

WHEN A NEW JERSEY COUPLE decided to move from a suburban center-hall co-

## trading up, paring down

lonial to a two-bedroom apartment on the Upper East Side, they agreed that the gain of the city's excitement was worth the loss in space. Particularly since that loss would be offset by a **GV Interior Design** transformation.

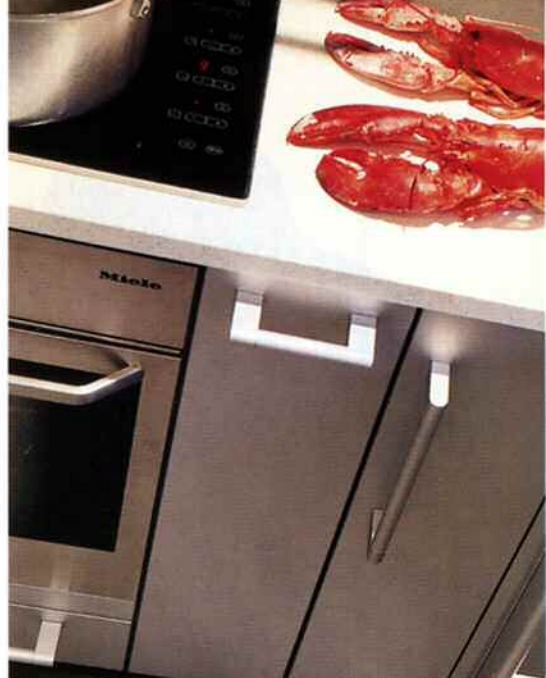
Primed for a lifestyle change, the two empty-nesters were perhaps better able to see beyond →

*From top: An Upper East Side living area doubles as an entertainment center, courtesy of a flat-screen TV and built-in speakers; they're flanked by steel-framed sliding doors of acid-etched glass. Ghislaine Viñas added a wool rug to the clients' existing furnishings.*





*Clockwise from top left: Viñas tiled the kitchen floor in 16-inch squares of honed basalt. Zodiac counters top aluminum-finished cabinetry and stainless-steel appliances. Leather-covered stools pull up to the Zodiac-topped bar separating the kitchen from the dining area, where Viñas grouped Paolo Piva's lacquered table, Antonio Citterio's chairs covered in Ultrasuede, and Franco Raggi's Flute 1 chrome-plated aluminum pendant fixture.*



the 1,350-square-foot apartment's choppy layout and less-than-stellar features, including exposed radiators and worn parquet. "They were sold on the windows," says principal Ghislaine Viñas, not-

ing the fenestration on three exposures, plus no building next door.

To take advantage of the plentiful sunlight, Viñas opened up the claustrophobic kitchen, cutting a pass-through in the wall that had closed off the kitchen from the dining area. Visual separation is maintained by a difference in flooring: smoky-gray honed-basalt tile for the kitchen, light maple for the dining area and the adjacent living area.

To enhance visual unity, on the other hand, Viñas dropped all the ceilings to the same height and skim-coated the battered walls. She replaced the doors with full-height steel-framed sliding models fronted in acid-etched glass. "Their lean, elongated lines combat the apartment's boxiness," she says. →





*Clockwise from top left: The guest room doubles as an office, with a built-in desk and a credenza topped in plastic laminate. The Murphy bed folds away when not in use. Chi Wing Lo designed the master bedroom's maple bed and light-maple side table; built-ins cover radiators while providing storage. Glass tiles line the guest bathroom's shower; the remaining walls and floor are Corian.*



The doors also tie in with the palette of gray and white that dominates throughout the public space. The kitchen is a study in metals, with aluminum-finished cabinetry and stainless-steel appliances; counters are Zodiac, a quartz-based product. Bellying up to the bar are a pair of Claudio Feltrin and Eiri Iwakura's sophisticated white leather-covered stools, and the mood continues in the dining area with Paolo Piva's white

lacquered table and Antonio Citterio's chairs, covered in pale gray Ultra-suede. Overhead hangs Franco Raggi's pendant fixture in chrome-plated aluminum.

In the living area, the muted scheme extends to the contemporary furniture the couple already owned—sofa, chair, cocktail table, and tiered glass side tables—but Viñas's addition injects some color into the mix. She set the cocktail table atop a custom tomato-red wool rug.

White-painted wood built-in radiator covers provide further streamlining in the living area. In the two bedrooms, similar covers span the window walls, incorporating shelves as well.

The master suite showcases Chi Wing Lo's furniture, all of which the clients already owned. His light-maple side tables pick up on the ethereal →

The master bath's oversized shower features a stainless-steel rain showerhead.



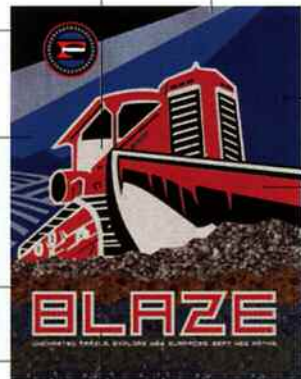
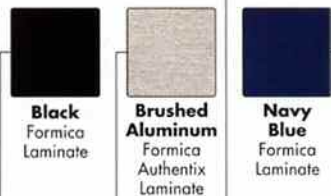
orthogonality of the room, but the straight lines and right angles are tempered by his maple bed.

In the master bath, making room meant moving the shower partition out 1 foot, then lining the resulting oversized shower with aqueous glass wall tile. In the guest room, space saving takes the form of a Murphy bed and a built-in desk. So every one of those 1,350 square feet pulls its own weight.

—Mary Beth Duehr

CUSTOM RUG (LIVING AREA): **PATERSON, FLYNN & MARTIN**. SLIDING DOORS (LIVING AREA), BED, DESK, CREDENZA (GUEST ROOM): **TECH-LINE STUDIO NEW YORK**. SOFA, CHAIR, COCKTAIL TABLE, SIDE TABLE (LIVING AREA), BED, SIDE TABLE (MASTER BEDROOM): **GIORGETTI**. CABINETRY (KITCHEN): **POGGEN-POHL**. REFRIGERATOR: **SUB-ZERO FREEZER COMPANY**. STOVETOP, OVEN: **MIELE**. WINE REFRIGERATOR: **VINOTHEQUE WINE CELLARS**. FLOORING (KITCHEN), WALL TILE (GUEST BATH): **STONE SOURCE**. COUNTER ZODIAQ (KITCHEN), WALL, FLOOR CORIAN (BATHROOMS): **DUPONT**. TABLE, CHAIRS (DINING AREA): **B&B ITALIA**; **TORAY INDUSTRIES** (UPHOLSTERY). STOOLS: **ARPER THROUGH FORMAT**. PENDANT FIXTURE: **FON-**

**TANA ARTE**. CUSTOM WINDOW TREATMENTS (BEDROOMS): **HOMEWORKS**; **DESIGNERS GUILD THROUGH OSBORNE & LITTLE** (FABRIC). PENDANT FIXTURE (MASTER BEDROOM): **GAMMA LUCE**. RECESSED WALL FIXTURES: **DELTA**. SINK (BATHROOMS): **HIGH TECH**. SINK FITTINGS: **VOLA**. CORIAN INSTALLATION: **MARVIC**. SHELF HARDWARE: **LEFROY BROOKS THROUGH SIMON'S HARDWARE**. MEDICINE CABINETS: **ROBERN**. WALL TILE (MASTER BATH): **CHIARO THROUGH URBAN ARCHAEOLOGY**. LIGHTING SUPPLIER: **LIGHTING CENTER**. PLUMBING SUPPLIER: **AF NEW YORK**. MILLWORK: **EPPLEY BUILDING AND DESIGN**. ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR: **CAMLIN ELECTRICAL CORP.** ARCHITECT OF RECORD: **STEVEN KRATCHMAN ARCHITECT.**



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