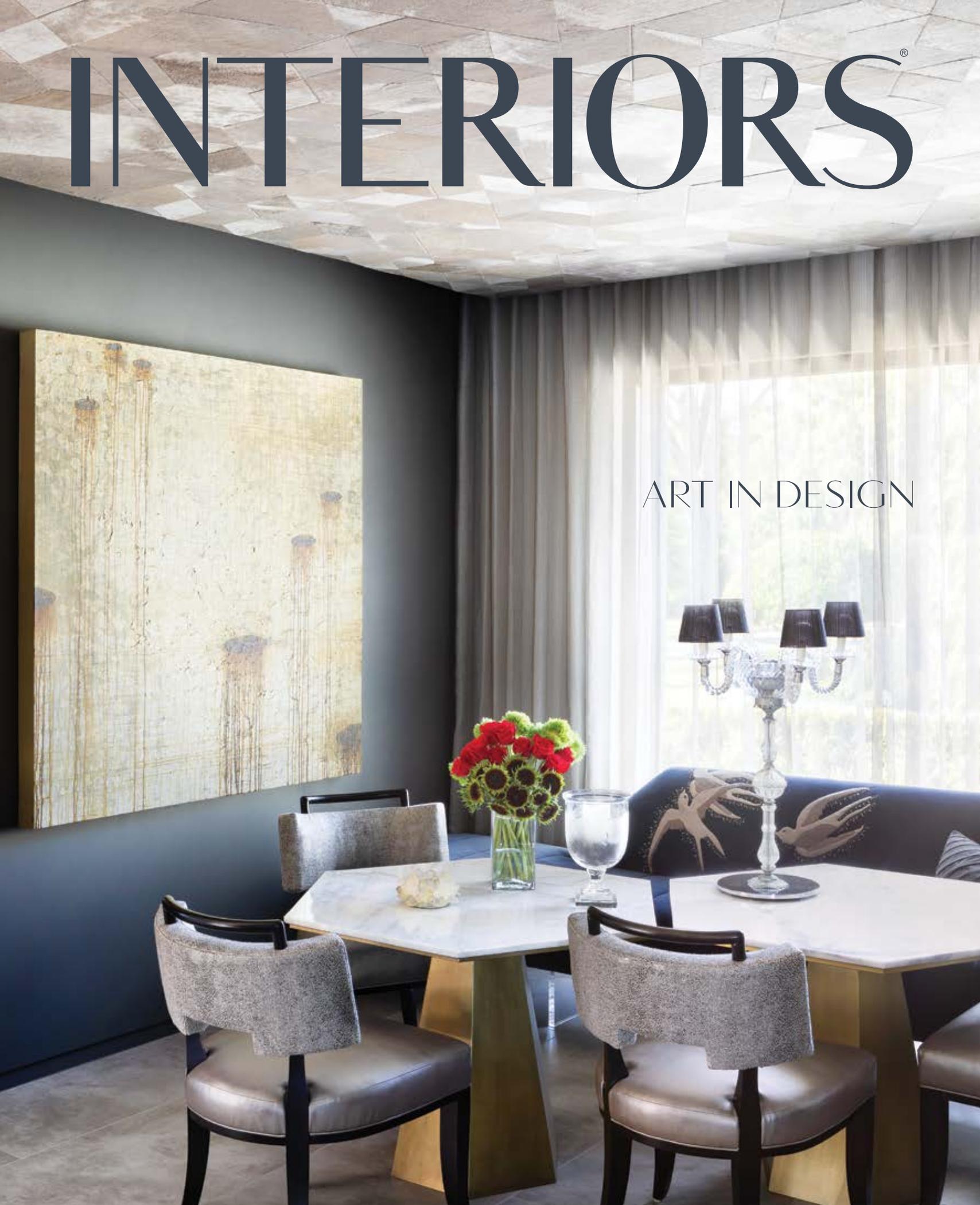


INTERIORS[®]

ART IN DESIGN



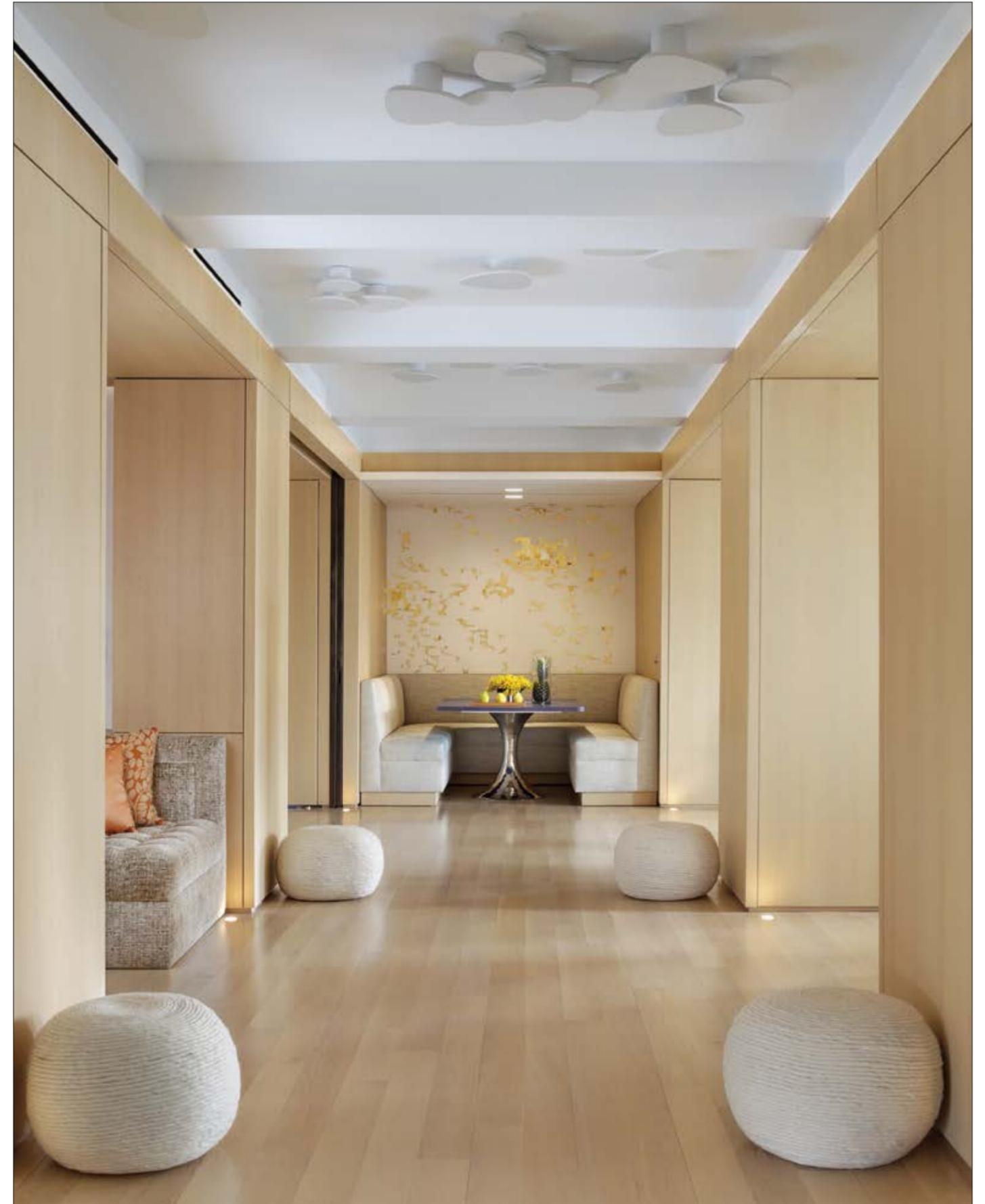


A SEPARATE PEACE

INTERIOR DESIGN: DINEEN ARCHITECTURE + DESIGN

TEXT: MIRANDA AGEE

PHOTOGRAPHY: PETER RYMWID





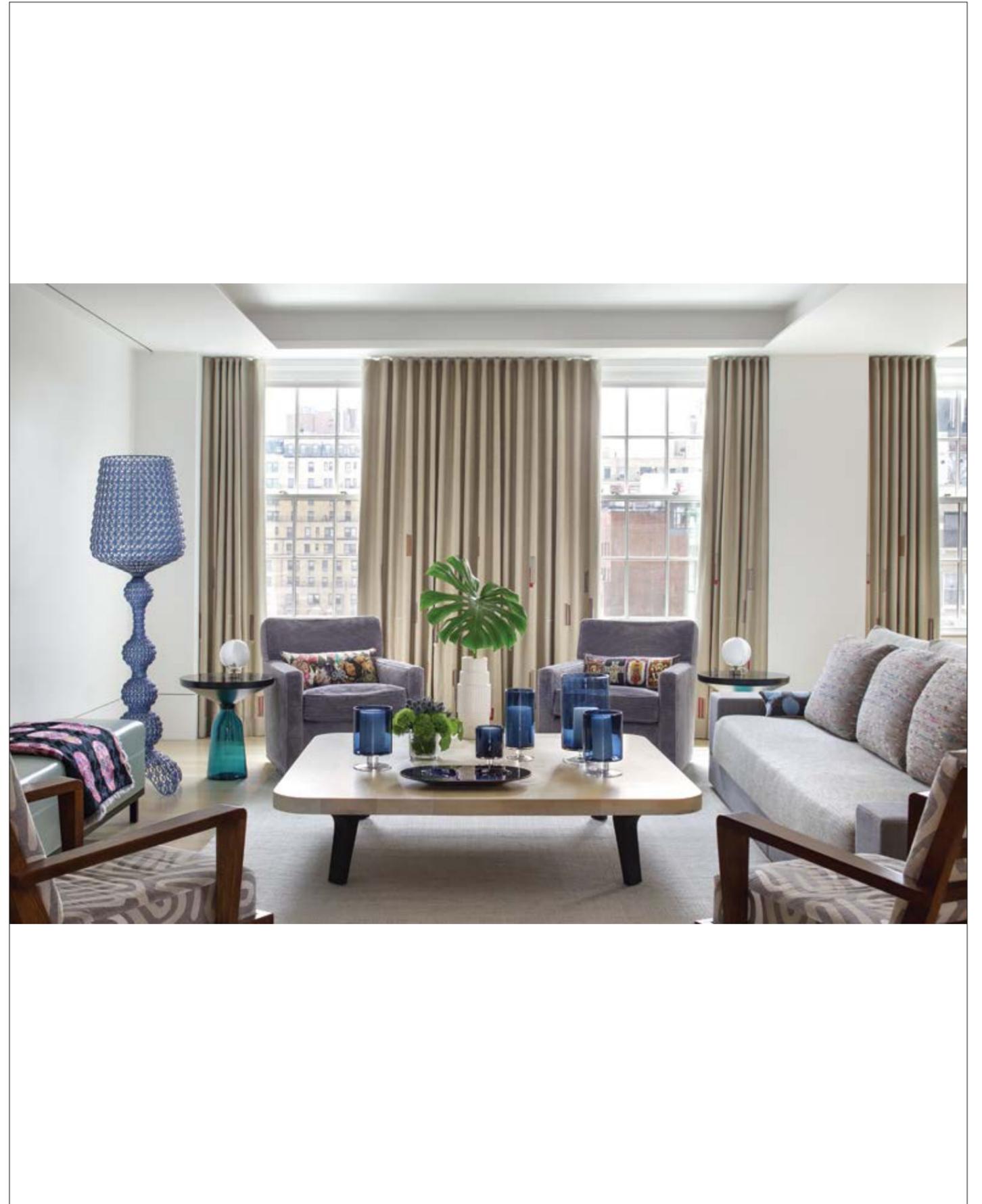
The relationship between a client and their designer is a certain kind of elegant poetry. It starts with the idyllic dream of luxury combined with inherent comfort. Soon ideas flow into color palettes, swaths of fabric and bespoke flourishes, and suddenly the blank page has become a home. "When a client is enjoying themselves, I get goosebumps," says designer Joan Dineen of Manhattan-based studio Dineen Architecture. "Someone who sees a rug and just has to roll around in it? That's my ideal client." For the Upper West Side apartment she designed for longtime clients, Dineen's process was poetic in nature but, because the homeowners have three boys under the age of 19, it was also about realizing the greater vision. So Dineen, accompanied by designer Alyson Liss-Pobiner, set out to create a place where both comfort and multiple places to entertain were integral elements in the design plan.

The home opens to a central gallery that is cloaked in white oak and doubles as hidden storage compartments as a pragmatic way to bypass the clutter that can easily become, as Dineen says, complete chaos. "The gallery is so long, it really started off as a place where the boys could practice hockey," she says about enhancing the home for the ease of daily family life.

Corralled to the left are the public spaces where the kitchen and dining nook, complete with benches lined in oatmeal colored fabric by Holly Hunt, are the most used rooms of the home. "The kids all do their homework in the corner booth while their parents toil away in the kitchen," says Dineen about her clients, who are excellent cooks and entertain often. On any given Friday night, the homeowners will be found hosting friends and family for informal dinner parties and holidays, so the spaces in which they entertained had to be welcoming and worth the wear.

Defining the cadence of the home is the dining room—with two large bespoke Mark Jupiter-designed dining tables holding court. Seating is a range of white Eames chairs from Design Within Reach and a custom 18-foot-long banquette upholstered in bright pink mohair. "We had to consider the spacing in each room to get the comfort factor just right," says Dineen, referencing the home's semi-open floor plan. "To be inviting and warm and also family friendly means that one must preclude certain things and select finishes and fabrics carefully. It's a psychological adjustment."

Adjacent to the dining room is the family room, anchored by a custom Christian Liaigre sofa and a set of A. Rudin armchairs upholstered in a dynamic fabric from Pollack. Although the space is feathered in varying shades of blue and gray, the designer's own sense of modernity came into play. "I always have to see a narrative evolve," says Dineen, who once worked for I.M. Pei. "Even if the components of the room don't have any systematic, historical relationship, in order to avoid chaos, you have to decide what one room has to say to the other room," she says.







On the west side of the home, dramatic views of New Jersey and the Hudson River explode out from each window and elevate the private spaces and bedrooms. The living room inhabits a certain dissonance, as it was almost created in a salon-style manner. For instance, the Donzella sofa swathed in Pierre Frey fabric offers guests an easy respite for an impromptu piano performance or to discuss the family's evolving art collection with pieces by Klari Reis, Christopher Kurtz and Ed Cohen all represented in the space.

Stylistically, the master bedroom is more traditional than the other rooms. The homeowner travels extensively for her career in entertainment and her most private space was to feel as elegant, pared-back and as luxurious as some of the world's finest hotels. The low-slung headboard on the Holly Hunt bed creates an illusion of mystery set against the navy lacquered wall behind it, which takes its color references from the river views directly outside. A chair covered in a Romo fabric is perfectly placed to create that enveloping atmosphere the homeowner craved in her space.

For a Manhattan apartment with a family of five living inside, Dineen took an empty shell and created a sonnet of a cozy home, exalted in its fluid movement through material and color palette. With the help of the center gallery, each room effortlessly flows into the next without hesitation or influence, a choice the designer was headstrong in creating. "I don't consciously follow trends but on the other hand, one might creep in because we all live under the influence of influence," she says. "There are so many lives we could live each second of the day, but in the end, we have to choose just one. But I'm lucky. I get to have many different lives every day I go to work, and it's extraordinary." ■ *Dineen Architecture, dineenarchitecture.com*

