

DESIGN

A modern interior design scene. In the foreground, a dark wood table with a polished surface sits on a light gray textured rug. The table has a minimalist metal base with four legs. To the left of the table is a white upholstered chair with a metal frame. On the table, there is a tall, slender lamp with a curved shade and a decorative sculpture made of interlocking metal bands. On the wall behind the table are three abstract paintings. The largest painting on the left depicts two figures in blue and red. The smaller painting in the center shows three figures in a colorful, abstract setting. The third painting, on the right, is a smaller, more abstract composition. The room is lit by natural light from a window on the right, partially covered by a dark curtain.

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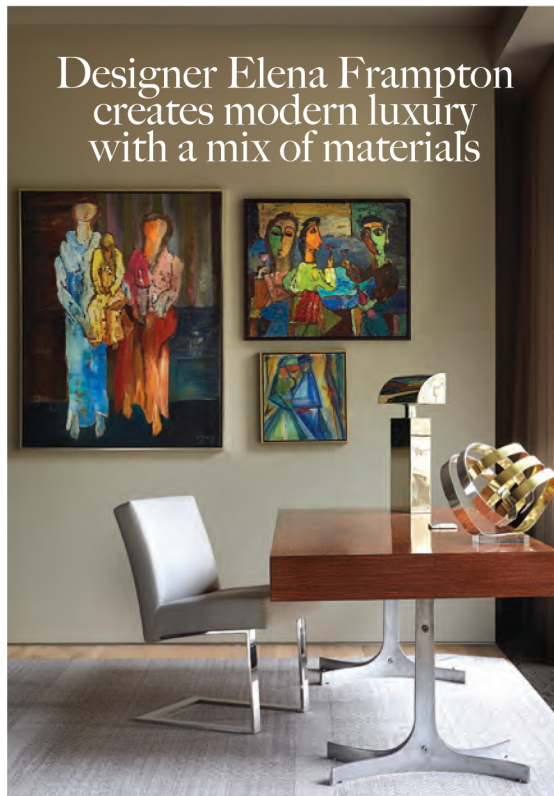
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Courtesy of Frampton Co.
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From Uptown Elegance to Downtown Cool

By Michele Keith | Photography by Joshua McHugh, courtesy of Frampton Co.

Designer Elena Frampton
creates modern luxury
with a mix of materials

Variety is the spice of life,

and many New Yorkers get their fix by turning in old homes for new. Such was the case with one of interior designer Elena Frampton's recent clients.

When a bachelor and his teenage son had moved from a lavish, art-and-antiques-laden Fifth Avenue apartment to a NoHo loft complete with 12 foot-high ceilings and vast expanses of windows, they knew only that the look had to be different and in tune with their cool new neighborhood. Chosen to figure things out was Frampton, whom the client calls "brilliant."

The first item on Frampton's To Do List was total renovation. This included, among other essentials, developing a more functional layout, increasing the size of the kitchen and adding a third bath.

She then turned to the décor. "My concept," the designer says, "was to bring modern, decorative elements into the space to provide a luxurious, sophisticated quality. The last thing we wanted was your stereotypical bachelor pad. The way to do this was through warmth and texture, using such materials as leather, walnut, wool, handmade tiles, metals and stone," she says, "and a variety of collector-worthy vintage pieces."

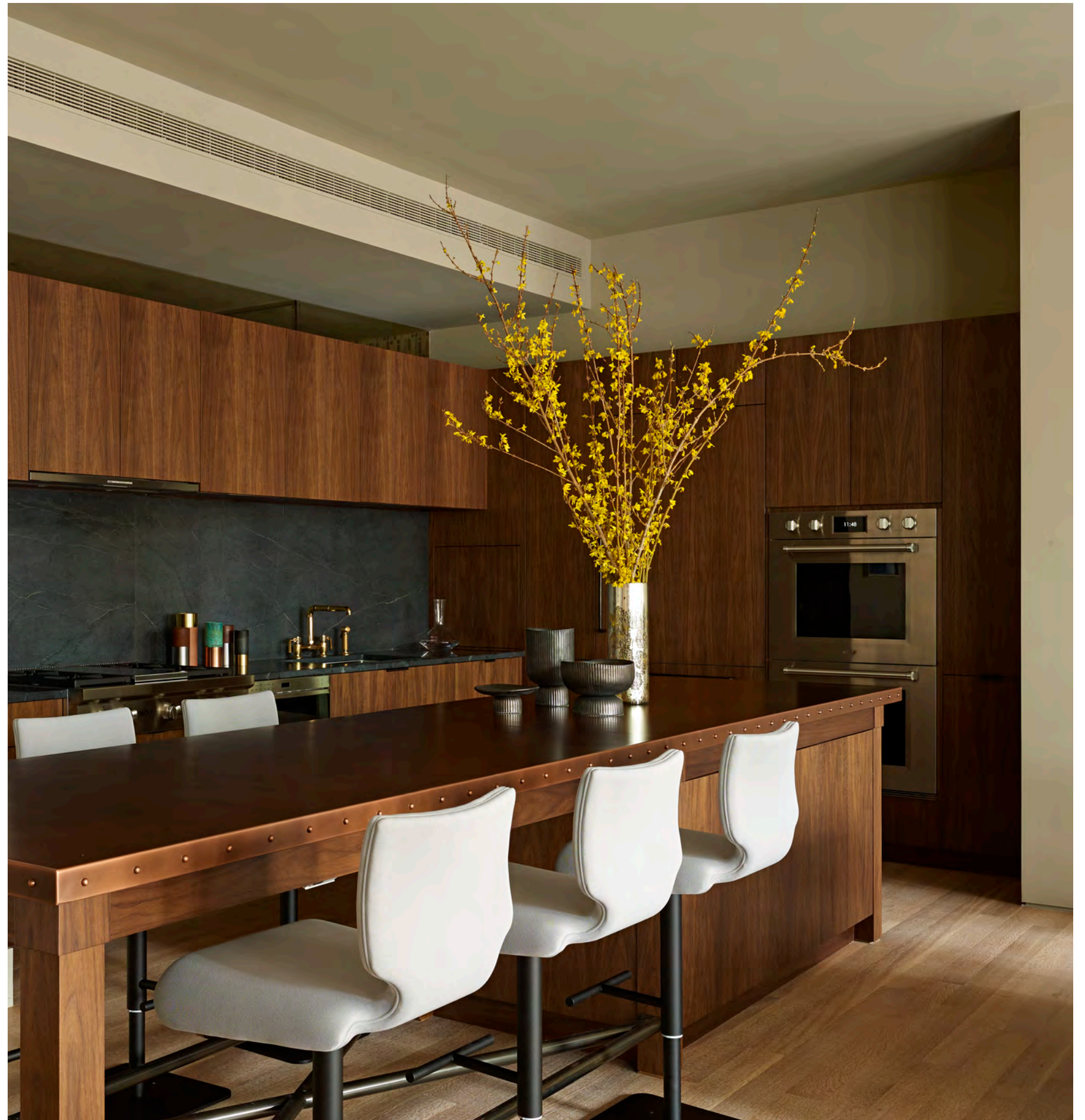
As to the color palette, Frampton says, "It was a matter of balance: warm against cool, masculine offset by feminine, dramatic forms in quiet spaces."

In the living room for example, the brown, tufted leather sofa faces brass-legged chairs upholstered in mauve flannel, while a deep-blue Murano glass chandelier by Vistosi reflects the flickering fireplace surrounded by natural stone. Nearby, a 1950s-era, bronze table by Kelvin LaVerne – "a true work of art," exclaims Frampton – boasts a round filigree enameled top set on a pillar and is juxtaposed with cantilevered chairs by Paul Evans.

Opening onto the living area is the walnut-sheathed kitchen. The top of the island is crafted of copper, simulating the original in a local restaurant favored by the man and his son.

"We wanted more intensity in the master bedroom," Frampton recalls, achieving it with a rich blue-green shade custom blended for the wall plaster. As with the other rooms in the house, it boasts a variety of sculptural furniture, some squared-off, others gently rounded ... contrasts at play, especially metals contraposing plush fabrics.

"Such an experience," says Frampton of the project, "goes way beyond the design process and construction. It's also about working with a person to create their home and enhance their life, in this case, two lives."





Creating a building's unique identity

A luxury condominium in Harlem, designed to attract “a downtown crowd seeking a thoughtful aesthetic,” was one of Elena Frampton’s last undertakings at Curated before establishing her eponymous new firm this past spring.

And what a project! Collaborating with the developer and its marketing team, she created a unique identity for the entire building, producing a comfortable residence evoking the sensibility of a boutique hotel: urban, elegant, chic.

“We came in once the core and shell were completed,” the designer says, “and refined and enhanced the floor plans. From determining the length of the kitchen island to the placement of a linen closet, having this opportunity was a godsend, and set the project up for success.”

Beginning in the lobby – welcoming with its rug-defined conversation areas – Frampton’s plan to use “broad strokes of different

materials for dramatic effect” is immediately seen with the expansive stone wall and mix of curvaceous furnishings.

Frampton amplified the excitement that comes with the opening of each residence’s door, as well as made each interior appear larger, by keeping corridors dark. Once inside the light-filled spaces, grandstand views of Morningside Park and the Manhattan skyline gain in magnitude paired as they are with the natural color palette, clean-lined furnishings and juxtaposition of such details as dark flooring and white lacquer cabinetry, contemporary lighting and warm wood furniture, black Senza stone tile and glistening stainless steel.

“Like most projects, this was a balancing act of elements and textures,” Frampton says. “Our goal was for it to be unique, but with broad appeal. According to the owners, we accomplished that.”

