



# HOMES & GARDENS

## FRESH directions

WHAT CONTEMPORARY STYLE LOOKS LIKE TODAY

HOMES & GARDENS

THE ART OF LIVING BEAUTIFULLY

MAY 2026

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by new creatives

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May 2026

# ARTISTIC TALENT

Home to a former cellist and designed by a studio known for its creativity, this New York apartment was always going to be fabulous

WORDS KEITH FLANAGAN PHOTOGRAPHY TIM LENZ/OTTO

## SITTING ROOM

Mustardy walls act as a neutral that absorbs the room's joyful tones without competing.

Walls in Danville Tan HC-91, Benjamin Moore. Benediktinerstift Melk IV artwork by Candida Höfer. Custom sofa, Jarvis Studio; covered in Benjamin Camel, Zinc Textile. Club chair, ProfilesNY; covered in Adamo & Eva, Dedar. Custom rug, Jarvis Studio; made by Sacco Carpet



**HALLWAY**  
Lustrous wallpapers  
across the ceiling and  
walls line the dark,  
narrow space.  
Geo Pale Gold wallpaper,  
Porter Teleo. Picasso  
Singapore Blocks wallpaper  
(ceiling), Phillip Jeffries.  
Doorknobs, E.R. Butler & Co

“The apartment is a very intimate, cosy place that is very sensual, atmospheric and moody”



**KITCHEN**  
Rattan insets across the uppermost cabinets lighten the look of ceiling-high storage. Splashback tiles, Alchemy Materials. Brass hardware, E.R. Butler & Co



**DINING AREA**

Chamfered edges on the large stone dining table soften its visual weight.

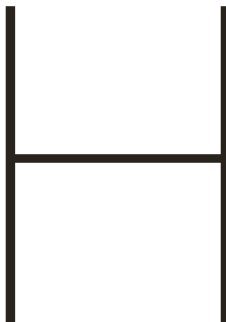
Silver travertine table, Jarvis Studio. Mast dining chairs, Atelier Pendhapa at The Invisible Collection. Boa chandelier, Ted Abramczyk; represented by Ralph Pucci International



## TV ROOM

The custom joinery includes a desk.

**Joinery**, Jarvis Studio. Sisal Ocean **wallcovering**, Mark Alexander. Custom **ottoman**, Jarvis Studio; covered in Bella Pelle, Jerry Pair Leather. Custom **sofa**, Jarvis Studio; covered in Adamo & Eva, Dedar. *Glorious Midnight Pandemonium* **artwork** by Demetrius Wilson, Armature Projects



arlem would be a renaissance for Adam Friedberg. After making his name in Colorado's real estate market, the financier returned to New York where, in a very different life, he was a

performing cellist. The neighbourhood's creative energy was an easy sell, and a two-bedroom apartment in a Gilded Age mansion was his idea of the perfect setting.

Starting from scratch – no furniture, no heirlooms, no art – Adam didn't want anything he'd seen before. While scrolling Instagram, his thumb landed on Jarvis Studio, drawn by their eclectic, no-repeats energy. 'We always say we are more like a fashion house – I look at every project as a collection, and so every project is different because the client is the inspiration,' says interior designer Jarvis Wong, who runs the New York studio with studio director Erik Staley.

Adam gave Jarvis Studio carte blanche, with one catch: while extremely open-minded, he is also deeply analytical. 'He likes to know why you make a decision – so when you propose an idea, you better have a good answer for it,' says Jarvis. 'It made us even sharper.'

It was only meant to be a decoration project. The apartment inherited a few charms, namely its original wooden window casings that handsomely frame views of a Romanesque Revival church across the street, but was otherwise lacklustre. So when Adam enquired about updating the kitchen, Jarvis saw a window of his own: 'I said, "Adam, since we're talking about this... the floor also has to go,"' noting how the wood clashed with the regal casings and shutters. Adam accepted the logic: African mahogany plank flooring went in and a larger renovation followed.

The open kitchen set the direction. Adam is an avid cook, so Jarvis maximised functionality with cabinets that soar to the high ceiling. It risked overwhelming the living area with even more wood, but he subdued the palette with a forest-green finish and integrated unexpected details that lightened the look, including airy rattan insets across the top cabinets and a splashback of hand-painted striped tiles.

The open sitting room embraced those colourful intentions. 'We wanted the carpet to be a piece of artwork,' says Jarvis of its custom high pile. Dollops of



deep navy, soft teal and dusty pink layer joy and texture into the palette. The dining area, meanwhile, makes its own mark with a bespoke silver travertine table. Grounding the space, it introduces a weighty material that appears soft thanks to expertly bevelled edges.

The atmosphere shifts in Adam's moodier bedroom, where aubergine drenches the walls and ceilings with a cocooning effect. Jarvis designed a swooping headboard, covered in a flame-stitch-inspired fabric, that pierces the room's tall proportions with obelisk-like headposts – but countered with a bespoke powder blue rug with a lace-inspired border that skirts the bed, keeping the room on its toes.

A media room deepens the introspective mood, with deep blue grasscloth wallpaper and a bespoke, generously scaled purple sofa. And without risking a sedentary feel, a large artwork with oversized brushstrokes ups the energy. 'It sort of shook everything up,' recalls Jarvis after Adam green-lit the painting.

Art also comes into focus on one of the sitting room's mustardy walls, where a Candida Höfer photograph now hangs. It would have been easily justifiable to Adam: it picks up the sitting room's colours, nods to the neighbouring church and extends the perception of space as the eye travels into the apse of a Benedictine abbey. But Jarvis didn't need to convince him. 'When Adam saw it, he said, "Oh my God, I've been there,"' recalls Jarvis. It struck a chord; cathedrals and chapels were common venues when he played classical music, after all. And for a cellist returning to New York, and his more expressive self, it was full circle. 🎻

■ [jarvisstudio.com](http://jarvisstudio.com)

“We were having so much fun – the truth is, we really pushed boundaries with this one”

**BEDROOM**  
The cabinet anchors the scheme, introducing material contrast with green mica surfaces paired with brass and walnut details.

Oskar **cabinet**, Jallu Ébénistes; represented by Rune. *Two of Them* **artwork** by Agata Stomma. Custom Dana Arbib **glass bowl**, Tiwa Select



## Q&A Jarvis Wong

The designer shares his style inspiration

**BIGGEST INDULGENCE** The custom silver travertine table with chamfered edges. It brought tranquillity to the colourful room.

**SMALL CHANGE, BIG IMPACT** Flooring installed by the former owner clashed with the historic joinery. Replacing it with African mahogany planks from I.J. Peiser's Sons restored cohesion and enhanced the richness of the window detailing.

**GO-TO COLOUR** Dakota Woods Green by Benjamin Moore. It's rich, deep and historic – perfect for a modern yet traditional kitchen.

**FAVOURITE DESIGN DETAIL** The kitchen's custom Alchemy Materials splashback and the bevelled cabinet edges added whimsy and surprise.

### YOUR STYLE IN THREE WORDS

Stylish, elegant and refined.

### BEDROOM

The aubergine colour is both modern and classic.

Walls in Dark Burgundy 2075-10, Benjamin Moore.

Painting by Klaudia Lata.

Custom bed, Jarvis Studio; covered in Calypso, Jim Thompson Fabrics.

Arcadia bedside table,

Lawson-Fenning. Custom

rug, Jarvis Studio; made

by Sacco Carpet. Gigaro

lamps, Charles Zana at The Invisible Collection

