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AMY LAU DESIGN, INC.
AS FEATURED IN LUXE INTERIORS + DESIGN NATIONAL



GLAMOUR GIRL

WRITTEN BY **VALERIE CRUICE**
PHOTOGRAPHY BY **KIM SARGENT**

WHEN INTERIOR DESIGNER AMY LAU WENT LOOKING FOR A GRAPHIC DESIGNER, WHAT SHE FOUND WAS A CLIENT. Lau walked into the New York-based lifestyle design studio of Lora Appleton and recalls, “I kind of freaked out because I saw the most amazing painting,” Appleton’s grandmother, Barbara S. Gross, had done the show-stopping piece. “My grandmother was an artist, too, and we discovered that we had a lot in common,” says Lau. It was kismet. Gross just happened to be interviewing designers for her new apartment on Central Park South, and the two connected at the ultimate aesthetic level.

Back on Long Island, Gross had an estate full of museum-quality art—paintings, sculpture and mixed media pieces, many of which she had created. Step one for Lau was the task of selecting the art pieces that would be hung on the wall of Gross’ intimate three-bedroom apartment. “I knew I wanted the environment to be about her art and sculpture, and I also wanted the pieces to have a strong dialogue with the interiors,” explains Lau.

For the color palette, Lau took direction from what she thought was the quintessential piece—*Broken Hearts*, a painting with swirling blocks of color. Gross’ art also spurred Lau to go in a new design direction when it came to wall color. “I had never tried black on the walls, ever. This was really forward thinking for me,” says the designer about the black plaster waxed walls. “Much of Barbara’s work is about shine, and she uses a lot of metal. Many of them look like liquid.” The black steatite of Gross’ sculpture, *Vadar*, convinced Lau that the wall color would be glamorous, reflective and warm at the same time.

INTERIOR DESIGN Amy Lau, Amy Lau Design, Inc.		
BEDROOMS 3	BATHROOMS 2	SQUARE FEET 2,100



STYLE SELECTION
This lucite sculpture by Jean-Claude Farhi adds a pop of color to any space, price available upon request; mantiqesmodern.1stdibs.com



FASHION FORWARD

Lau outfitted the living room with a pink velvet chaise lounge by Parzinger Originals, a cocktail table by Gary Gutterman from Mantiques Modern and floor lamp from John Salibello Antiques.

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The *Broken Hearts* piece also inspired Lau to commission Edward Fields to create an area rug literally taken from the painting. “I wanted that to anchor the whole living room,” she says. Finding the painting and rug “Pucci-esque,” Lau went in search of the real thing, scoring vintage Pucci velvet skirts on eBay and having pillows created out of the bold purple, pink and black patterns. For the living room, Gross stipulated that Lau use black patent leather and hot pink in the scheme. Lau accommodated the client’s requests, incorporating fashion references through pink Chanel-inspired fabric on the dining chairs.

The designer acquired furniture and accessories—lighting, in particular—that have a sculptural quality. “I treat them like mini-art pieces,” she says. Finishes in high-gloss lacquer, chrome, brass and black patent leather bring light and life to the space, while a subtext of the design dialogue carries on between clean-lined shapes and soft, curved expressions. Many one-of-a-kind pieces are from the 1960s and 1970s, including a remarkable resin dining table that refracts light and creates a golden pattern on the floor.



ALLURING TREAT
Recreating 1940s glamour for the master bedroom, Lau custom-designed the bed and bedding along with an upholstered silk velvet wall, with fabric from Zimmer+Rohde, fabricated by Michael Tavano.



MIRROR IMAGE
A table and stool by Raymond Loewy from John Salibello Antiques makes a luxury vanity. Custom drapery by Bergamo Fabrics.

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The master bedroom is a study in subtle sophistication. Lau, together with carpet designer Zoë Luyendijk, translated Gross' painting, *Green Landscape*, into a shimmering, impressionistic *tour de force*, rendered in 100-knot silk, wool and hemp. The walls are upholstered in large squares of bronze-beige silk velvet, while the bed's headboard and footboard are tufted in a smaller-scale, blue-green silk velvet. "The big thing she wanted in the master was a fireplace," says Lau, who found a 1934 Samuel Marx fireplace surround in painted wood and verre eglomise with silver leaf.



SEATING ARRANGEMENT

Designer Amy Lau evokes drama in the dining room with red Skyscraper dining chairs by Paul Evans, a Vladimir Kagan sofa and chrome pendant by Gaetano Sciolari from Gustavo Olivieri Antiques.



BLACK OUT

Artwork by Barbara Gross hangs above a vintage console from Gustavo Olivieri Antiques. Table lamps are from De Parma. The custom rug from Edward Fields was designed to reflect one of Barbara Gross' paintings.

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Lau filled the center with glistening shell wall tiles from Maya Romanoff and stacked gypsum logs in 1940s andirons. The designer carried the color from the fireplace surround to the ceiling, mixing gold and silver for a platinum finish. Gold threads run through the bouclé curtains.

For the guest bedroom, Lau mined Gross' furniture collection amassed from exotic travels, assembling a group of heavily carved, figured wood pieces. She lacquered the headboard, chair, mirror and several new items



HOT SPOT

A side table from C.S. Post & Co. stands beside a vintage chaise by Edward Wormley for Dunbar in the master bedroom. Mother of Pearl shell tile from Maya Romanoff sets off the vintage fireplace surround by Samuel Marx from Liz O'Brien.



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in a bright white. "I wanted to neutralize them so they would all go in one environment," Lau explains. Because the client loves the Orient, Lau found wallpaper from Clarence House that looks hand-painted and hung it on the walls, doors and ceiling. "It's like being under an umbrella," the designer says.

Resting her hand on Gross' 1970s Lucite vanity, Lau sums up the project: "This is Barbara. I feel her through her art, taste and travels. I really wanted this home to be about the woman." **L**

DREAM SCENE

Wallpaper in Flowering Quince from Clarence House brightens the bedroom, where vintage nightstands from Stripe and table lamps from Christopher Spitzmiller, Inc., complete the look.

AMY LAU
AMY LAU DESIGN, INC.

601 West 26th Street
Suite M272
New York, NY 10001
PHONE 212.645.6168

WWW.AMYLAUDESIGN.COM

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