SPRING DESIGN

“Lichtenstein” in the Kitchen

Designers Carl Di Marino and Francesco Manzino completely gutted two neighboring apartments and created a home gallery.

BY WENDY GOODMAN

Photography by Stephen Karl Johnson
THE LIVING ROOM
The harvesting is
the master’s light.
French is by
Mary Wales, for
Lindsay Adelman,
and the carpet is
from Tai Ping in
D’Aquino Moman’s
design. The painted
sliding door to
the guest suite is by
Jonathan Enstein.

THEY DIDN’T WANT ANY NATURAL MATERIALS,” DESIGNERS Francine Monaco and Carl D’Aquino, of D’Aquino Moman, say almost in
unison, describing their clients’ vision for
the space, a combination of two apart-
ments (that had previously been six) on
Central Park South originally outfitted with
faux-crepe details. “It wasn’t that they
had an aversion to wood or marble,”
D’Aquino explains. “It was more about
pushing us to find new, creative ways
to heighten the visual experience of travelling
through the space.” The building, a hotel
turned condo, had a great location over-
looking the park, but the apartment’s lay-
out didn’t take advantage of those views.
The team set out to fix this, but when the
walls came down, they discovered struc-
tural details that couldn’t change, includ-
ing columns and beams. Now, after a year’s
work of reinvention, the park is visible
immediately upon entering the apartment,
as is a column that looks like a polished
jewel, sheathed in a mirror that reflects the
natural light. The pièce de résistance, in
the living-dining area, is a Lichtenstein-esque
mural that wraps around a service area.
The owners loved the Pop artist’s Drown-
ing Girl, so, D’Aquino says, “we thought,
Why don’t we come up with an idea that would appropriate that painting in a way that would be unique to the apartment? So we left the Pop graphics, but we took out the color. The color palette throughout the space—soft pearl gray—was chosen to enhance the artwork displayed in the rooms and gallery. The floors of poured urethane match the walls—which become ever so slightly iridescent in the master suite, thanks to decorative painter Jonathan Kuhn, who mixed eye shadow with paint to produce this shimmering effect. While the goal was to highlight the clients’ impressive art collection, Monaco says he didn’t want to “create a typical white-box Chelsea-gallery aesthetic.” D’Aquino adds, “We wanted something warmer. I mean, it is not a minimalist gallery; it is a family home.”

**MASTER BEDROOM**
The custom bed is by Liesel Design, and the iridescent wall finishers in both the bedroom and sitting room are by Jonathan Kuhn. The pair of stools at the foot of the bed are from Bernard & Gangster.

**GUEST BATH**
The custom-designed resin sink by Raven Atta looks like pieces of amber. The wall tiles are from Daltile North America.