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WELHIL INTERIORS

Culture Club

Sophisticated furnishings, fine antiques, and glam fabrics dress up this turn-of-the-century town house, owned by artist Allison Hill-Edgar and her family. The timeless design by Lisa Hilderbrand and her partner Jeanette Weldon of Welhil Interiors emphasizes the good bones of the Upper West Side home. “We really wanted to reveal the original fireplaces and architecture that had been buried for decades,” says Hilderbrand. Following a gut renovation of the space, which had been divided into rentals, the Welhil team fashioned a dramatic entry that brings even more light into this south-facing living room. By covering the wall in antique mirror and anchoring it with a Chinese table bought at Christie’s, this design duo achieved a balance of “wow” factor and understated elegance. With its choice-but-comfortable antiques and ball gown-esque taf-

feta drapes, the warm living room sets the stage for the family’s frequent gatherings. “They’re young, they’re fun, they entertain all the time, so we wanted the space to have a lot of life to it,” says Hilderbrand. One key personal touch: the bold chandelier, a replica of the lighting fixtures at the Metropolitan Opera, of which the family are big fans. Above the fireplace hangs a 19th-century Italian mirror that reflects Hill-Edgar’s painting of a nude, a focal point over the sofa, which sits between a Regency rosewood games table and a vintage bar cart. An antique Chinese carpet in blue contrasts the orange fabrics and grounds the room. Still, nothing is too precious—even the antique carved lion chair is covered in a livable Quadrille chenille. “This isn’t a don’t-go-in-the-living-room type of room,” says Hilderbrand, “We really wanted something that would stand the test of time.” —MKH

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opposite: This timeless living room embraces color with Schumacher orange silk-taffeta drapes and a turn-of-the-century Chinese carpet in blue. below: A three-cushion pouf covered in Cowtan & Tout turquoise Malabar nestles below a Regency rosewood game table. Above the mantel: a 19th-century Italian mirror. One of Hill-Edgar’s paintings hangs over an 18th-century George II walnut chest.

