

WEB-EXCLUSIVE HOME TOUR

Tour a Central Park Home With a “Sexy Mood” That Looks Like It Could Be in Paris

When it came to crafting her own Art Deco home, one designer was inspired by her French heritage

By Jenny Xie

Photography by Douglas Friedman

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Think of Central Park, and one might conjure images of dappled paths, lush knolls, and rowboats drifting across glassy water. After dusk, however, shadows descend and transform the sprawling grounds into something more mysterious and alluring. For the gut renovation of the prewar apartment—situated on Park Avenue just blocks from Central Park—that interior designer [Danielle Richter](#) shares with her husband, Glenn, she drew inspiration from the sinuous landscape as well as the feminine energy of the stars and the moon.

“I wanted to incorporate the juxtaposition of the curvilinear shapes of the park when it’s getting dark and the straight lines of the surrounding architecture,” Richter says. “There’s a sexy mood.” To that end, hourglass curves and celestial motifs repeat throughout the couple’s 3,200-square-foot apartment, which originally attracted Richter with its wide footprint, high ceilings, and three-sided exposure. Taken down to the bricks and meticulously reimaged, the home now hosts Richter’s design office as well as two bedrooms and four and a half bathrooms.

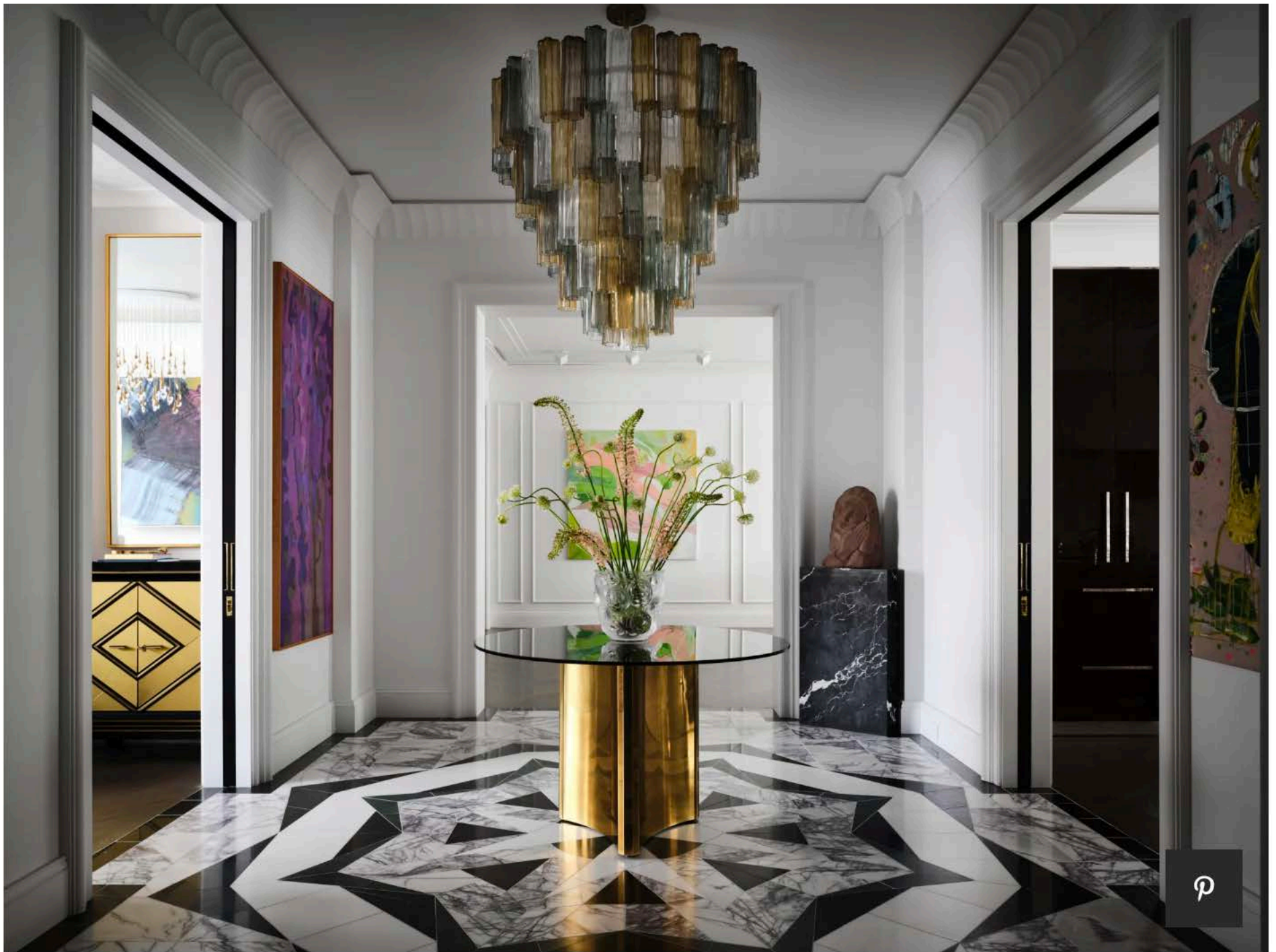
From first impressions onward, the apartment is a testament to creativity, boldness, and feminine power. “I had an opportunity based on the perimeter walls to have a grand foyer and create some drama,” Richter says. “I wanted to treat the foyer like an art gallery that would lead you to an artful home.” As such, three paintings by female artists hang in the space, where custom Ann Sacks tiles create a starburst pattern underfoot. In the corner, an Art Deco-era sandstone bust showcases the woman’s form on a marble plinth.

The adjacent dining room is similarly curated. "I wrote down where each guest would have a fantastic view of the apartment's artwork," Richter says. "The boiserie was applied to the walls to regulate the large space and create a backdrop for the contemporary art." Indeed, throughout the residence, classical influences like plaster moldings, antique fireplaces, and chevron wood floors nod to the building's provenance and Richter's French heritage. Inspired by Central Park's water lilies, the designer also created an undulating dining table whose three segments of natural quartzite nestle against each other, showing off the bronze joinery.

Custom bronze door handles, again evoking the night sky with their half-moon shape, lead to the kitchen, which is a decidedly glamorous space with hammered metal cabinets and a pink quartzite island. "I wanted it to be a gem in our home," Richter says, "a place we'd enjoy every morning making coffee, or in the evening sitting down to carryout."

The public entertainment areas cede to more intimate private quarters that subtly echo the home's themes. The custom leather bed and wool-and-silk rug in the primary bedroom, for example, feature a repeating hourglass shape, and an hourglass canopy hangs overhead. Her bathroom—Richter's favorite space in the home—is presided over by a custom bas relief depicting an Art Deco-style goddess dropping roses into the tub. "I wanted to create a modern, clean spa with a nod to the past," Richter says. "I love mixing old and new."

At once timeless and current, seductive and starry, Richter's home illustrates what happens when someone with extraordinary vision takes complete control. "When you're working on your own home, it's so satisfying to do a gut renovation and know every inch of space," she says. "I feel very blessed to be able to do that for me and my husband."



Art: © A.E. Artworks/Berry Campbell, New York. Anna Preiss.

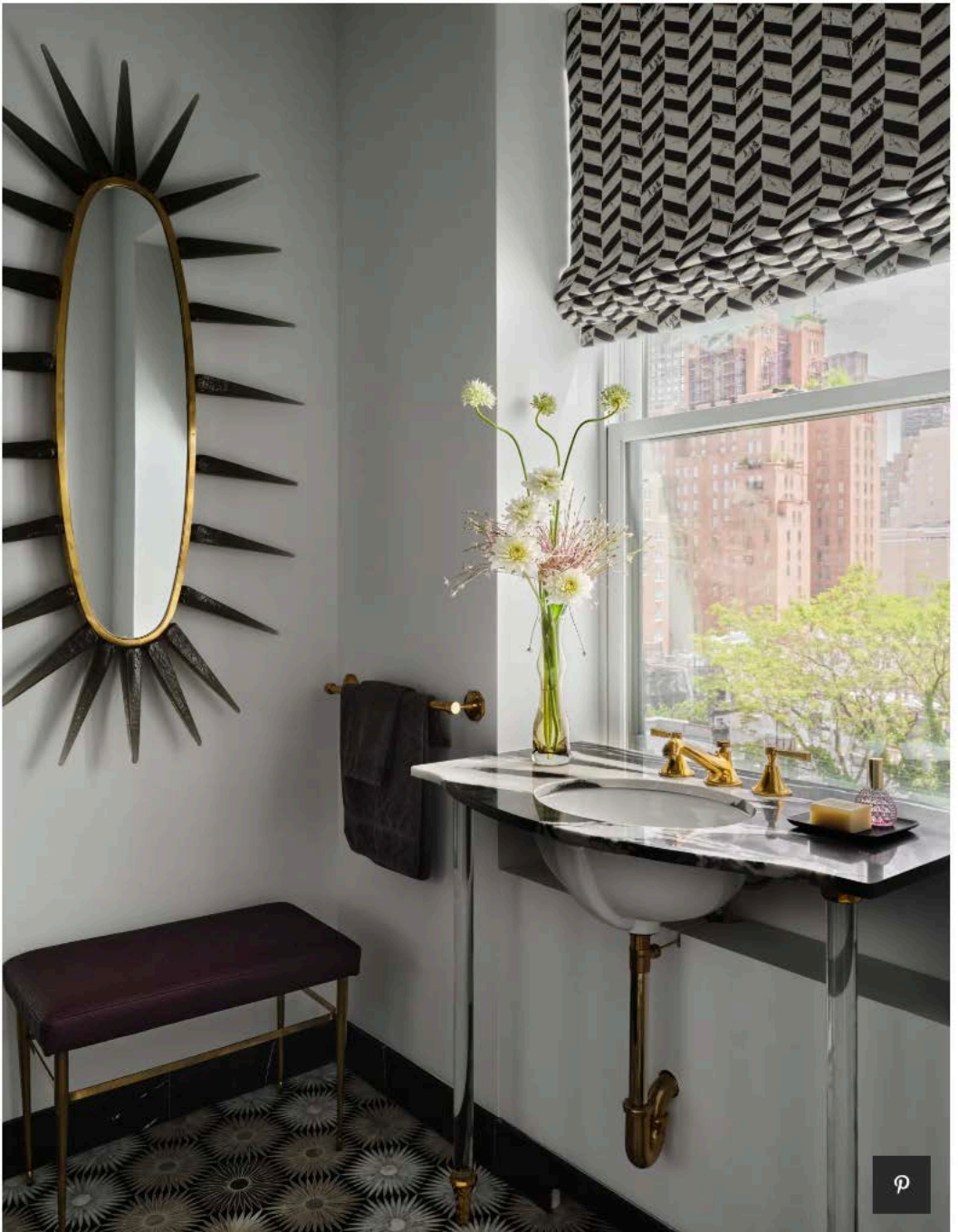
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Danielle Richter seized the available space to create a dramatic foyer, appointing it with custom mosaic tiles from [Ann Sacks](#), a vintage [Venini](#) chandelier, and a vintage [Mastercraft](#) table. Three paintings by female artists—Perle Fine, Anna Preiss, and Amy Beager—speak to the apartment’s celebration of womanhood, as does the Art Deco sandstone bust raised on a marble plinth.



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Richter's office, located off the foyer, is "high impact with saturated art," the designer says. The pièce de résistance is the midcentury desk from [John Salibello](#) whose rams head-shaped base represents the "sense of strength and adventure I draw from for my work," she says. "It's a risk-taking statement that symbolizes what I like to do for my clients."



3/12

The starburst pattern in the [Artistic Tile](#) flooring in the office bathroom plays off the starburst mirror Richter purchased in Paris. The chevron pattern of [The Shade Store](#) window treatments pick up the shapes found in the foyer. "I was playing with shapes and how everything relates to one another," the designer says.



Art: Francois Aubrun/Taylor Graham Gallery. Evelyne Brader-Frank.

4/12

“I wanted the living room to be a serene place to relax with a book or share a glass of wine in the evening,” Richter says. “I created a space with a moonlit glow, which I achieved with the color scheme, lighting, and curves in the furniture throughout.” A Sputnik chandelier from Glustin Luminaires dazzles like a star above a custom rug designed to mimic a Central Park pond. An antique fireplace and panel molding add classic character to the space. Custom rug from [The Rug Company](#).



Art: Isabell Beyel/Mark Hachem Gallery. © 2022 The Estate of Walter Darby Bannard / Licensed by VAGA at Artists Rights Society (ARS), NY).

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Taking inspiration from Central Park's water lilies, Richter designed a segmented dining table of natural quartzite and bronze. "I celebrated the joinery instead of making it discreet," she says. "The Mongolian fur chairs soften the hard surfaces, and the vintage Kalmar chandeliers punctuate the glamour." Custom bronze hardware shaped like half moons adorn the doors leading to the kitchen.



6/12

Richter describes the kitchen as the gem of the home—a fitting moniker for a space outfitted with hammered German silver cabinets by [de Giulio](#) and a monolithic kitchen island made of pink quartzite. “I wanted something to compete with the beautiful restaurants in the city,” Richter says. Vintage Börge Johansson stools, reupholstered in black leather, offset the modern form of the island, and a Murano glass chandelier perfectly complements the cabinets.



7/12

In the powder room, chinoiserie wallpaper from [Jab](#) recalls an evening walk in the park, and a vintage pendant light adds a touch of feminine glamour. A perfume niche adds extra counter space in a compact room.



Art: America Martin/JoAnne Artman Gallery

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Richter designed the library around a vibrant painting by artist America Martin. “When deciding how to incorporate a Colombian American artist, I designed a cocoon of black millwork that offset the bright colors and created a warm place to watch movies in the evening,” she says. “If the apartment is like going to Paris, this is St. Barths—a little excursion.”



9/12

The hourglass motif returns in the custom bed and rug in the primary suite, which also features an hourglass canopy. An Art Nouveau fireplace—sourced from Paris—grounds the room, and the vintage [Emil Stejnar](#) chandelier and moon-shaped mirror from Glustin Luminaires pay homage to heavenly bodies.



10/12

"I'm a huge lover of fashion, so I wanted a personal boutique," Richter says of the dressing room, which is anchored by a custom mother of pearl island shaped to look like a raw diamond. (A tiny bonus: It opens for storage.) A custom diamond pendant light echoes its form overhead.



11/12

For her bathroom, Richter commissioned a custom bas relief inspired by one she had found in a Paris flea market. "It's a daily reminder that if something doesn't exist, set out and make it," she says. The architectural piece depicts a larger-than-life Central Park goddess in a modernized Art Deco style. The [Waterworks](#) tub and filler add a more understated counterpoint to a vintage starburst chandelier from [John Salibello](#).



12/12

All eyes are on the violet marble in the guest bathroom. "The stone's movement blurs the corners and expands the room to no end," Richter says.