

# EAST COAST HOME+DESIGN



# April / May

Architect Charles Hilton renovates a waterfront condominium on the West Coast. Interior Designer Robin McGarry creates a warm and inviting residence in Westchester. Architect Michael Smith and Interior Designer Scott Sanders renovate a New York City apartment into a fabulous family home in the Flatiron District.





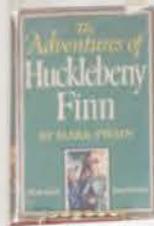
# A WINNING COMBINATION

There are specific challenges that present themselves when designing or renovating space in New York City. Unlike suburban projects that may allow the design team to tear down and start anew, an urban redesign must stay within the footprint of the buildings they exist in. “The design process is very similar but the canvas upon which you create is a bit different,” according to Wilton architect, Michael Smith, who worked in collaboration with the New York interior design firm of Scott Sanders, to transform this New York residence into the fabulous family home before us.

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PHOTOS BY LAURA MOSS



Fred Tomasetti







In the living room, a sofa covered in rich burgundy suede by Ralph Lauren sets the perfect backdrop for the clever mix of decorative pillows that adorn it.



Like many New York couples with small children, the clients had debated whether to head out to the suburbs as many do to raise their family or stay in the city. In the end, they chose to stay but were able to “bring the suburbs into the city” through the creative talents of Smith and Sanders.

Located in the famed Flatiron District of New York, the space came to life by combining three adjacent apartments. The new design yielded “open living spaces, five bedrooms and suburban-sized amenities such as walk-in closets, a mudroom, library, wet bars, den, foyer and great room,” said Smith. Blessed with high ceilings, the new space celebrates its classical architecture and contains many of the traditional details that the couple had seen and admired in the magnificent homes Mr. Smith designs throughout Fairfield and Westchester Counties.

“The three apartments we combined were actually three brand new, very modern apartments in an old manufacturing building with high ceilings and large windows,” said Smith. “Inspired by both city and country, the space is more transitional in style and includes many custom details including coffered ceilings, wall panels, wainscoting and custom built-ins throughout,” he added.

Crisp white trim and saturated wall colors set the tone in the color palette for the apartment. The formal entry hall creates a sense of enfilade as you pass through to the main living area. Walls dressed in French blue grass cloth make a bold statement. A red and blue hand knotted wool and silk area rug helps unify the two areas. Sporting a needlepoint lion, the ebonized spool leg antique stool is English. The coffered ceiling adds architectural interest and lifts the eye up.

In the living room, a sofa covered in rich burgundy suede by Ralph



Sleek surfaces and crisp white cabinetry by Christopher Peacock keep the kitchen bright and airy.



*Crisp white trim and saturated wall colors set the tone in the color palette for the apartment.*

Lauren sets the perfect backdrop for the clever mix of decorative pillows that adorn it. Velvet Ikats, silk stripes and warm brown embroidered fabric make up the pillow collection adding pops of color to the sea of deep red. Neutral toned wool area rugs, bound in chocolate brown leather, ground both the living and dining room arrangements providing a similar platform for the cozy arrangements. A versatile large scale leather tufted ottoman pulls together the comfortable living room seating arrangement.

With beautifully detailed mill work and custom designed built-ins by Smith, the dining area reads more library-like and relaxed. Transitionally styled leather dining chairs surround a round custom table from Manheim Rousseau. Shaped in a form that's conducive to conversation, the ta-

ble's fine patina plays off nicely against the warm tones in the hardwood floor. The well-stocked wet bar in the dining area makes entertaining easy here. In both areas, matching dark waxed bronze chandeliers illuminate the spaces. Doses of blue and cream add subtle color to the scheme. Roman shades in a simple blue stripe, dress the windows. Blue and cream seat cushions in a contemporary print top the rush seats on the ladder back bar stools. Tall blue table lamps help create an artificial boundary between the living and dining areas.

Classically inspired wood paneling envelops the study. Finished in warm tones, it appears more traditional in appearance, exuding old-world charm. Cream colored relaxed Roman shades soften the windows and are trimmed with a blue tape. Soothing

neutrals set the tone in this room. A custom ottoman upholstered in taupe plaid pairs nicely with the cream covered loveseat by its side. Creamy neutral carpeting covers the floor upon which they sit. French blue, cream and beige stripe and a French embroidered silk have been used for the pillows. The library palette takes on a different tone. English club chairs are upholstered in deep Hunter green and set against floor to ceiling cabinetry finished in white. Richly colored walls add depth to the space and support the vivid colors of the chairs and throw draped casually across a chair. A wool plaid pillow adds texture to the arrangement. The round side table is a 19th century antique. This area is also outfitted with a wet bar and wine refrigerator. The well equipped kitchen lives large with crisp white cabinetry by Christopher Pea-



Sunny yellows and bright orange accents create a happy glow in one child's bedroom.





Cool neutral walls provide the perfect backdrop for contemporary artwork in the master bedroom. Its modern theme seems juxtaposed against the more traditional scheme of the room.



cock defining the space. Rising from floor to ceiling they combine both solid and glass front doors which offer ample opportunities for both storage and display. The sleek white tile backsplash and marble perimeter counter tops support the fresh feel in the room. Open to the surrounding living and dining areas, it truly serves as the heart of the home.

A serene mix of cool blues and light neutrals filter through the master bedroom. Grounded on a cream colored silk area rug, traditional mahogany furnishings have been married with more modern accessories giving it a youthful feel. A simple globe lantern casts a contemporary glow above the white shearling area rug. Not far away, a custom mahogany writing desk with Chippendale side chair keeps close company next to a modern ottoman covered in bright yellow satin. Cream and taupe velvet cover the Ralph Lauren bench. There is movement in the vibrant shades of color gracing the artwork hanging above the bed.

Handmade needlepoint area rugs echo

the colors seen throughout the children's rooms. A Chippendale chair springs to life in lime green poised against a white painted desk from Country Swedish. Lavender walls and pastel striped window treatments give this space its soft feminine feel while bright yellow and orange help make the second room cheery and bright. A large scaled armoire offers each prized possession a place to rest in the room.

While deep in the city this fabulous apartment could easily be confused for an elegant country home. Open and inviting, it offers a quiet retreat from the busy streets below. More classical than metro, this family friendly home combines sophisticated suburban interiors with all the urban conveniences needed, right outside your front door. ■

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A simple globe lantern casts a contemporary glow above a white shearling area rug in the master bedroom. Bright yellow satin covers a sculpted ottoman. Classically inspired wood paneling envelopes the study next door. Cream colored Roman shades trimmed with pale blue soften the windows while upholstered pieces sporting soft neutral fabrics set a relaxing tone throughout.

## RESOURCES

### ARCHITECT

Michael Smith  
462 Danbury Road  
Wilton, CT 06897  
203.563.0553  
[MichaelSmithArchitects.com](http://MichaelSmithArchitects.com)

### INTERIOR DESIGN

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Suite 803  
New York, NY 10010  
212.343.8298  
[scottsandersllc.com](http://scottsandersllc.com)