

# Kathleen Walsh Designs an Eclectic Townhouse Inspired by an Art Collection

The resulting mix is a continual conversation starter

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New York City apartments aren't known for their privacy—especially if you have street-facing windows. Such was the case for [Kathleen Walsh's](#) clients in Manhattan's West Village. "It is one of those apartments that you walk by and look up and kind of wonder what's inside," says the designer of the five-story townhouse. If passers-by do happen to catch a glimpse inside these windows, however, they'll be greeted with all kinds of art and personality.

“It’s such an eclectic group of art throughout the house, and it’s very reflective of who the clients are,” says Walsh. The collection, amassed over years of travel and a serious buying habit, served as a springboard for her design. Grass greens, sky blues, and wheaty neutrals came to the forefront. A prominent modern sculpture in the mix led Walsh to choose funky silhouettes that somehow still felt right at home with the 19th-century architecture. “They’re all individual choices and individual pieces,” she says, “but put together it really creates its own conversation and cohesive style.”

Eclectic is the word that sums up the finished look of this home—and it’s Walsh’s favorite way to describe it (“I’m using it in its best sense,” she says). Genres and style blur together, anchored by form and color. But there’s rhyme and reason behind every one of her decisions. “With careful placement,” she explains, “all these crazy pieces from different eras and styles can really speak well to one another and create a conversation that is unexpected, and, to me, that embodies everything about living in a place like New York.”

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# Living Room



The living room is the clearest example of Walsh riffing on the owner's art. "The chandelier form is a slight reference to the sculpture in the corner," she reveals. Likewise, the paintings that flank the fireplace on both sides speak to the colors of the glass coffee table. **Art:** Client's own. **Table:** Pilar Proffitt through Ralph Pucci International. **Chandelier:** Pouenat through Holly Hunt. **Rug:** Vintage. **Corner Chair:** Antique, covered in Lee Jofa. **Pillow fabrics:** Osborne & Little (pink) and Clarence House (multi-color and blue) on sofa; Le Gracieux on chairs.

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## Family Room



Here, a painting by artist Yvonne Jacquette was the inspiration. “What jumps out of that particular painting was the sort of rainy city night droplet effect that you get, and I somehow wanted to pull that out and abstract it in the room,” says Walsh. She worked with the artisans at New York’s Warp & Weft to bring that dreamy look to life in the custom rug. **Paint:** Benjamin Moore OC-2. **Sofa:** Upholstered in Osborne & Little. **Blue Chairs:** Upholstered in Pollack. **Pillows:** Clarence House (sofa); Jed Johnson Home (chairs). **Ottoman:** Upholstered in Clarence House. **Bookshelves:** Custom by Momentas, Inc. **Chandelier:** Client’s own. **Rug:** Custom via Warp & Weft. **Trunk:** Antique. **Art:** Client’s own, by Yvonne Jacquette.

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## Office



The office was hugely important to the homeowners, as the wife is semi-retired and works from home. The walls were painted a soft green, custom-mixed to match her favorite color. Cherry wood cabinets and desks warm the space. **Chairs:** Upholstery by Raoul Textiles. **Ottoman:** Ferrell Mittman ottoman upholstered in Le Gracieux fabric. **Side Table:** Thomas Moser. **Rug:** Client's own. **Desk, Bookshelves:** Custom by Momentas, Inc.

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## Breakfast Nook



“As a designer, you imagine these idyllic ways that your client is going to use a space. I always get tickled when you’re randomly there on a Tuesday, and someone’s using the space as you imagined they would,” says Walsh. Her vision for the nook was a cozy corner where the homeowners could tuck into a newspaper or magazine, and to do that, she needed to soften the modern vibes of the breakfast nook, so she added in a built-in banquette and stuffed it with pillows. **Chairs:** Christian Liaigre. **Table:** Custom. **Bench:** Upholstered in Great Outdoors. **Pillows:** Rogers and Goffigon, Pollack, Donghia, DeLany & Long LTD. **Bookcase:** Custom by Momentas, Inc.

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## Bath



This renovation of this room was one of the first reasons the homeowners called Walsh. Warm tones extend from the nearby office into the room. **Vanity:** Custom by Momentas, Inc. **Rug:** West Elm. **Fittings:** Dornbracht.

