges, and whites. The seating arrangement is held together by an orange-and-pink vintage Oushak rug from Mansour; overhead, an oversize lantern by Circa Lighting is large enough to make a statement dangling from the room’s 16-foot-high coved ceiling.

The living room leads into what is arguably the boldest space in the penthouse: a wine room with walls lacquered a high-gloss red. Most of the room’s ingredients—a Napoleon chair, a vintage sofa, a Mansour rug, and another Zox painting—match the bold color. For contrast, Beckstedt added black accents from Liaigre and Molteni&C and floor-to-ceiling brass-and-glass wine racks. “You want that drama,” he says. ▷



ABOVE: The Toto tub in the master bathroom has fittings by Fantini. The Frits Henningsen chair is vintage, the pendant is by Circa Lighting, the custom window shade is in an Élitis sheer linen, and the Turkish rug is from Mansour.

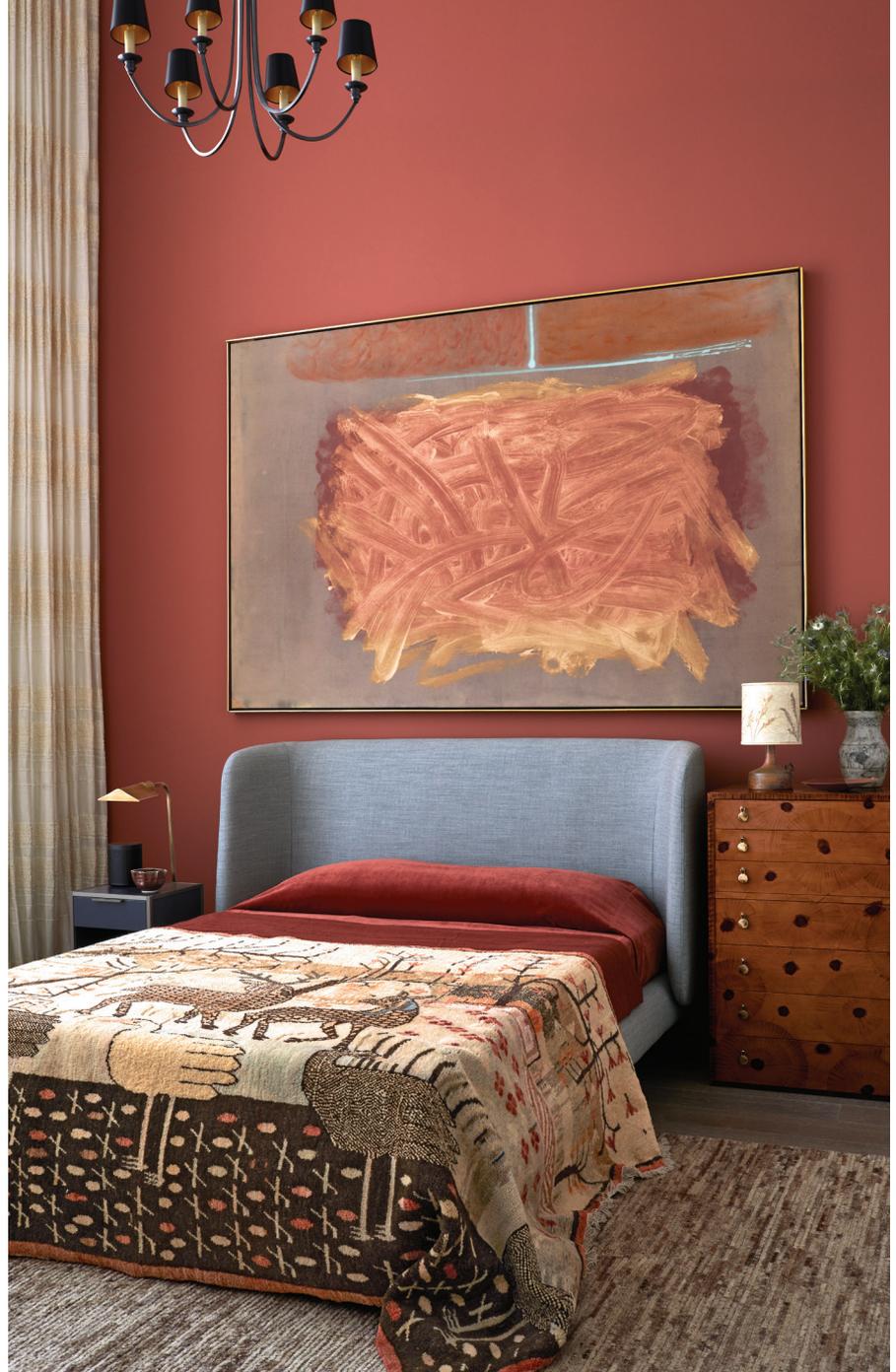
In the master bedroom, a custom four-poster bed is topped with an Élitis fabric. The custom sofa and vintage armchairs are covered in fabrics by Élitis, the cocktail table is by Ralph Pucci, the chandelier and lamp are by Circa Lighting, and the rug is from Mansour. The upper walls are painted in Strong White by Farrow & Ball; below the molding, the Suede wallcovering is by Phillip Jeffries. The trimming on the wall is by Samuel & Sons.



There's certainly no dearth of drama in this world he's created. The levels of intensity ebb and flow from room to room, as deep red turns to a more earthy mood in the study, where a birch wallcovering by Phillip Jeffries is paired with a Mansour shag rug. Then light hues return for a breath in the master bedroom suite, where the bathroom is clad in Calacatta Mandria marble and the serene bedroom is anchored by a minimalist four-poster knotty pine bed designed by Beckstedt.

And then it's back through the living room to the kitchen, where a wall framing views of midtown Manhattan is covered in a patchwork of pure gold leaf. "There is a surprise around every corner," Beckstedt says.

Meanwhile, the penthouse is available for \$12.1 million, and all of the furniture and art is for sale, too. What better way is there to live than in a home that has been published in ELLE DECOR? ■



LEFT: A closet's custom cabinetry and hardware are by Scavolini. **ABOVE:** In the guest room, the headboard and nightstand are by Ligne Roset, the custom bedding is of an Élitis velvet, and the coverlet is a vintage central Asian tapestry from Mansour. The vintage Renzo Rutili chest is from Aero, the chandelier is by Circa Lighting, and the curtains are of a Mitchell Denburg fabric. The Dan Christensen artwork is from Elizabeth Sadoff, and the wall is painted in Red Earth by Farrow & Ball. **RIGHT:** In a master closet custom designed by Scavolini, including cabinetry and hardware, the chair and blanket are by Hermès, and the ceiling fixture is by Ralph Lauren for Circa Lighting. For details, see Resources.

