

# INTERIOR DESIGN



BLOOM MAGNIA

## storybook ending

AS THE DIRECTOR OF SOME VERY funny TV commercials for FedEx and Nike, Hank Perlman knows that timing is everything. And that's why he enlisted **AJS Designs** three years before buying his first apartment. He asked principal Abigail Shachat—who'd designed the office of his production company, Hungry Man—to evaluate potential purchases and make sure the place he bought could be transformed into the home he wanted. He'd been living in rentals with tiny kitchens and baths for most of his adult life, he explained, so now he was ready for "killer."

Perlman and Shachat settled on the West Village, specifically what he describes as a "typical loft, long and narrow with all the windows at one end." A wall down the middle only made things worse, separating public spaces from bedrooms and creating a bowling-alley effect.

Shachat kept the basic layout but replaced the center wall with a hallway lined with bookshelves and a desk, turning what had been an impenetrable barrier into a layered transition. On one side, wide white-painted sliding doors enclose the sleeping quarters; on the other, a dramatic →



walnut-framed slider of perforated stainless steel recalls the benday dots of a Roy Lichtenstein painting.

Shachat gave the living area's bland fireplace a stronger presence by deepening the firebox and surrounding it with a fieldstone facing that "looks like a dry-set," she explains. The increased depth of the wall above

*Cover: In the living area of this West Village apartment, spotlights accentuate the limestone mantel and hearth and the fieldstone facing. This page from top left: A perforated stainless-steel panel in a walnut frame slides between the dining area and the office-hallway that separates the public and private sides of the apartment. Mario Bellini designed the Cab dining chairs. The powder room combines walls of cork and a floor of stained concrete.*





the mantel also allowed for an inset TV and speakers—Perlman does love his AV equipment.

Shachat loves durability, a quality that Perlman questioned when she suggested tiling the powder room's walls in cork. But as she told him, "It's a flooring material, and it's completely sealed." Now, Perlman says, "The cork not only looks great,

but it even smells good." Likewise, instead of using paint for focal walls in the kitchen and foyer, Shachat chose integrally tinted plaster in dark blue, Perlman's favorite. "Scratch it," she says, "and you still have blue."

Not all problems get resolved that easily. Ash floorboards, improperly installed, began lifting up before Perlman moved →

*Clockwise from top: The living area's Vladimir Kagan lounge chair faces away from TV-commercial director Hank Perlman's walnut desk. The central hallway runs 30 feet from front to back. Abigail Shachat designed a lantern made of one of her favorite materials, acrylic Light-Blocks, and placed it where the kitchen counter morphs into the foyer's "key lodge," displaying stainless-steel letters that spell come in.*





From left: Shachat ran the ash floorboards width-wise for a visual connection between the living area and Perlman's bedroom. In his bathroom, mirrors are set 3 inches back from walls clad in glass mosaic tile, creating the appearance of extra depth.



BLOND MACHINA

FLOOR LAMP (LIVING AREA): TABLE (DINING AREA): MIRROR (FOYER): BOW: CUSTOM SCREEN (DINING AREA): MUNCHOLS CO. CHAIRS: CASSINA. FIXTURES (POWDER ROOM): DURAVIT. SINK FITTINGS: DORNBRACHT. PENDANT FIXTURE: ARTEMIDE. WALL TILE: EXPANKO. CHAIR (LIVING AREA): VLADIMIR KAGAN DESIGN GROUP THROUGH RALPH PUCCI INTERNATIONAL. SOFA: JONATHAN ADLER. CUSTOM DRAPERY: TRIBICA UPHOLSTERY & DRAPERIES. RUGS (LIVING AREA, BEDROOM): PATTERSON, FLYNN & MARTIN. LANTERN MATERIAL (KITCHEN, FOYER): MB WELLINGTON STUDIO. CHAIR (OFFICE): HERMAN MILLER. HEADBOARD FABRIC (BEDROOM): ROGERS & GOFFIGN. FIXTURES, FITTINGS (BATHROOM): WATERWORKS. PENDANT FIXTURES: AMEICO. SURROUND, WALL TILE: BISAZZA. RECESSED CEILING FIXTURES: COOPER INDUSTRIES. PAINT: BENJAMIN MOORE & CO. GENERAL CONTRACTOR: JAMES H. MURRAY CORP.

in, and a new contractor suggested screwing them to the subfloor. But exposed fasteners were hardly the detailing Shachat was going for, so she had pegs made from ash as well as walnut and oak, woods already used in the apartment.

Inserted over the screws as well as in other purely decorative locations, the pegs form arrangements that suggest constellations. "I don't think anyone else has a floor like this," Perlman says, praising Shachat's "incredibly creative ability to overcome setbacks."

As the apartment neared completion, timing came into

play again. Perlman began dating Heather Fukumoto, a graphic designer, and invited her to move in. As luck would have it, her mother runs an interiors firm called Jackie Terrell Design, and she helped choose the couple's furniture. Not long after the last lamp shade was in place, Perlman proposed, and Fukumoto accepted. Perlman credits design in part. "The apartment," he says, "worked its magic."

—Fred A. Bernstein

Reprinted from *Interior Design* September 2005  
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# AJS

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