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# The Power OF Glamour

A COLOR GENIUS WORKS HIS MAGIC TO CREATE A SOPHISTICATED SETTING FOR  
HOUSE BEAUTIFUL'S DESIGNER VISIONS SHOWHOUSE

*Interior design by* JAMIE DRAKE *Interview by* BARBARA KING *Photographs by* JONNY VALIANT





Designer Jamie Drake brought his exuberant color sense to an apartment in the newly renovated 1929 Art Deco Walker Tower in Manhattan. The open living and dining area, painted Salmon Peach in Benjamin Moore Aura, was toned down with a custom bronze glaze. **OPPOSITE:** Drake took cues from the geometric patterns and bold spirit of the building's lobby, covering foyer walls in Clarence House's Neisha Crosland Zebra. Rose console, Hudson Furniture. Nairobi mirror, Flair Home Collection. Bai jade vases, Robert Kuo.





**VIDEO**  
SCAN THIS PHOTO  
FOR A TOUR OF  
THE APARTMENT





**BARBARA KING:** You must have envisioned an impossibly glamorous woman living here.

**JAMIE DRAKE:** Very glamorous, very urbane. I invented her as the granddaughter of Josephine Baker, the Jazz Age icon. She's a successful woman in her late 40s who is the special events director of a major fashion magazine. She's also a single mother whose daughter is working on a master's degree and living at home.

**And what prompted that leap of imagination?**

The minute I saw Walker Tower—a marvelous 1929 Art Deco skyscraper that's been developed by JDS Development Group and Property Markets Group—I was transported back to a time that was exuberant and forward-thinking, when designers began to use straight lines, geometric patterns, and luxurious materials. Josephine Baker embodied the era, breaking down barriers in a provocative and glitzy manner. I conjured up this client to convey Josephine as a woman of today—while still taking cues from her heyday in Paris—living in a luxury residence in Chelsea. It's France meets New York.

**Does her life bear any resemblance to her grandmother's?**

She inherited a passion for hosting the most chic, exciting parties, so it was important to have an apartment well-suited for entertaining. That's why there are flexible seating arrangements in the living room, which is divided into two groupings separated by a chaise. People can sit on the chaise and face the sofa or toward the console that's set up as a bar. It's called the Lipstick console—how appropriate is that?

**Did you have a quick and clear vision of how you'd decorate?**

I knew immediately how I wanted to lay out the space, as I generally do with all projects. I think I have a gift for seeing things slightly differently than other people might.

**What did you see differently here?**

In the dining area, I placed the table not where most people would—by the kitchen—but in front of the fireplace.



In the master bedroom I floated the bed to take advantage of the views, rather than placing it against a wall. You also have a gift for using color in a distinctive way.

Much of my use of color is intuitive and painterly, probably because I took so many art classes when I was young. The pink in the living and dining areas, for example, just felt *au courant*—like the right pink for the moment. It's a warm coral with a sophisticated, feminine point of view. And it connects to the cityscape. There are spectacular east, west, and south views from the apartment, and you see all these faded redbrick buildings. So it throws your eye out to the views in a subtle way.

**It seems to glow in a subtle way, too.**

The base color is Salmon Peach by Benjamin Moore, which has an inherent sort of glow, but then we had a decorative painter apply a light bronze glaze that gives it a pearlescence. The wall color changes as your vantage point changes, mimicking the kind of reflections and variations

**ABOVE:** In the living room, a Jan De Vliegher painting of a plate hangs above a Hudson Furniture Lipstick console in wood, stainless steel, and bronze.

**OPPOSITE:** Taking center stage in front of the fireplace is a gleaming Henry dining table with an Andes granite top and bronze base from Egg Collective. It's surrounded by vintage chairs upholstered in Pierre Frey's Palmarola. Drake filled niches with books, turning the spines of all but a few toward the wall: "It's more provocative that way." Faceted mirror, APF Munn.

found in the metals used to craft the great buildings of the Art Deco era. That deep plummy purple in the second bedroom is really sexy.

I wasn't afraid to go dark in there because the room is flooded with light. It creates intimacy during the day and allows the sparkling views to really pop at night. It's Venetian plaster applied by a team from the Alpha Workshops, an organization that trains people with HIV/AIDS in the decorative arts. I'm chairman of the board, and I always have a little bit of Alpha in my projects.

**The master bedroom walls are their own kind of view.**

They're covered in a digitally printed watercolor, a celestial interpretation that gives you the feeling of being thrust into the sky. And in a floating bed, it becomes a more dreamy experience, as though you're floating in space, above the clouds.

**Just as writers have a voice, so do decorators. How would you describe yours?** My voice is confident, bold, nuanced, and witty.

**What are the witty gestures here?**

Touches such as the wonderful three-dimensional wall sculpture over the bed in the daughter's room, which almost creates a modern canopy. And in the stacks of books on either side of the fireplace that have most of their spines turned away from the viewer. The only ones showing are the few that relate to Paris and New York in the 1920s, so it teases you and makes you wonder what else is in that library.

**The effect is like graphic art.**


Boldly graphic. It sort of grabs you by the lapels and pulls you in. Not only that, but it also helped us with a design challenge. You have these two very thin yet somewhat deep side niches, and rather than leaving them empty—or the more predictable solution of putting in a pair of pedestals with vases on top—I created something much more tantalizing. But then again, the whole apartment is tantalizing!

DESIGNER VISIONS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:  
ALANA FRUMKES  
PRODUCED BY DAVID M. MURPHY







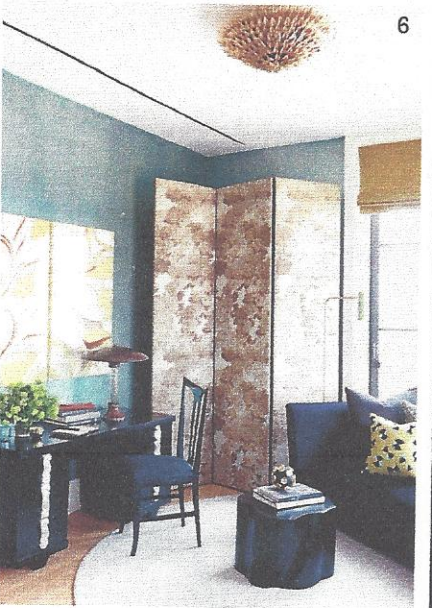


Black furniture grounds the living room and lends an extra note of sophistication. A Hubert le Gall Nenuphar table in patinated bronze from 21st Twenty First anchors one of two seating groups. Drake softened the large windows with elegant curtain panels in New Silk Twill by Jim Thompson. Paramount sofa, in Glant fabric, and Trenton club chair, in Donghia's Sabrina, both by Edward Ferrell + Lewis Mittman. Bon Vivant chair in Pierre Frey's Moire Princesse II, by Hutton Home. Patrick Naggar daybed, in Donghia's Sand Art, from Ralph Pucci. Pillows by Arabelle Taggart in Glant, Donghia, Jim Thompson, and Pierre Frey fabrics. Hollis brass side table and Beaumont lamp, Arteriors. Vintage floor lamp, Flair Home Collection. Rug, Stark.





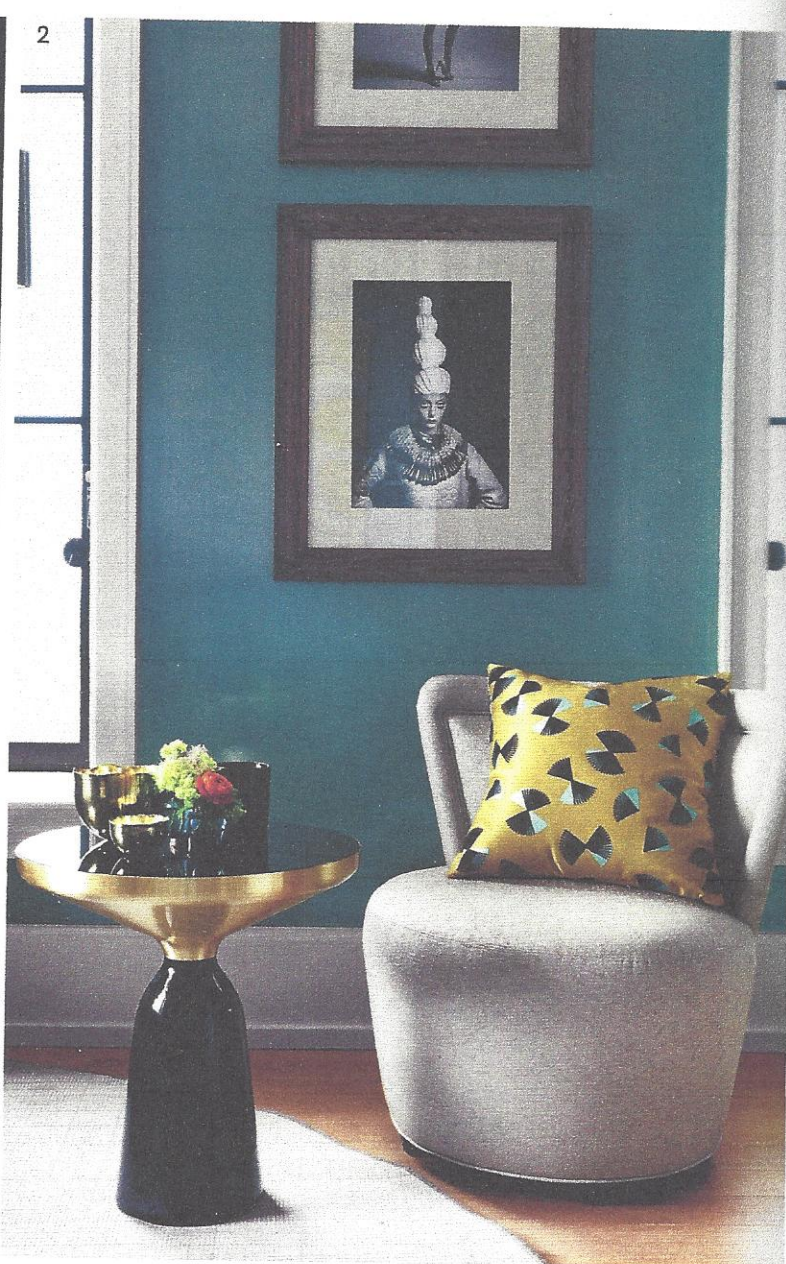
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1. A spiffy Brunello Cucinelli wardrobe is beautifully organized in this design by California Closets. 2. An Alton chair from Dennis Miller is paired with a Bell table from Avenue Road in the media room. Greg Lotus fashion photos hang on walls painted Dark Harbor by Benjamin Moore in Aura, with a specialty finish by Jonathan Kutzin of America Painting. Arabelle Taggart pillow in Mascara fabric by Stark. 3. For continuity, the kitchen was painted the same color as the living and dining area, Benjamin Moore Aura in Salmon Peach. 4. In the master bath, a floor-to-ceiling mirror is a dramatic backdrop for the free-standing cast-iron tub by Waterworks. Bath linens by Pratesi. 5. Above a Robert Kuo console, a moody David Mann painting, *Between II*, picks up the green of the dining chairs. The lamps from Paul Schneider Ceramics reference the pattern of the wallcovering in the foyer. 6. Upholstered in Donghia's Edith, a paneled screen "creates a sense of movement" in a corner of the media room. Light fixture, Crystorama.

**OPPOSITE:** Sara Sosnowy's painting *Ribbons* makes a bold statement in a bedroom hallway. Chahan bench, from 21st Twenty First, is upholstered in Moore & Giles Pompeii leather. Cashmere throw, Pratesi.



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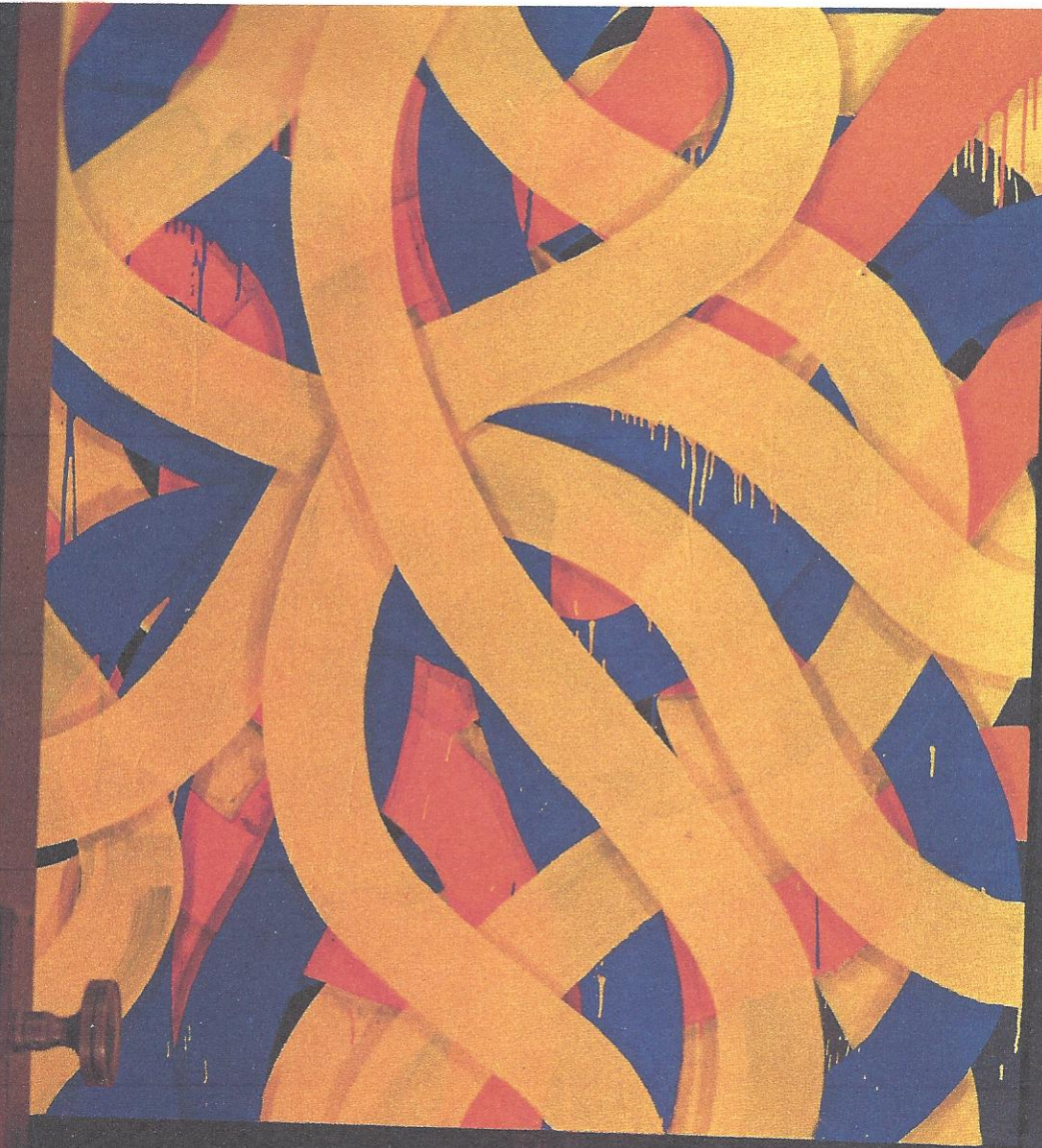


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TREATMENTS IN THE  
APARTMENT







Reflective surfaces and jewel tones give a young woman's bedroom a dazzling richness. Angelo's wing chair in Sansui fabric, Donghia. Curtains, New Khmer by Jim Thompson. Eden Roc lamp, the Alpha Workshops. **OPPOSITE:** Venetian plaster walls in Benjamin Moore Aura in Plum Martini set off the bright marigold of the Coup de Grace bed from Hutton Home, upholstered in Pierre Frey's Artigny. A delicate wall sculpture by Brenda Garand creates "a modern canopy." Chair pillows, Brunswick & Fils. Lamp, Paul Schneider Ceramics. Flats Pepper rug, Fort Street Studio. Bedding, Pratesi.









The master bedroom is a literal work of art. An original Karla Davison watercolor inspired by Benjamin Moore colors was blown up and digitally printed for the walls. Deneuve mirror from Profiles.

**OPPOSITE:** Drake's firm designed the bed with enveloping flaps "that are meant to be a hug" and floated it in the room to take advantage of the views of the Hudson River and the cityscape. Behind it is a Waterfall console from Rearview Modern and next to it, a Hawley side table from Egg Collective. The custom light fixtures by Modulightor give the ceiling a sculptural presence. FOR MORE DETAILS, SEE RESOURCES