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ROOMS WITH AN EXTRAVAGANT VIEW

Understated elegance of
a Central Park apartment

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New York's renowned Central Park was created in 1857, but it wasn't designated as a National Historic Landmark until 1963. The 843-acre park is renowned in the United States, and home to the Central Park Zoo, the Wollman Rink, the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis Reservoir, the Hallett Nature Center, and the Delacorte Theater – home of Shakespeare in the Park.

Today Central Park West is one of the most coveted addresses in Manhattan due to the abundance of Beaux Arts and Art Deco buildings that frame the street and face the park.

John Lennon, Leonard Bernstein, and Judy Garland are a just a few of the names that made the street famous.

Today, the roster of celebrities and powerful business moguls who call it home is much longer, and the architecture spans a century and features some of the most preeminent names in design.

When William Peace of Peace Design in Atlanta was called to design an apartment on Central Park West, he knew that the views would be the commanding feature. Having previously designed a penthouse in another city for the owners, Peace was familiar with their preference for contemporary art and modern furnishings. However, the light and views overlooking Central Park are so commanding that Peace knew that the color palette and the scale and calibre of the furnishings would have to correlate.

"Views of the park and city are present throughout the apartment, so we wanted to enhance those vistas rather than compete with them," says Peace.

Windows are framed with simple panels of neutral wool while sculptural seating in opulent tones of gray velvet provide balance and reference to the skyline



beyond. Dark floors glisten against the lighter neutral walls in the living and dining areas where the panoramic views provide a constantly changing canvas.

In the foyer a textural wallcovering provides depth for the large painting by Todd Murphy. The rich navy velvet bench seat is balanced by the gold leaf on the bench legs as well as on the side table. A herringbone cowhide rug is unexpected yet creates a warm and interesting dynamic with the gilt and velvet.

Deep colours, patterns, textures, and renowned photography create a lively yet balanced master bedroom. The trellis wallcovering is the perfect backdrop for the black and white photograph by renowned American fashion photographer Arthur Elgort.

Luxurious aubergine-colored velvet bedcoverings are a plush counter to the highly variegated onyx side tables.

If luxury is defined as a “state of great comfort,” then this residence is indeed sumptuous. From the stellar collection of contemporary art, to the understated elegance of the furnishings, to the spectacular views of Central Park and the city, this home is indeed opulent, yet refined.

“We design beautiful homes all over the country, but it always adds an additional layer of depth and interest when we have homes with spectacular views,” says Peace. That makes this home overlooking one of the nation’s most preeminent parks a truly extravagant design adventure – for both the homeowner and the designer.

