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nouveau NOW

Elegant Art Nouveau antiques and patterned textiles take a modern turn in a West Village town house designed by Darren Henault



chic salon

Opposite: Lacquered paneling, gilded molding, a ceiling constellation, and a Beauvais carpet define the cabinetlike library. This page: Club chairs from Roman Thomas, 1930s gold-leafed chairs from Maison Gerard, and a John Boone lacquered coffee table furnish the living room. Fabrics from Christopher Hyland, Fortuny, and Clarence House tie it all together.

new and nouveau

This page: On the living room's 19th-century marble mantel, from A & R Asta, an Art Nouveau candlestick partners with a period French vase with later brass mounts. A silver-leafed mirror from Miriam Ellner, in a Profiles frame, reflects a lantern by Parisian designer/gallery owner Hervé van der Straeten, discovered in New York at Maison Gerard.



IT COULD HAVE PROVEN TO BE A DANGEROUS COMBINATION:

Introduce a pattern-and-texture-obsessed client to an interior designer who was the son of a textile manufacturer and the potential for overshooping at the fabric showroom exists. But in this case, the partnership was fortuitous: Spread out over five floors of a West Village town house defined by a world-class collection of Art Nouveau furniture and decorative arts, the results of the team's shared passion for fine workmanship and intelligently integrated patterns never crossed the border into decadent excess.

Darren Henault remembers when he received a phone call saying he should be in touch with someone who bought a 10,000-square-foot town house from a flipper and "just wanted a little help with existing furniture and paint." We ended up tearing the house apart," he says. His client was a sophisticated woman who was married to a Frenchman with two young children. She spends a good deal of time in France and Asia, and is a passionate collector—not just of Art Nouveau, but also of Art Deco, Napoleon III, Arts & Crafts, 1950s modern, and contemporary artisans like

modern translation

Clockwise from top left: The vestibule and foyer establish the tone, with important Art Nouveau pieces, a Venetian chandelier, and a 1940s French console from Maison Gerard. The kitchen was designed by M (Group)'s Hermes Mallea and Carey Maloney; range and cabinetry are from La Cornue. In the dining room, the collection of Art Nouveau includes a period sideboard and a graceful chair covered with a Jerry Pair horsehair. Sconce is 1940s French.

