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shimmering light.

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IT'S NOT EVERY DAY THAT AN INTERIOR DESIGNER IS ASKED TO SURVEY A SPACE BEFORE HIS OR HER CLIENT HAS EVEN PURCHASED IT. But, if you're Vicente Wolf, it happens more often than not, and this space on the seventh floor of one of Manhattan's newest residential buildings is no exception.

The client had already asked Wolf to assess a few other contenders. Wolf took a peek at this one and gave the nod—with the caveat that he'd convert the three-bedroom home into two, expand the living room and brighten up and conceal the kitchen from the entry.

Though its shiny serpentine façade has made the building one of the more notable architectural additions to the neighborhood in recent years, it also makes for a quirky, undulating interior space (with an occasional large column) that posed a challenge for a designer known for chic and refined interiors—and accustomed to working in rooms with relatively straight lines.

"The floor plan didn't divide the space, but instead boomeranged you around," says Wolf, who worked on the project with his design associate, David Rogal. Determined to define individual sections of the apartment with color and structural elements, "I wanted to give each area a different mood," says Wolf.

First on the agenda was to widen one end of the living room by punching through a wall to the third bedroom and combining the two spaces into one large area for entertaining. The result is an enlarged alcove



STYLE SELECTION

Available from Showplace Antique + Design Center, this 1970s-era iron sculpture features an aged-patina finish, which adds to its industrial appeal. *Vintage modernist worked-iron sculpture, \$3,750; 1stdibs.com*

INTERIOR DESIGN Vicente Wolf and David Rogal,

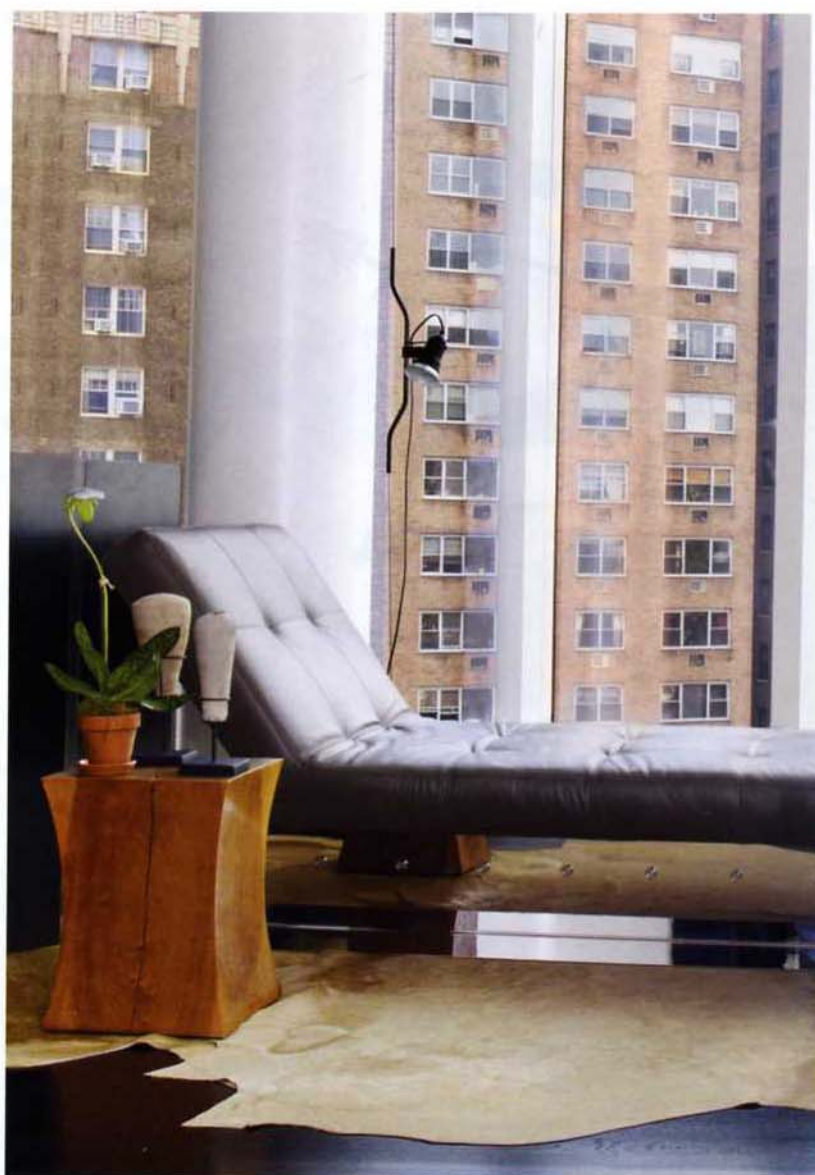
Vicente Wolf Associates, Inc.

BEDROOMS 2 **BATHROOMS** 3 **SQUARE FEET** 2,000



ROCK OF AGES

Tribal necklaces from Indonesia are displayed atop a 19th-century French table with an iron base and a thick, stone top in the expanded living area.



GOOD DAY SUNSHINE

The living room's chaise appears to float in space. Wolf used a wool carpet and a hide rug to warm up the area. A tracked curtain encircles the perimeter of the apartment, allowing both for privacy and shade from the sunlight streaming in through the floor-to-ceiling windows.

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for which Wolf designed a curved L-shaped sofa that seats at least eight and fits into a rounded corner of the room. Additional seating is afforded by glazed-linen swivel chairs and a double-width chaise.

To define the dining area, Wolf designed an upholstered, high-backed banquette with a window-like cutout that, with its curves, gives the space an intimate feel. An oval dining table made of honed moonstone complements its soft contours, and a molecule-shaped chandelier casts a warm, soft light that is reflected in four polished-steel panels mounted on a nearby wall.



STYLE SELECTION

Form and function come together in Lindsey Adelman's creative made-to-order Bubble series, which features brass and hand-blown glass. *Branching Bubble*, \$8,750; lindseyadelman.com

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"Being so exposed, this space could have easily been very cold," says Wolf, gesturing toward the apartment's wrap-around, floor-to-ceiling windows. To soften its stark light, he installed a translucent curtain that follows a track along a meandering perimeter, allowing his client to edit the view; gave the floors a dark stain as a ground for textured hides and carpets; and applied a white gloss to the 10-foot-high ceilings to produce a subtly reflective effect.

Wolf relied on a mix of elements to achieve a patina of age and sophistication. A selection of antique and vintage pieces gives the space some grounding, including a pair of Ethiopian chairs fit for a monarch; a collection of Indonesian tribal necklaces; a 19th-century French table and midcentury Swedish chairs; red, polished-lacquer Italian lamps from the 1950s; and a mahogany-and-rosewood table from Portugal. "It's the juxtaposition of different periods that makes this modern space so visually beautiful," says the designer.

Placed throughout the apartment are decorative objects—such as a wooden crocodile head from Mali and 16th-century Thai mirrors made of bronze—and large pieces of art that draw the eye: a ferocious,





HIGH DEFINITION

To delineate a distinct space for dining, Wolf crafted a curved and upholstered highback banquette that lends the space an intimate feel. The wall just inside the entry features panels of polished steel that reflect light. A Portuguese table with turned legs dates to the 18th century.



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larger-than-life polar bear that greets visitors to the master bedroom; a panorama of a crashing surf; and a rural landscape eerily illuminated by an approaching storm.

The gray palette that defines the living and dining areas transitions to a soft combination of brown and taupe in the master bedroom. Wall-to-wall carpeting, a suede headboard and a polished-wool wallcovering absorb sound, giving the room the effect of a well-appointed cocoon. Its most distinctive feature is the ebonized oak case that Wolf designed to frame the headboard; it features a backlit, silver-leaf interior that lends the space a shimmering warmth.

After a tour of these interiors, quirky or not, there's no doubt that Wolf was spot-on in advising his client to take the apartment, and no doubt that the designer has clearly mastered the art of the boomerang. **L**

ORGANIC WRAP

Wolf's gray color palette morphs to brown in the master bedroom, where an ebonized oak case of his design houses a suede headboard. A bathroom door made of bronzed glass and draperies that disappear behind the headboard enhance the room's womb-like appeal.



SNAKE CHARMER

The seventh-floor residence features a 600-square-foot terrace that runs its entire width. A mix of grasses, juniper and lavender in an undulating resin planter softens the expansive vista without obstructing it.