

# NEW YORK SPACES

THE HOME DESIGN MAGAZINE OF METROPOLITAN NEW YORK

PARK  
AVE  
COLLECTOR

MORRIS  
COUNTY  
SHOW  
HOUSE

BROOKLYN  
DESIGN COUPLE

high DESIGN

NEWYORKSPACESMAG.COM

\$5.99 US / \$6.99 CAN



0 74851 08940 8

# THE REMIX



Intérieurs founder Francine Gardner gets a new groove going in Universal Motown exec Sylvia Rhone's Battery Park duplex



a style  
**RESONATES**

Opposite: In the living room, a grand-scale painting by Ouattara Watts (a disciple of Jean-Michel Basquiat) presides over a Minotti sofa and African drum tables from Interieurs. This page: Ingo Maurer pendants illuminate the dining table, positioned to drink in the panoramic views; natural shades, Great Plains fabric.

artistic  
MOVEMENT

This page: A concrete countertop and cabinetry finished in stainless steel anchor a kitchen designed more than a decade ago by Clodagh. Opposite page: French-born sculptor Jerome Abel Seguin came from Bali to personally install works made from petrified palm-tree sections (top) and dancing vines (bottom); Francine Gardner, who shares owner Sylvia Rhone's love of art and travel, found the 19th-century alabaster Buddha (center) while in Burma.







creative  
LICENSE

Opposite page: For the guest room, Intérieurs designed a platform bed with a frame in solid oak. Rhone personally acquired the one-of-a-kind chandelier, made in Britain, and light-up easy chair. "It's not one of those snuggle-up chairs," she says. "It's really more beautiful than it is comfortable. To me, these are pieces of art, as much as a sculpture or painting."



AS PRESIDENT OF UNIVERSAL MOTOWN RECORDS, SYLVIA RHONE HOLDS one of the most powerful, influential, and visible positions in the music industry. The Wharton School-educated executive started her career at Buddah Records in 1974, and hasn't stopped traveling since. But at home, Rhone isn't afraid to get down on the floor—literally: Interior designer Francine Gardner, founder and principal of the New York design showroom *Intérieurs*, realized she had struck a chord with Rhone when the no-nonsense businesswoman decided to lie down on the thick-pile silk rugs that the designer had brought to this Battery Park City duplex for a design audition. Harmony was apparent.

"Francine and I share the same taste, the same eye," Sylvia Rhone says. Each collector independently honed a taste for Asian and African antiques, and their relationship grew as Gardner's international travels yielded rare finds for the apartment.

Hired to put a new spin on the waterfront duplex, Gardner re-

sponded with a neutral palette, comfortable furniture, and soft textures designed to establish a mellow mood. "Sylvia works around the clock," Gardner says, "and she wanted a very soothing space to return to. Nothing harsh, nothing aggressive: Just a space where she could take a step back from her working life and just be herself."

One of Gardner's objectives, she says, was not to project a particular fashion or showy style, but instead to create a space that seemed to come from Rhone's core. To achieve it, Gardner brought in low-profile furniture to accentuate the home's 360-degree panorama. Chaises in each room invite lounging at a height optimized to take in stunning Hudson River views. "The soft chenille in the master bedroom just seems to melt into the walls," Gardner says.

Antique Buddha statues evoke a tranquil temple—the perfect antidote to a life that Sylvia Rhone herself describes as hectic. The remix did the trick, giving Rhone a place to tone down. ~ See Resources.



PHOTOGRAPH BY ANTOINETTE BOZIC



world  
**HARMONY**

Opposite page: "We designed this bed as the absolute Zen sleeping space," says Gardner of the master bedroom's elevated platform. The gold sculpture hails from L'Eclairer, one of Rhone's favorite shops in Paris. Top right: The bedside Buddha is Burmese. Center right: A cashmere throw covers an Intérieurs chaise covered in Kravet fabric. Lower right: Sculptural objects bring the artistry of the world to Rhone's window sill.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHAEL LEWIS