



## WEB-EXCLUSIVE HOME TOUR

# An Elegant New York Apartment with Fashion-Forward Style

Architect Kevin Lichten and interior designer and architect Joan Craig recast a midtown home into a luxe jewel box overlooking Central Park

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You might think designing a home for a fashion and beauty executive with exacting standards and a diamond-sharp sense of style would be difficult and fraught with challenges. But for Kevin Lichten and Joan Craig, of New York's [Lichten Craig Architecture + Interiors](#), the experience was anything but. In fact, working with her, they say, was their favorite part of the nearly two-year-long project. "We loved the fact that she was open—no, fearless is a better word—in considering luscious materials and finishes," says Craig, who also acknowledges interiors director Gemma Parker and associate partner Andrew Friedman for their help in putting it all together.

The team's journey began when the [apartment](#) adjacent to their client's opened up, a Manhattan real-estate dream come true. By breaking through next door, she was able to not only increase her square footage but also amplify her already expansive views, essentially creating one long, continuous stretch of balconies overlooking Central Park, which is visible from nearly every room. That impressive 11th-floor spread allowed the designers to go bold with the interiors. "Anything we did, no matter how strong, was soothed by the vastness of Central Park right outside the all-glass window wall," says Lichten.

# ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST

And judging by the custom-made mohair sofas, gilt-backed glass tiles, and multitude of shiny surfaces, go bold they did. The enlarged apartment is now a grand and glittering jewel box of a home that feels both of the moment and from another time. The client's inspiration? Rat Pack–era style, with its clean lines and modern sensibility—but softened and spiced up a bit. “She called it ‘sexy modern,’ which she described as ‘glamour, drama, femininity,’” says Craig.

“Quality, ‘variety,’ and ‘substance’ were other words that came up frequently in our conversations,” she continues. Given the thrilling and luxurious results, it's obvious Craig and Lichten listened well.



The lavish living room features two sets of tall, striking French doors—one on either side of the Portoro gold marble fireplace—that open into the den. The black-and-camel palette, which remains consistent throughout the home, is both sophisticated and versatile: “I love this combo. It's a great foil to so many other colors, from reds and pinks to creams and the rest of the spectrum,” says Craig. Aside from the statement-making bronze-and-rock-crystal chandelier by [Mathieu Lustrerie](#) and the sculptural cocktail table by [Hudson Furniture](#), the room feels elegantly neutral.



To establish symmetry between the dining and living areas, Craig and Lichten installed the same chandelier in both spaces. “We spent a lot of time sizing furniture and rugs, and adjusting the location of ceiling lights to keep a strong axial relationship between them,” says Craig. Here, as in other rooms in the apartment, the ceiling is covered with [Benjamin Moore](#) glossy paint. “The ceilings are only about eight-foot. We wanted to create the illusion of more height—and the glossy ceiling reflected the light, chandeliers, and the park dramatically,” says Craig. The dining table, designed by Lichten Craig and fabricated by [ABC Stone](#), rests on an area rug by [Tai Ping](#).



The black-and-camel palette continues in the den, but with the addition of red in the form of a faux-shagreen wallpaper by [Ralph Lauren](#). “Not only does it provide another layer of color, but it's also a great backdrop for objects and books. Our client loves color, lacquer, reflection, shine, and shimmer,” says Lichten. Both the sofa and the ottoman are custom-made Lichten Craig designs by [Brusic Rose](#).



“The master bedroom and bath area is our client's retreat,” says Lichten. “She requested a shift in palette in the private areas of her home. It's softer, calmer—silver, taupe, with icy blues and pastels.” The hand-painted chinoiserie wall covering in the master bedroom points to this shift in mood. A pair of vintage Carl Fagerlund pendant lamps flank the bed.

# ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST



The black paneled walls and drop ceiling in this hallway lead to the living room. “Our intention was to frame the entry and set the stage for that drop-dead view of Central Park,” says Lichten. The bold floors were inspired by high-end fashion retailers. “We looked at how Chanel, for instance, incorporates contrast and graphics in their installations.”



The apartment’s luxe vibe continues in the kitchen, which features black cabinets and polished unlacquered brass cabinet handles by [Lisa Jarvis](#). Simple and serene Imperial Danby marble counters and backsplash offset the sparkling vintage pendant lamp and the client’s collection of bright red Versace china.



On the homeowner’s remodeling wish list: “a beautiful space in which to store and display clothes and jewelry,” says Lichten. The Hollywood Regency–inspired dressing room is her wish fulfilled. A tufted [Nancy Corzine](#) bench provides seating for trying on clothing.



In the master bath, a slab of dramatically veined Calacatta Borghini marble covers the wall behind the Signature Hardware soaking tub, while tiles of the same marble line the floor. An arresting flush-mount ceiling pendant lamp by [Craig Van Den Brulle](#) heightens the shimmery quality of the silver wallpaper by [Phillip Jeffries Ltd.](#)