

APARTMENT REDUX

Long-time clients called on Antonio Pippo Interiors to upgrade their Chelsea high-rise.

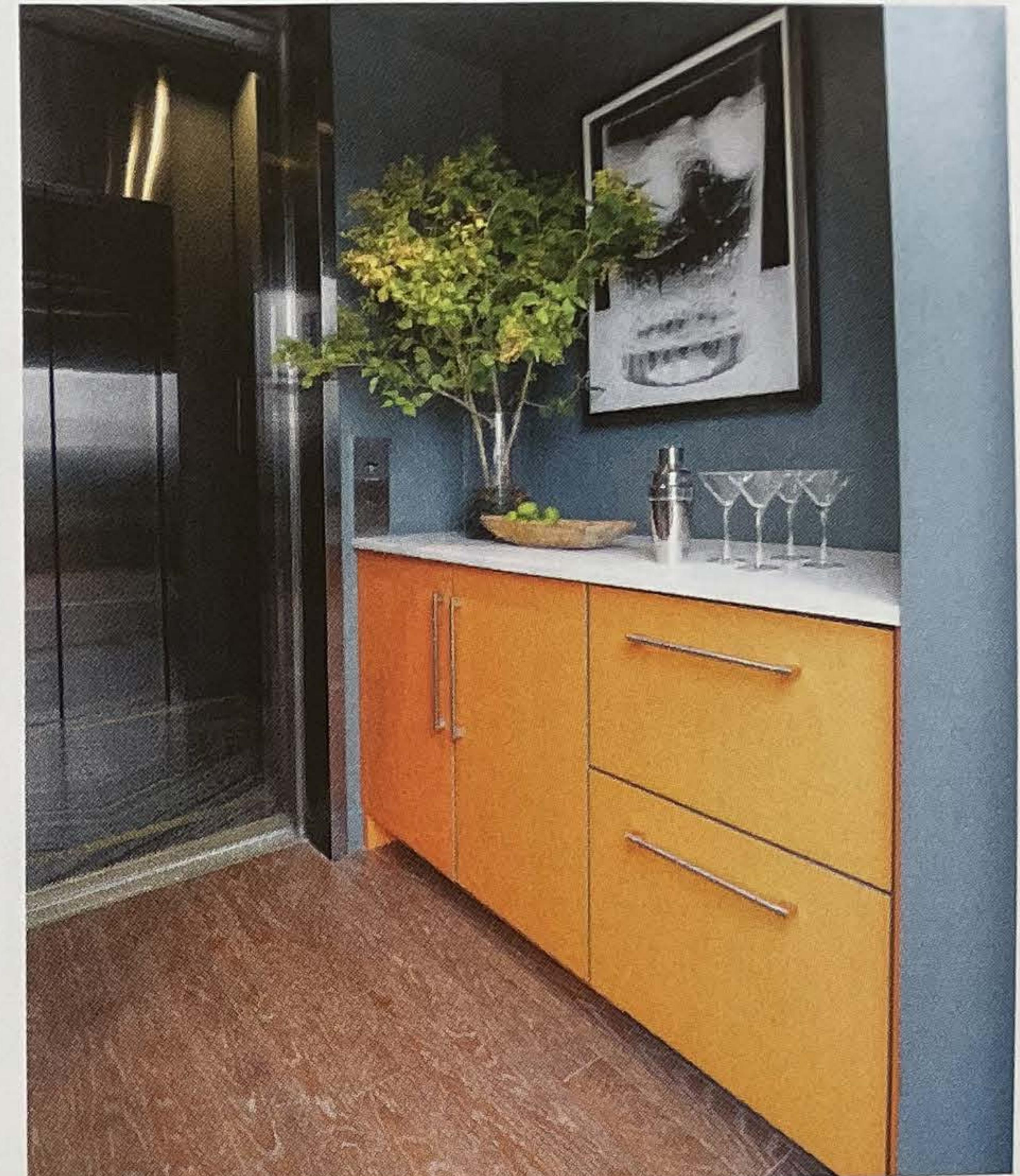
Story by Heather Shoning

Photography by Neil Landino





The carpet, by Stark Carpets, provides a sophisticated, geometric grounding to the space. A cocktail table from the owners' previous home incorporates dark metal with the glass to keep the piece light while complementing the warm color palette.



Antonio Pippo started working with these clients more than 10 years ago. Over the years, he had worked on three of the couple's homes, so when they purchased an apartment in the Chelsea section of New York City, they decided to call on him again.

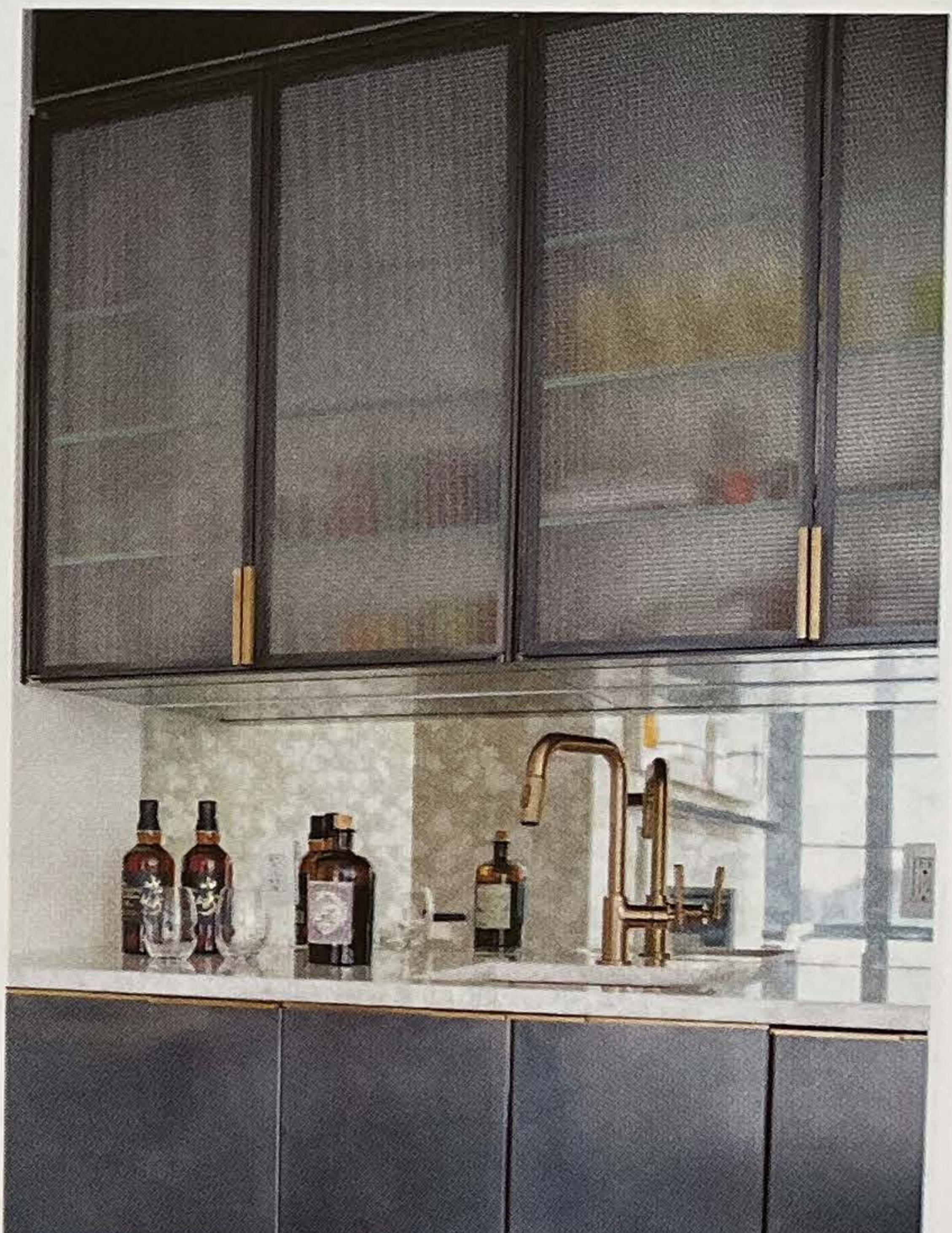
The clients did not intend for the apartment to be a full-time residence, but a central hub for when their adult children came to visit. The homeowners wanted it to reflect their casual—yet sophisticated—lifestyle. It had to include several gathering areas to accommodate their whole family, and spaces to display the artwork of the couple, who are avid art collectors.

The homeowners worked with Antonio to plan the remodel in phases so they could move into the apartment. Since, aside from their artwork, they brought only a few pieces to the space, they started with all new furnishings. The unit also needed a new kitchen, overhead lighting and an AV system. The owners moved in and got through the holidays of 2019, but then the pandemic hit, so the couple decided to live in another residence while Antonio managed the project remotely. The 14th Street building in Chelsea retains its historical charm while it has an “industrial modern vibe,” explains Antonio. He drew on the window frames’ deep charcoal—almost black—to provide an accent color that punctuates the entire home.





Inside the hefty metal cabinetry are glass shelves. "They disappear, and glassware on the inside appears to just float there," Antonio says.



Antonio says the kitchen layout and functionality didn't align with how these homeowners would use the space. The original design included a double refrigerator on the left side of the room, a stovetop with an oven underneath, and no pantry space. The wife complained she couldn't cook a turkey in the existing oven. "I decided to flip the refrigerator to the right and included a single fridge," Antonio says. "They didn't need two since it's not a full-time home. On the left, where the refrigerators used to be, is now a pantry with a microwave and a coffee bar. That allowed space for a full range with two double ovens." He also increased the size of the island to add more storage.

The homeowners love color—and not just in the artwork they collect. Taking a cue from that and the gorgeous sunlight that streams through the penthouse windows, Antonio specified Lulworth Blue from Farrow & Ball for the lacquered-finish cabinetry. He incorporated lower cabinetry in whitewashed oak to keep the high gloss from overpowering the space. Cristallo Quartzite tops the island and backsplash area. Bolier from Decca Home swivel barstools with Holland & Sherry black leather upholstery sidle up to the island. For the kitchen nook, Anto-

nio designed a custom table and bench, and then added Design Within Reach chairs to complete the space.

The adjoining dining room centers around a dining table from Bright Group, the light color anchored by the hammered brass base. The Design Within Reach chairs have a sleek, mid-century look with leather seats and rich teal Holly Hunt velvet backs. The light fixture from Cameron Design House is sculptural and keeps the space light and airy. To delineate the spaces in this open-concept floor plan, Antonio used curtain panels that create a sense of separation between the kitchen and dining room and the dining and living areas, but don't interfere with sight lines, block the city views or prevent light from flooding the home.

The open-concept living area rounds out the living room. Keeping the palette warm with taupes, browns and touches of black, Antonio selected a Holly Hunt medium brown fabric for the sofa. "It's this beautiful crushed velvet—the kind that, the more you sit on it, the more it ages really well," Antonio says. Vintage Thayer Coggin chairs and a navy Eames lounge chair



Antonio designed a waterfall countertop using Cristallo Quartzite with cream and gray veining. The perimeter countertops and backsplash are also Cristallo, but without the gray undertone.



A flowing light fixture from Ralph Pucci International fits the dining nook perfectly above the custom table, without blocking the city views.



provide the sleek sophistication the designer sought for each space. The coffee table is one of the few pieces the homeowners brought to the new home. He added a pony hide ottoman and a Holly Hunt floor lamp in the corner, which provides an interesting sculptural element as well as a beautiful glow at night. The homeowners didn't want a television above the mantel, which was the perfect spot for displaying the couple's pair of Warhol prints of Queen Elizabeth. Instead, a ceiling-mounted television drops down with the press of a button for viewing, and then hides away when finished.

Antonio teamed up with Amuneal to design the wet bar tucked in the corner to the right of the fireplace. The rolled steel cabinetry has solid metal doors on the bottom, showing off its natural gunmetal-like sheen, while the upper cabinets have frosted glass doors with a textural wire mesh element. "I didn't want to see what was inside," Antonio says. "When it's lit at night, you see this beautiful, colorful glow of the glasses from inside, and these obscured opaque shapes." The backsplash is antique mercury glass that extends inside the cabinetry, so the homeowners view



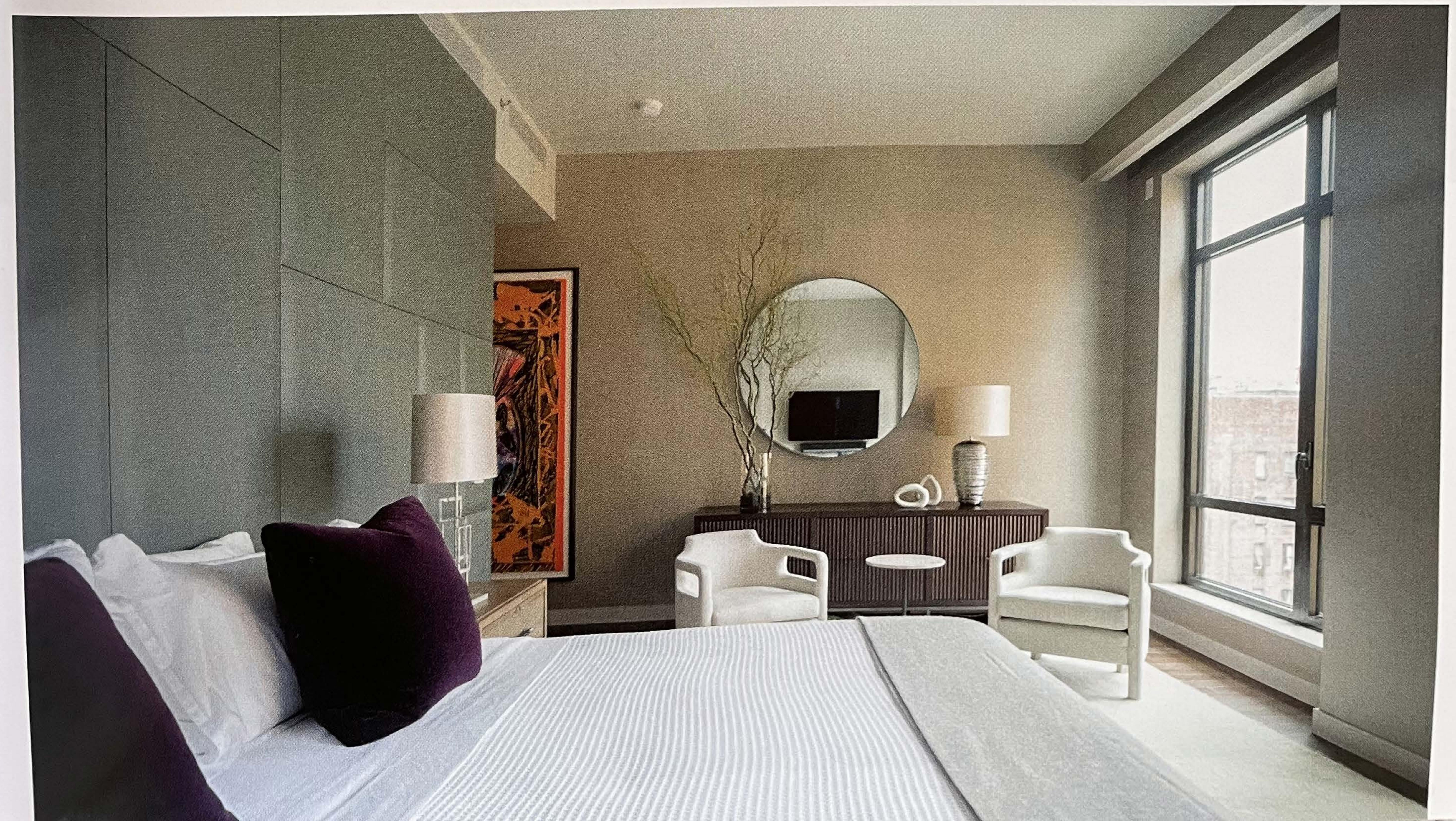
beautiful reflections instead of dark metal when they open the doors.

Antonio designed another bar area on the rooftop deck for entertaining. "When you came off the elevator, before you went out to the rooftop, there was this dead space," Antonio says. "I said to my clients, 'Why don't we create a small bar area so when you are entertaining and grilling upstairs, you don't have to keep running up and down?'" They loved the idea. Antonio designed the niche to include pullout drawer refrigerators from Sub-Zero, and storage for dinnerware and sundeck towels. It also doubles as a serving area and, of course, a bar.

The L-shaped space needed to accommodate four separate areas—an outdoor kitchen, a dining area, a cozy living room and a place for relaxing and soaking up the summer sun. The living room area includes an outdoor sofa by Lee Industries with fabric from Perennials Fabrics and two chairs from JANUS et Cie. The faux marble coffee table is lightweight and perfect for moving around the space. The nearby dining table and chairs are from Brown Jordan. Antonio chose white to keep the look light around the dark table, made from an outdoor material designed not to retain heat from the sun. For the sundeck area, the lounge chairs are by DEDON in its own orange outdoor fabric. Accent pillows draw in color from the rooftop landscaping.



Designed to feel like a luxury resort, the primary bedroom features a rich, textural Holland & Sherry wallpaper with a brushstroke design.





Antonio partnered with Gresham Lang Garden Design to create the perfect plantings for the outdoor space. Gresham, president of the company, recommended planters to match the building's slate-colored metal façade and existing roof fencing. "On the upper terrace, we used trees, grasses and vines on the walls to soften the architecture," says Gresham. "The trees and grasses are placed in corners and on the perimeter to frame and anchor the different spaces. The glass wall and railing are kept clear of plants, so it doesn't obstruct the view or access to the edge of the roof."

Inside the apartment, the original layout for the primary bedroom had the bed against the wall that would best capture the views of Hudson Yards. From a design perspective, however, this didn't sit well with Antonio. He suggested moving the

bed—which still captures the views—and covering the entire wall with leather panels as opposed to a traditional headboard. Antonio played with squares and rectangles until he created a unique pattern that then translated to panels upholstered in Designers Guild faux leather in a rich taupe-gray color. The result is both warm and modern. Bedside tables are a taupe wood finish with leather pulls. The sitting area in the primary bedroom features two chairs from Avenue Road, which made the move with the homeowners. "They were in her office in their country house," Antonio says. "She just loved them. Architecturally, they're just beautiful with the cutouts on the sides." He knew the scale would be perfect for this space. Behind the chairs sits a fluted-wood dresser by Bolier for Decca Home. Alpaca wool carpet is an impeccable choice that completes the luxury bedroom retreat.





Resource:

Architect/Builder/Contractor
Camille Reno
Reno Designs Inc.
140 Riverside Boulevard
Apartment 2002
New York, NY 10069
917.935.9030

Interior Design
Antonio Pippo
Antonio Pippo Interiors
100 Round Hill Road
Armonk, NY 10504
914.462.1289
ajr-interiors.com

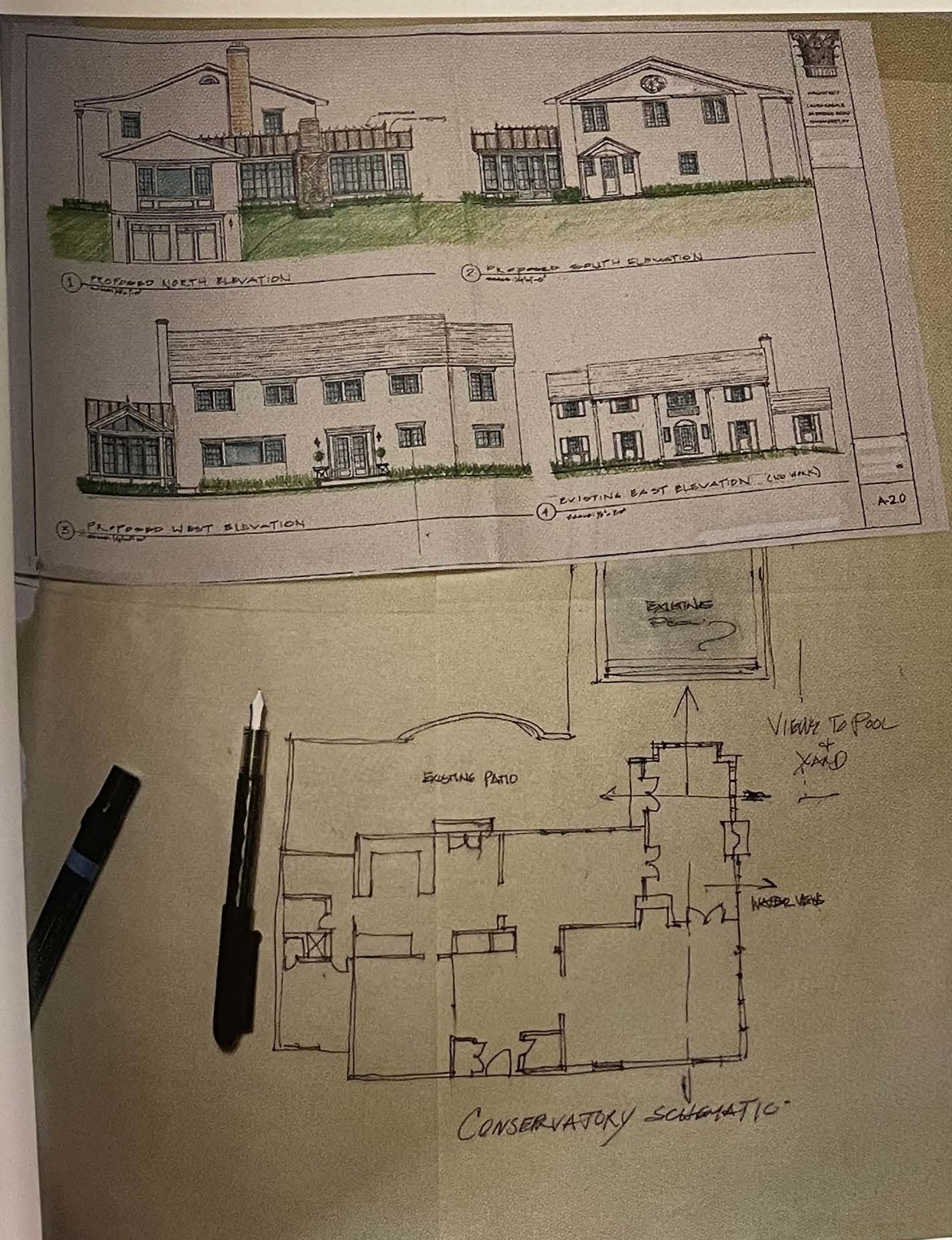


Wet Bar Design
Amuneal
200 Lexington Avenue, Suite 1314
New York, NY 10016
212.535.3000
amuneal.com

Landscape Design
Gresham Lang Garden Design, LLC
382 Macdonough Street
Brooklyn, NY 11233
212.598.1151
greshamlanggardens

LAURA CASALE
LAURACASALEARCHITECT.COM





Laura Casale lives and works as an architect in her hometown of Manhasset, along the North Shore of Long Island, NY. The village is a close-knit community on the water, with many locals staying in the area for generations. Laura's lifelong friend and Manhasset local approached her to take his recently purchased 1960s colonial revival house and "renovate, restore and expand it." The homeowners had bought the house as their forever home and family meeting place. They have grown children, one grandchild (with expectations of many more), and a large extended family who all live locally. It is not unusual for the couple to have 25 guests for Sunday dinner. One of the most important parts of the renovation, therefore, was the side addition of a multiuse room designed as an English conservatory. There had been a smaller 1980s porch enclosure on the site, but the homeowners needed a larger space to entertain, hang out and watch TV in front of the fire while enjoying views of the water and pool. They also needed the room to seat 26 for dinner when cleared of furniture. The challenging part of the project was designing a structure that was large enough to fit the site without crowding the pool.

The first step for Laura on any project is the site analysis, which includes learning about the factors that affect what can be built on the site, such as zoning restrictions, building codes, coastal issues, sunlight and much more. Laura meets the clients at the site so they can show her how they live





and describe the changes they want to make. She can usually make quick sketches of their ideas on the spot to show options. After defining the design-build program with the client, Laura goes to the desk and begins to draw. This is her happy place. As Laura describes it, "I enjoy drawing and mapping out the design by hand. It keeps me in the enjoyment of the process of design; I'm happier drawing. I can use computer-aided design (CAD), but I can only think and design by hand."



Laura earned her architectural degree at the Pratt Institute School of Architecture in New York City, when CAD was just being introduced to students and professionals. Pratt put more emphasis on hand drawings, which gave Laura a solid foundation and a preference for the art form. She also received master-class training in hand sketching at several New York City firms, including Swanke Hayden Connell, Perkins+Will, and Butler Rogers Baskett, where Laura worked before opening her own firm.



Laura does all the schematic drawings by hand (free sketch, scale-accurate and even yellow trace), which she believes her clients prefer. "Hand drawings hearken back to a time when artistry was truly appreciated, and hand-drawn blueprints and perspective drawings became a joyful part of the design process for the clients," she says. At the beginning of any project, both the architect and the client are trying to conceptualize the design. The hand sketch is a joyful experience that also helps clients visualize the design.

Resource

Architect
Laura Casale Architect
Laura Casale
84 Bridge Road
Manhasset, NY 11030
516.365.5896
lauracasalearchitect.com