

Ashley Whittaker Design restores a sense of luxury to a prestigious Upper East Side prewar

COLOR and PATTERN

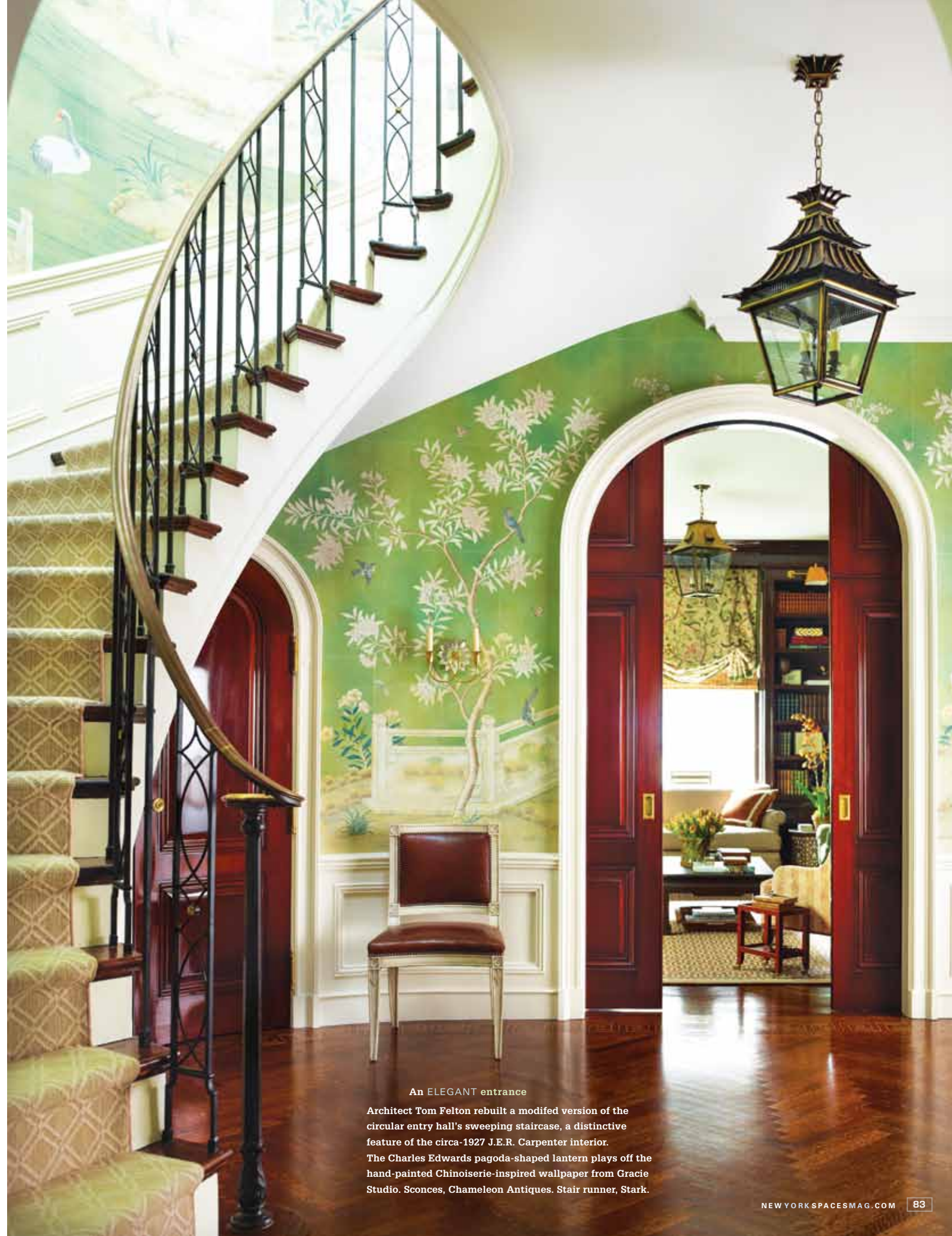
"Every interior needs tiger stripes somewhere," says Ashley Whittaker. Here, the pattern appears in the Stark velvet that covers the living-room ottomans. The slipper chairs are upholstered in an aqua Lee Jofa ikat. Loveseat pillow fabric, Manuel Canovas. Amethyst hurricanes, Treillage. Blue-and-white ginger jar lamp, Vaughan Designs.

park ave
REDUX



beautiful BLUES

Two shades of blue combine in the Holland & Sherry silk curtains that frame the living-room windows. More blues appear in the Groves Brothers pillow fabric, on the custom chaise; the blue-and-white ceramics in the pedimented cabinet (designed by architect Tom Felton and made in New York); the Besslink & Jones sconce shades; and on the strié-patterned walls. Merida Meridian carpet.



An ELEGANT entrance

Architect Tom Felton rebuilt a modified version of the circular entry hall's sweeping staircase, a distinctive feature of the circa-1927 J.E.R. Carpenter interior. The Charles Edwards pagoda-shaped lantern plays off the hand-painted Chinoiserie-inspired wallpaper from Gracie Studio. Sconces, Chameleon Antiques. Stair runner, Stark.

CLASSIC elements

An inlaid Greek key floor border, paneled wainscoting, and rebuilt arched doorways bring architectural elegance to a hallway designed for large-scale entertaining. Starburst mirror, John Rosselli & Associates. Custom faux-marble-top console, F.P. Victoria & Son. Ceramic garden stools, William Wayne. Soane lamps.



EVEN BEFORE ITS RECENT RENOVATION, THIS PARK AVENUE DUPLEX CLAIMED A colorful history: Built in 1927, the building bears the pedigree of James E.R. Carpenter—one of the most respected architects of prewar luxury apartments ever to hit the city's Upper East Side. Recognized for its understated limestone and brick façade and elegantly appointed, dramatically proportioned duplex and triplex apartments, this 14-story building was designed to accommodate modern families, their staffs, and their entertaining needs.

That's exactly the sort of place the owners of this 4,000-square-foot duplex had in mind when they commissioned interior designer Ashley Whittaker to help architect Tom Felton breathe new life into the 85-plus-year-old home. Doing so would require a complete gut-renovation of the 4,000-square-foot interior, followed by a painstaking restoration of everything from the outdated systems to the circular entry's gracefully curved staircase.

"We made every effort to respect and authentically reproduce Carpenter's original vision," says Whittaker. They re-created the original plaster mold-

adventurous MIX

Above: A Peter Beard photograph (on the wall behind the green sofa) inspired the library's rich palette of cognac, deep brown, gold, and green. The custom-colored David Hicks-pattern rug, printed-linen window shades, zebra stool, and patterned loveseat remain anchored in the calm environment created by the brown-lacquered cabinetry. Right: Whittaker found the lion in a Millbrook, New York, antiques shop. "It was hard to give him up," she admits. "But he was perfect for the room."





"THE BRIGHT, BOLD COLORS AND PLAYFUL PATTERNS ARE A NOD TO THE FACT THAT A YOUNG FAMILY LIVES HERE," SAYS THE DESIGNER.



DESIGNED for entertaining

This page, clockwise from top left: Paneled walls and vintage-style cabinetry give the new kitchen a period look. In the butler's pantry, statuary marble tops blue-lacquered cabinets lined with strié-patterned linen. Burnished-gold tortoiseshell wallpaper from Schumacher adds a note of glamour at the library's new built-in, mahogany-and-glass bar. Opposite page: Decorative floors and lacquered walls as glossy as candy apples create a dramatic backdrop in the dining room. Art, Melinda Hackett. The Jerry Pair table seats 10; the John Rosselli chairs are covered in leather and Quadrille silk.

ings, repaired the wood-burning fireplace, and refinished the white-oak floors. But the owners—a busy couple with four (soon to be five) children—had little interest in residing in a museum. They needed comfortable places to relax together and with friends, a kitchen that functioned well for a large family, and inviting bedrooms to retire to at the end of a long day.

A neotraditionalist with an artist's eye for color, pattern, and detail, Whittaker used the interior's classical lines and dramatic proportions as a leaping-off point for furnishings and decorations that bring every room squarely into the 21st century. Smart touches—like the matte vinyl finish on the kitchen banquette fabric, built-in storage for toys, and paneling that accentuates the room's proportions while de-emphasizing fingerprints—balance beauty and practicality.

"The bright, bold colors and playful patterns are a nod to the fact that a young family lives here," the designer explains. "Every home needs some blue-and-white ceramics and tiger stripes somewhere." ~ See Resources.

CONTINUED



family STYLE
Opposite: A Holland & Sherry print covers the kitchen banquette, situated near the new casement window. Photograph on wall, Ellen Morton. *This page, above:* Yellow grasscloth brightens the walls of a boy's room. Curtain and bed fabric, Quadrille. Bedding, Leontine Linens. *Far left:* The master-bedroom walls are upholstered in Bennisson's Kasumi pattern. The curtain and bed hanging fabric are also Bennisson. *Left:* Floral Carolina Irving fabric from John Rosselli lines the walls of a jewel-box-like powder room. Black-lacquer vanity by architect Tom Felton.