

DANCING LIGHT To instill the living room with a sense of relaxation and comfort, the designers outfitted it with oversized furniture. The Tibetan rug's swirls take visual cues from outside, mimicking Central Park's labyrinthine footpaths. *Mira Munich* by Roland Fischer.



THE LIGHT FANTASTIC

ARCHITECT PAUL S. GLEICHER GIVES A CENTRAL PARK WEST APARTMENT WITH A TRADITIONAL FLOOR PLAN A FRESH NEW REFLECTION ON LIFE



IT ALMOST GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT THE DESIGN OF ANY APARTMENT OVERLOOKING CENTRAL Park should be all about the views. That was not initially the case for this particular 3,400-square-foot, architecturally staid, four-bedroom apartment on Central Park West. For its owners—a couple who wanted a loft-like, downtown feel—architect Paul S. Gleicher managed to bring in the light.

“We wanted to open up the interior—specifically the rooms overlooking the park—and create a clean Zen-like aerie that exudes tranquility and comfort.” And what better way to achieve this feat than to literally tear down walls? With Gleicher as the driving force, project architect Nicole Gustafson and interior designer David Barry set to work.

Eliminating superfluous walls separating the entry gallery from the living room, the living room from the dining room, and the dining room (which extends west into the breakfast room and

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RELAXED FORMALITY Clockwise from top left: By keeping the entry gallery ceiling at a lower height, Gleicher was able to instill a sense of monumental scale in the living and dining rooms. Bridget Riley's *Large Fragment* hangs over the macassar ebony entry console from Profiles. A rectilinear discipline carries throughout the apartment, perfectly reflected in the dining room's rug, lighting, and set of four woodcuts by Donald Judd. Despite the rich luxury of the pear wood paneling, the clients opted to keep the original herringbone wood floors, which strikes a beautiful balance. The piano enlivens what would normally be a transition zone.



REFLECTING POOLS *This page:* In the breakfast room, a banquette and Alto chairs from Dennis Miller keep to the linear theme in a woven-cotton striped fabric from Clarence House. Textured wallpaper makes Sol LeWitt's *Horizontal Lines of Color* pop. *Opposite, right:* To balance out the polished look seen throughout, Gleicher installed honed black granite kitchen counters at the clients request. "The counters have a wonderful feel with a certain visual thickness," says Gleicher. A stainless steel backsplash and James Siena's enamel on aluminum *5 against 4* add the perfect amount of color and verve. *Opposite, bottom:* Gleicher continues his use of heavy materials that appear weightless with a custom lacewood veneer bed. Geometric artwork by Robert Mangold. Glassware in a light shade of green reflects the verticality of the skyscrapers and brings the outside in.



kitchen) from the kitchen accomplished the goal of maximizing views for all the rooms facing east towards the park. The reconfiguration also solved a previous navigational quandary. Now a glance to the right of the entry gallery yields the vista of a continuous open space with a central living room area, dining area to the left and master bedroom to the right—a room kept private yet accessible thanks to the addition of an extra-wide-pocket door.

As befitting an erudite architect sapient in his trade, Gleicher convinced his clients to go with a luxurious, pear wood paneling he instituted throughout the apartment—most noticeably, framing the oversized windows that line the entire east side of the apartment. To avoid a sense of heaviness, Gleicher floated the paneling on the wall, allowing for a gap before it hits the ceiling. There, in line with the window tops, he mounted custom stainless-steel picture rails—perfect to hang the clients' evolving art collection. Natural light bounces off the high-gloss panels and reflects deep into the interiors of the apartment. Sills of ancient topaz onyx stretch the full length of the windows. When the sun has set, cove lighting installed below the onyx gives off a romantic glow that mimics the warmth and serenity of a sunset.

In the end, Gleicher created a home where all the splendor of the outdoors was brought in—in essence forming a reflecting pool of natural and man-made beauty. SEE RESOURCES

