



ONE-ROOM GRANDEUR

BIG
style

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IT ALL, EVEN
WITHOUT
THE GLORIOUS
OLD MANOR

SQUARE FEET

Folding doors papered in Adelphi's Adena Pin Ring hide a gallery kitchen in the Manhattan apartment that designers Bill Brockschmidt and Richard Dragisic share. **OPPOSITE:** In the living room, art is hung salon-style on walls painted Mustard Olive and bordered at the ceiling in Black, both by Benjamin Moore. The arrangement continues right over closet doors that open to reveal the television. The custom sofa was inspired by one Brockschmidt saw in a photo of a 1940s apartment in Rome.



In the dining room-library, a staircase leading to the bedroom loft incorporates bookshelves, and the landing doubles as a sideboard and bar when Brockschmidt and Dragisic entertain. A 19th-century French chandelier strung with garlands of handblown beads hangs above the Directoire-style table and chairs. Brockschmidt wrapped the chain in silk taffeta, in the same shade as the chair cushions. "We decided not to electrify it," he says. "When we light the candles, it's magical."





LISA CREGAN: I know every square inch is precious in a small apartment, but—a stair landing that doubles as a bar and buffet when you entertain?

BILL BROCKSCHMIDT: Yes! And all the glasses get stacked on the lower steps. Of course, that means we quite literally can't go to bed till we clean up. The stairs also incorporate bookcases. And the bookcase near the kitchen incorporates a drop-leaf desk, drawers, and files.

It's ingenious.

This is an extremely small space—only 600 square feet. We had to be inventive. It's in a loft building, so all the apartments have high ceilings. When my partner, Richard, and I bought it, there was a wall between the windows, which made the living room—now the dining room–library—too small for the proportions of the ceiling. Removing the wall opened up the space. But even though there's a sense that the apartment is bigger than it is, that's not important to me. I like small spaces.

You've masterfully camouflaged the kitchen from the living area.

It's a galley kitchen that runs the length of the entry hall—about 12 feet. Creating folding doors allowed us to transform the entry into a mini-gallery when we entertain. Each of the six panels has a framed engraving, and the busy wallpaper helps conceal the seams between the panels. We can also close off the dining room from the kitchen with pocket doors, so that once guests have arrived, we can open up the kitchen for cooking. I cook when we have a party, but not on a daily basis, so we didn't need fancy appliances—we needed narrow appliances! The counter is white Formica, and the backsplash is the least expensive subway tile we could find.

But those look like custom cabinets.

They're from Ikea. We had the Directoire-style diamond painted on, in the same mustard green as the walls. The design has a graphic quality that goes well with the graphic nature of the Adelphi wallpaper, which also has a little bit of the green in it. The wallpaper colors are custom.



ABOVE: The dining table is set with vintage bowls by Raymond Loewy and 1960s blue glassware. **OPPOSITE:** The view from the bedroom loft encompasses the entire living area. A hemp grass Beauvais carpet is layered with an antique Bessarabian rug that pulls together the colors of the apartment's palette. Brockschmidt had the harpsichord built by Paul Crowley and embellished by decorative painter Osmundo Echevarria.

"I thought about getting a piano," Brockschmidt says, "but a harpsichord is a good-neighbor instrument—it's much softer."

My business partner, Courtney Coleman, helped me with them.

Did something about the apartment call for mustard green?

It seemed like a good color for a tall room. The palette is inspired by the Dutch salon in the Château de Groussay. We saw a photo of the room in an old French interior design book, and it struck a chord—this mustard green with Delft tile. At one point we thought of painting the foyer floor like the floor in that room, but instead we incorporated the blue of the porcelain tile in the fabrics and carpet and chandelier. And we've been so happy with the Groussay green.

What about it appeals to you so much?

It's a great backdrop for art, it's a color that works in winter and summer, and it's not so refined that it's off-putting. When the sun comes up and we open the venetian blinds, it's a very relaxing color to live with. At night it glows in candlelight.

And yet you've practically covered it with art!

We were influenced by the home of the

neoclassical architect Sir John Soane in London. Every space is covered with something beautiful and interesting. So we started collecting neoclassical prints. And it took off from there. But it's not a serious collection. Doing curtains in the same color is sort of like extending the wall.

With that great expanse of glass, it gives a sense of enclosure, completion, to the room. It would be too chopped up with a contrasting color. So we dyed white linen to match.

Did you ever consider doing things in a more minimal way, being that your place is so small?

Minimalism isn't our style, but also, minimalism is very difficult to do well in a small space. You have to maintain things more rigorously. The apartment is full, but not cluttered. There's a place for everything, but if you forget to put a sweater away or your shoes are on the floor, they don't look out of place. It's fun to entertain here because people are so surprised. It's so unexpected—there's a lot of variety wrapped up in a small space.

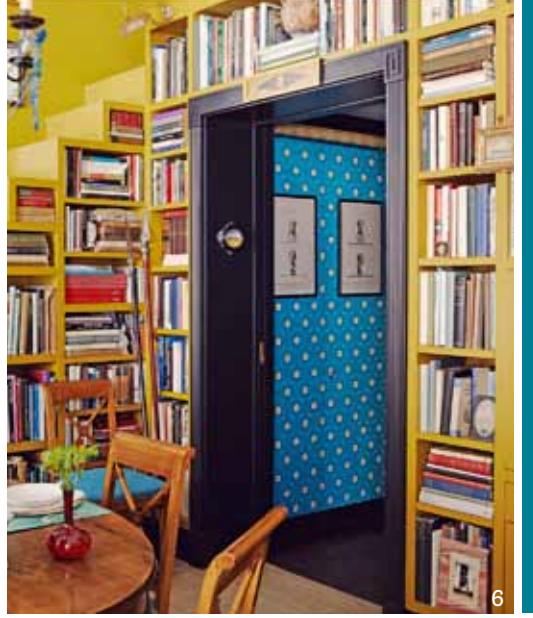
I'll say. Even room for a harpsichord!

That's a wacky thing, but I do play it. I really like Baroque music. I had the exterior painted in a pattern based on early-19th-century furniture designed by Benjamin Latrobe, and the interior painted with clouds based on a neoclassical painting.

Do you ever find yourself longing for more space?

We've lived here a long time, and from time to time we look at apartments with more space, but none of them have this changing dynamic. We love how it changes seasonally and from day to night. Some apartments, no matter how big they are, are dead ends—you walk in and there's no place to go. Here you spiral into the living room and then you turn around and see the dining room. The spiraling effect makes the apartment feel gracious. I wish the bathroom wasn't next to the kitchen, and that the bedroom wasn't in a loft, but I cannot tell you the pleasure we get from living in such a grand space.

PRODUCED BY DAVID M. MURPHY



1. The sofa wall was a deliberate exercise in "strong symmetry." The large painting is by Edward Schmidt, a founder of the New York Academy of Art. 2. A pull-down desk is built into the bookshelves. 3. 18th-century Italian engravings are hung at eye level in the entry to mimic a gallery of classical busts. 4. The apartment's single bathroom is tented in Muriel Brandolini's Blue #4. The curtains are on Velcro, so "everything can be taken down and sent to the cleaners." 5. The master bedroom's curtains conceal bedside tables and a large storage area behind the bed. 6. A doorway in the dining room can be closed off from the entry and the kitchen by pocket doors. **OPPOSITE:** Simple white Ikea kitchen cabinets were given a decorative flourish with a Directoire-style diamond pattern in the same Mustard Olive as the walls. FOR MORE DETAILS, SEE RESOURCES



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