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# SPACES

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# hang LOOSE

Vicente Wolf envisions an unstructured, yet sophisticated environment for a bachelor living on Madison Square Park



TEXT SALLIE BRADY PHOTOGRAPHY VICENTE WOLF

#### cool CURVES

In the living room, a 21-foot half-moon sofa from VW Home suits one for a nap or eight for a party. Kidney-shaped granite-and-steel coffee table, VW Home. The parchment screen, by Garrison Rousseau, adds warmth. Ponyskin ottoman and all chairs from VW Home. LAX by New York-based artist Enoc Perez.



**GLOBAL reach**

In keeping with the casual mood of the open-plan apartment, designer Vicente Wolf eschewed a formal dining table and matching chairs for a custom banquette with chocolate-brown suede and stone leather chairs, giving the client the option to dine or work on his laptop. Chandelier by David Weeks from Ralph Pucci. Hinson wall sconces. *Neptune* by Brian Wills. Cow hides on the floor from Edelman Leather. This page: In the foyer, a floating shelf of recycled hardwood glides around the corner into the hallway and exhibits 19th-century Burmese wooden tops mounted as sculpture. Cindy Sherman photograph.

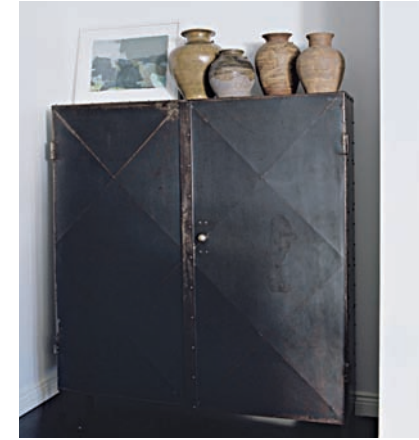


**THE CLIENT'S FATHER AND BROTHER HAD WORKED WITH VICENTE WOLF TO** design homes of their own: one grand and dramatic, the other family-oriented and rooted in tradition. But this single, 40-something entertainment executive wanted something completely different—an informal, high-style space where he would feel equally comfortable alone or entertaining 20 friends and colleagues. Vicente Wolf realized the youngest family member's vision in this three-bedroom home, creating a hip

version of elegance on Madison Square Park.

The client required a space that was functional, where he could work, host parties and “hang-out,” without worrying about spills or scuffs on precious fabrics. A contemporary art collector, he also craved a sophisticated environment that was warm and worldly, not just another cold, white-washed contemporary loft.

Wolf started by positioning the living room to look out to the win-



**shades OF WOODLANDS**

Above: The client was drawn to earth tones, but didn't want to live in a dark cave. The den layers shades of stone, straw, and chestnut with wallpaper from Donghia, a custom daybed from VW Home, and carpeting from Fox Floors. Alvar Aalto Wing chair from Tobron. Duplex floor lamps from Ralph Pucci. Left: A blackened-steel safe, originally inside a Bank of France, is now a living-room cabinet. Cindy Sherman photograph and 18th-century Thai pottery.

dows. "I loved the space when I first saw it," says the designer. "The long, rectangular living room had a built-in drama to it." Wolf selected oversized furnishings and lightweight chairs that guests could move around easily, as well as a skirted ottoman for feet or drinks.

Worry-free leathers, woven plastics, and commercial-weight fabrics in tranquil taupes, creams, and browns, were used throughout the apartment. Instead of a traditional dining table, Wolf designed a banquette where the homeowner spreads out his work and checks his e-mail. The area is defined by a cowhide rug, dyed pearl gray. "I like the irregularity of the shape," says Wolf. "It brings a softness, an informality."

In no way did the client want the apartment to end up looking thematic, and he encouraged Wolf to layer 18th-century Thai pottery with his Cindy Sherman photographs, antique wooden furniture from India, and contemporary paintings. Knowing his client to be a keen collector, Wolf had to incorporate a way to rotate pieces, which he accomplished with picture ledgers. The art collection also influenced the selection of light fixtures that were themselves sculptural and modern, such as the chandelier in the dining room from David Weeks for Ralph Pucci.

"He wanted the space to look accumulated, not 'done,' and very cool looking," says Wolf. Which, of course, it is. ~ See Resources.



**urban RETREAT**

To make the master bedroom ceiling seem higher, Wolf added a line of mirrors at the top of the upholstered walls, which are covered in a platinum mohair from VW Home. The bed, made with Oswald Linens, sits on a wooden platform that is on wheels. The parchment night table holds 17th-century Thai spearheads mounted as sculpture from VW Home. White swing-arm lamp from Hinson. *Solimar Apartment Building, La Havana*, by Enoc Perez, is part of the client's ever-growing collection of contemporary art. Tonal carpet from Fox Floors.