

jungle love

WALKthrough

A South African marketing agency expanding to New York, Barrows chose the penthouse of an art deco tower. Unobstructed views up and down Manhattan were the big plus, but the lack of convivial common areas was a major minus. So Barrows called on Ghislaine Viñas Interior Design. Founded by another South African transplant—she spent her formative years in Durban—the firm had completed just a few office projects.

To unify, polish, and brighten the 2,300 square feet destined for common use, Ghislaine Viñas emphasized visual connections, high/low design details, and nods to Barrows geography. "We brought the African jungle to the concrete jungle," Viñas says. For starters,





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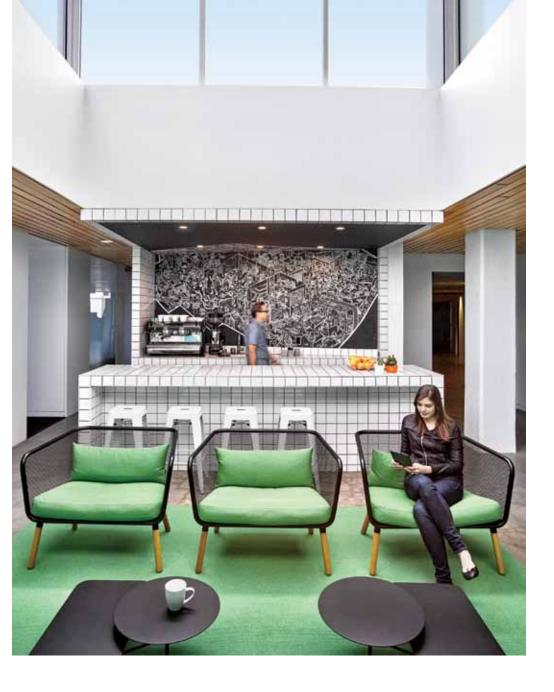
she painted a tropical sea-blue horizon along the walls of the elevator lobby.

Taking advantage of its generous size, she added seating in the form of a nook, a built-in bench, and ottomans, all in the same blue. Black enters the picture with the lengths of climbing rope that drape across



Clockwise from top left: Arik
Levy's sofa sits in the cafë. Lissoni
Associati designed the elevator
lobby's ottomans. Bernstrand & Co
and Borselius Design collaborated
on the cafë's chairs. They and
Patricia Urquiola's tables are
anchored by a rug in goat's hair,
nylon, and viscose. Painted wood
frames punctuate the mirror in the
women's restroom.

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the lobby's wood-slatted ceiling. "The rope was inspired by subway lines, how they take you from one place to the next," she explains.

Indeed, both the black rope and the blue paint travel into the office's skylit atrium. It's now a spunky café, thanks to Viñas's big addition, a white-tiled bar sheltered by a canopy and backed by a chalkboard mural drawn by a Barrows staffer. Furnishings here are mostly green, from Arik Levy's high-backed sofa to the rug on the polished concrete floor. In the adjoining conference room, the rope terminates as the

Clockwise from top: Ceramic tile clads the cafe's bar and canopy. The lounge features a table by Victor Carrasco. Vinyl covers the cushion softening the seating nook in the elevator lobby. Barrows graphic designer Hunter Heckroth drew a chalk mural on the cafe's blackboard. Nylon climbing rope crosses the elevator lobby's existing ceiling.

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Clockwise from top: Custom fixtures cluster on the conference room's ceiling. Also suspended from it are painted calabash gourds. The lounge occupies a small mezzanine. Flooring is polished concrete.

support for another budgetconscious artwork, a hanging sculpture of six calabash gourds painted black.

From the office's main level, stairs connect to a mezzanine lounge. For the stairwell and the mezzanine's rear walls, Viñas worked with her husband to design wallpaper. The pattern combines mammoth green leaves from plants indigenous to, yes, South Africa.

-Molly Heintz

FROM FRONT FLAVOR PAPER: WALL-PAPER (STAIRWELL, LOUNGE). VIC-CARBE: SOFA, TABLES (CAFÉ), OTTO-MANS (LOBBY), SIDE TABLE (LOUNGE). BLÅ STATION: CHAIRS (CAFÉ, LOUNGE). TRETFORD: RUGS (CAFÉ, CONFERENCE ROOM). BRIZO: SINK FITTINGS (REST-ROOM). RETROFURNISH: STOOLS (CAFÉ). DOUGLASS INDUSTRIES: CUSHION UPHOLSTERY (LOBBY). FEBRIK: PILLOW FABRIC. MATERIA: TABLE (CONFERENCE ROOM). STEELCASE: CHAIRS. THROUGH FURNITURE LEISURE: PICNIC TABLE (LOUNGE). THROUGHOUT THROUGH KNOT & ROPE SUPPLY: ROPE. BENJA-MIN MOORE & CO.: PAINT. COLLECTOR: WOODWORK. SMA INTERIORS: GENERAL CONTRACTOR.

