

DRIVE HOME
Every boy dreams of a
shiny red car of his own.
Clash: Artist's House (\$5,500)
and piece (\$3,000), both by
Peter Elser Blue. Model
Chassis: car (\$5,000) at
Pete's House. Music: indie-rock
by Michael Gershon.

SHOW TIME

An irreverent 2002 indie film was the unlikely
inspiration for the 2012 *Town & Country*
Designer Visions Showhouse. But for designers
Jesse Carrier and Mara Miller, this is also
a place they could call home.

By WHITNEY ROBINSON

Photographs by FRANCESCO LAGNESE

Fashion Editor: SOPHIE PERA



EYE OPENER
Colorful furniture and intriguing prints
make a space feel immediately inviting.
The Urban Electric Co. wall sconces
and ceiling fixture; Patrick Mason
from Studio Four NYC; curtain fabric;
Stephen Cassard table lamps from
Santitas 1981 Ltd.; blue Satine silk
table; Agnes match holder.
Dorsey & Co. sofa and chair; pillow
fabrics from Patrick Mason from Studio
Four NYC; end tables & coffee table;
Hornby's throw; George Smith's stool;
coffee table from House Gardens; Asian
temple dogs through Christie's.
Up: O'Brien rock crystal sconces;
Burlage lacquer; The New
Traditionaries cabinet; James lounge
chair and ottoman from ABC, Carpet
& Home; rug from Doris Leake Blue.
Painting by Leah Danner. The carpet is
by Karastan and the print is
Ralph Lauren Panel. Stucco white with
Lucas white glaze.



ROOM TO GROW

Emulating a gourmet's hot list—oil, a brass pot, a wall-mounted lantern, Philip Jeffries Ltd. wall coverings, linen from Jerry Plot & Associates, table linen, art from Suzanne H&B Ltd., all kitchen appliances from Williams-Sonoma, tableware from Bofflage, rug by Karastan. On floor: Michael Kors (caption) long-sleeved sweater (\$175), Marc by Marc Jacobs pants (\$155), Michael Kors sandals (\$645) and Marc by Marc boots (\$140). On table: Rachel dress by Billy Cole (\$2,200)

OUT OF THE BLUE

The bathes appeared between houses; beautiful tile from Ann Sacks; Thomas E. Kent painting; Liora portable pot; Ralph Lauren towels, white lacquer through Christie's.



ON DOWN COUNTRY

"M

othering the housekeeper with a pillow for getting her breakfast order wrong. It's a portrait of one kind of contemporary urban family you've read about—or possibly even know?

Jose Carrier and Marc Miller represent a very different (not to mention sober) version of the modern family, but the worlds the pair create are as glamorous and sophisticated as the ones the characters inhabit in *Igby*. That is one reason the couple, who from the New York design firm Carrier and Company, and the movie, about the trials of a rebellious teenager in the wealthy underbelly of bohemian society on New York's Upper East Side, is inspiration when designing the next *Sex & City* Country Version Showhouse, at 1333 Fifth Avenue.

"Not the dastardly part of the film," Carrier tells me in his twinkling, dry manner. "It's more we were inspired by the smart, savvy, fashionable life."

"And the location," Miller, whose reserved manner belies a frenetic energy, adds. "Whether it was DHF Barro's contemporary house in Southampton or his funky, Schieffelin, or Sookie's apartment on the Upper West Side, they all had elements of people and projects we had worked on before." Do tell.

The New York state natives (Miller hails from Westchester County, Carrier from Syracuse) both in their late thirties, have become known as *chameleons* in the industry for their wide-ranging decorating styles. This versatility can probably be traced to their equally eclectic backgrounds. After studying interior design at FIT (a perhaps unconventional choice for interior studies), they spent the next decade working for a pantheon of modern American design masters—Miller at the Elms of The Koger architects and Sils-Henford, Carrier with Jeffrey Bilhuber for an eight-year stint and before that with Thomas O'Brien.

The decision to work together was a practical one. "The impetus was really family," Carrier says. Their son Jack is 6 and daughter Natalie is 4. "At least we have the same downtime," Miller says with the sigh of a sleep-deprived mother who does it all, though it's hard to believe there's much downtime.

Since starting Carrier and Company in 2002, the couple have become the go-to for high-profile clients in the entertainment, publishing, and fashion industries, designing interiors in an array of styles for Vogue's Anna Wintour (English Country), first lady favorite designer Joan Wu (Minimalist), and MTV founder Bob Pittman (Urban Art Collector).

How come? "Downtime," Carrier says. "We are comfortable in the fashion world and have been around it long. *Tommy* on that note

and 'Get off the roof' says DHF Barro, Jeff Goldblum's director in the 2001 indie flick *Igby*. Jose Carrier, dressed in an impeccably tailored gray flannel pinstripe suit and a creamy-yellow tie, flexes-chicks Maria, a drag-willed abortion parent (played by Susan Sarandon) after he discovers her



A WELL-LIVED LIFE

Fresh flowers, personal trinkets, and rare collectibles are every teacher in a spacious apartment. Above left: Closet system designed by Carrier and Company. Right: Marianne & Parker desk, ABC Carpet & Home long; George Smith chair and mirror; Dominique Propper from Studio Four NYC shades fabric; artwork by Dorothy Miller. On Carrier: Wool coat (\$1,000) and shirt (\$1,400), both by Prada. Below left: Antique clock through Christie's; Ragony bed and ottoman; Hermès accessories. Right: Robert Longoni mirror from George Smith; storage console table from Flak.



"We like things that are long-lived. Superpractical and superchic."

PAJAMA PARTY

There's nothing like waking up in a comforting space. Madison & Goss from Studio Four NYC rest on fabric; all window shades in the apartment are from Hunter Douglas; Stephen Gould lamps from Summer 1988 Ltd.; antique bedside tables and clocks through Christie's; City Studio bed; Sherie bed linen and duvet, pillow fabric from Pinteri Etc. from Studio Four NYC; On Paper Salvatore Farago's silk pajama top (\$1,200) and pajama pants (\$890). Or Jack Bonpoint pajamas from \$145.



PRINTED MATTER

Artwork by Thomas Liebert and Dorothy Heller sits near a double source by The Urban Electric Co.



COCKTAIL HOUR

An Aspen decanter and barware are displayed in front of an antique photograph from Christie's. Wall covering by Philip Jeffrey Ltd.



A FINEST SPACE

A Ralph Lauren floor lamp sits over a Dorothy & Co. armchair. Painting by Leah Durren; throw and pillow by Ralph Lauren; rug by Doris Lehto Blue.



An unpretentious attitude—and the use of luxurious and beautiful materials—makes this apartment feel lived-in, real, comfortable.



A SHIP OF HOPE

Leah Durren's abstract paintings are the perfect artful complement for brightly painted walls. Dorothy & Co. designed City Studio sofa table; Pinteri Etc. from Studio Four NYC; orange-yellow fabric; Dominique Piquere from Studio Four NYC; long-pile fabric; Ralph Lauren Mac's and white sequined pillow and throw; stripes through Christie's; Ralph Lauren print in Placard with Dapper glass; Fredrickson Assoc. case; Stephanie Wu. For details see page 104.

"I WON'T QUIT!
A DEDICATED SMOKER
FUMES

FRENCH FRIES of the FUTURE
Missions of a Quantum Kitchen

HOOF DREAMS!
On the Run in Horse Country

TOWN & COUNTRY

MEET THE
MILLIONAIRES
of
OCCUPY
WALL STREET



ART WORLD IT GIRL THE NEW YEAR'S NEW FACE

You May Not
Know Shala Monroe,
But You Should

PLUS

WHERE NO
ONE GETS OLD
OR SICK
A JOURNEY TO
INDIA'S GROVES OF
ETERNAL YOUTH

COCKTAILS
& KISSES
THE
GREATEST
DRINK RECIPES
TO RING IN
2012

AND T&C'S
STAFF-TESTED
HANGOVER
CURES

Quantum Kitchen

LEARNED FROM PAGE 10: About cooking, Ben exposed. Only recently has our relationship to the art and science of it been spun out—like peas in Myhrvold's cabbage—into its component parts, reprocessed, distilled.

As for Myhrvold's interest in running a restaurant, it is exactly nil. The leading revolution is in modern cuisine. Ferran Adrià, closed his renowned El Bulli last summer to concentrate on culinary research. "What Ferran is doing is like what we're doing," Myhrvold says with a confidence that implies that Adrià went at it the wrong way, only now liberating himself from the pesky demands of paying customers. Meanwhile, the Cooking Lab hosts a 90-course dinner every few months, in the warehouse, for food writers, chefs, and other special guests—Thomas Keller, Jacques Pépin, Harold McGee. "We're not quite a pop-up," Myhrvold says, smiling at us. It's invitation-only, and it's only to further his cause. Because engaging in intellectually with books, with ideas, is one thing. "Once people taste the food," he says, "they truly understand."

Show Time

LEARNED FROM PAGE 107: Though the two of us are levelheaded—a rarity in this industry—we like things that are long-lived and classic. Superpractical and superchic. "Vernisage Pittman, Bob's wife, describes the couple as 'meticulous,'" she adds. "They have children, so they understand that our kids have the run of the house. We like to be comfortable and flexible and showcase our works of art. It's a tough combination that is not always easy to pull off."

But, the ability to create a grown-up space that can withstand the effects of Elmer's and Play-Doh, defines Carrier and Company's aesthetic, and also the showhouse they have created for *Town & Country*.

The location, 1212 Fifth Avenue, was designed by noted architects George and Edward Blum in 1923, but it languished in the hands of nearby Mount Sinai Hospital for the last several decades. The update, sponsored by new owners David Pittman, is a complete overhaul. Exterior limestone panels have been powerwashed and repointed. Windows have been replaced and double-glazed. Penthouse terrace half a block long have been restored.

Inside the apartment, the two Kohler-appointed bathrooms, designed by S. Russell Groves, are outfitted with gleaming Aist Sackli tiles in the colors ocean and golden sand. DTV digital showers with iPod-like remote controls, and mirrored Robert's medicine cabinets that open to reveal refrigerated compartments for keeping Crème de la Mer fresh... or bottles of Krug and Bille's chilled. The eat-in kitchen is stocked with high-octane Miele ovens and a Bertazzoni stove that help rationalize living a personal chef.

The rest was up to Carrier and Company, who chose an eclectic palette of global textiles, oversized upholstery, and mirrored furniture to give the space a worldly, contemporary feel. An Eames chair in the living room is resplendent in a traditional Uzbek suzani textile. "We like familiar forms, but our work is not stodgy or overly traditional," Miller says. I'll say. The Eames Lounge sits across from a huge tree-trunk coffee table drenched in bronze gold metallic paint from Mexico. Textured and unique finishes abound, from the almost tribal Philip Jeffries raffia that wraps the ear in kitchen to the hand-combed Ralph Lauren Poppy-painted walls that complement a custom collection of Italian intaglios from Christa's and envelop the den in an autumnal glow—a room that begs for candlelight. The hallway is swathed in ridged black vinyl, a dramatic choice that takes you from the public spaces of the apartment to the private ones. Even the his and hers walk-in closets, custom-designed by Cien-enc, get the treatment, covered in pale blue grasscloth with subtle silver metallic threads running through the fabric. These are closets that look good whether or not they have clothes in them.

Taste in art is something else the couple share, and the apartment is filled with pieces culled from their own collection, both from established gallery painters like Leah Dornier, whose huge canvases inspired by Prada fashion shows fill the living room and master bedrooms, to a black and white photo of a snowstorm Carrier found on the street. "I feel as if we have no real interest in provocation," Miller says in the casually dismissive tone of the high-low generation.

This unpretentious attitude—and the use of luxurious and beautiful materials—makes this apartment feel lived in, real, comfortable. But also glamorous—you could imagine it as the domain of a well-heeled and well-traveled young New York City family, characters in *My Girl* from *On the Run*, or even the Carrers.

When I ask whether there was any part of the couple that was designing the space specifically for their family, Carrier looks at Miller

and smiles. "People always ask us, 'What's your personal style?'" he says. "You can't look through our portfolio and pick it out, because what we do always reflects our clients' taste. But I think in this instance we were able to reflect our own."

Miller adds, "This could be our next apartment."

Good news: It's for sale.

SHOPPING & CREDIT INFORMATION

TUXEDO PARK
PAGE 62: Tom Ford jacket and pants, 212-319-0100.

LIFE OF A BUTTERFLY
COVER: Phlo, Miu skirt and top, miu.com. Prada flower shoes, prada.com. Valentino belt, 212-772-0909. Lella Courville ring, bella-courville.com. PAGE 69: Valentino dress and belt, 212-772-0909. Delfina DeLobato earrings, www.openingceremony.us. PAGE 76: Prada dress, prada.com. Ferragamo shoes, 800-628-8036. Hat from Marie Mercier hat, mariemercier.com. PAGE 72-73: Valentino Prada Couture velvet dress and jacket, 212-772-0909. Delfina DeLobato ring, www.openingceremony.us.

SHOW TIME
PAGE 100: On Jack, Peter Elton Blue velvet blazer and pants, 212-570-2301. Paul chrome race car at Peter Elton, peterelton.com. PAGE 102: On Miller, Michael Kors sweater and shoes, 800-709-5677. Marie silk pajamas, barnes.com. Marie earrings, Neiman Marcus, 800-365-7889. On Natalie, Baby C2 Rachel dress, baby2.com. PAGE 103: On Carrier, Prada wool suit and shirt, prada.com. PAGE 104: On Miller, Salvatore Ferragamo pajama top and pants, 800-628-8036. On Jack, Burpout pajamas, burpout.com.

Town & Country wishes to thank the manufacturers, retailers, and professionals who participated in this project. Interior design: Carrier and Company Interiors, Ltd., S. Russell Groves, designer of the kitchen bathrooms. Special thanks to L. Grace contractors, the Naco Company for custom hardware, BC Dubler, Clavis media integration, Pat Pendergast, Colles Brothers Moving Corp., Jettie, Inc., and Phil Blard Decorative Painting. Additional vendors include Broom & Bower, New York Drapery Company, Jervis Bishop for Thomas, Elegent Custom Draperies, artists Megan Seiden, Peter Margonelli, and John Tipton; books from Amazon and Bantam; fabrics from Schwab Hardware for Studio Five NYC, G.P.R. Baker for Lee Jolly, Ravel art hanging and sculpture. Project directed by Adam Finkler, executive director of Designer Vision.