



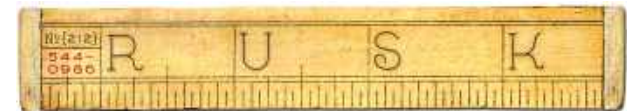
USA
PROPERTY
AWARDS
INTERIOR DESIGN

AWARD WINNER

INTERIOR DESIGN
APARTMENT NEW
YORK, USA

House Colorful
by Rusk Renovations

2019-2020



House Colorful

A Family Home Filled with
Detail, Design, and Color

A

Overview

This engaging family had renovated one of two apartments that made up a floor of a Park Avenue building a few years back. The apartment next door became available and suddenly the opportunity presented itself to make a full floor family home. While the first project's finishes were adequate, the combined apartment was to be a long-term home and its finishes and underlying quality were meant to be spectacular. Both apartments were to be gutted and everything was to start from scratch.



B

Brief & Concept Stage

The goal of this home was to radiate family. With no two rooms having the same moulding program or color scheme, this project is a visual education in the decorative arts.

Every space was carefully designed by Architect John B. Murray and Interior Designer Katie Ridder in collaboration with the owners; the design seeks to express the use and purpose of each room and to delight the family. This home has the solidity and history of classic architecture yet is filled with color.

The sheer complexity of a residence without a repeating program required lots of additional attention by the craftspeople working on the project. The husband stopped by regularly, cheering on the carpenters and finishers, the painters and tilers. His infectious enthusiasm for his future home fueled the team.

Project Brief

Material and Color Palette



Hand-blocked Wallpaper



Hand-drawn Wallpaper
by Gracie



Venetian Plaster



Mahogany with Brass Inlay



Walnut Stained White Oak Floors



Custom Plaster Mouldings



Moroccan Handmade Mosaic Tiles



Field painted millwork



Mahogany millwork



Field painted millwork



French Polished Walnut



Metal inlaid with Shagreen



Field painted millwork

The Problems



Light

This 1930's apartment house was originally built for the rental market with low ceiling heights and smaller rooms. How can *these conditions* ever be truly gracious?



Craftsmanship

In a world of limited time and a lack of trade education, how does one make something better than they used to be able to build it?



Timeliness

For a family that loves history and appreciates traditional design, how can a family home feel lively, not as if it is living in the past?



Privacy

In an active, often public family, how does one find a place of respite to recharge?

Cost and time

While the project was bid as a lump sum with a fixed schedule, the interior and architectural design developed during the project, as works of art are often balanced and adjusted during their creation. The project expanded and the additional time required for polishing the paint to a mirror gloss was granted. Though built swiftly, this work and its details could not be rushed.

TRADE BREAKDOWN	% of Total
Pre-Construction	
General Conditions	4.30%
Interior Demolition	0.86%
Concrete	0.26%
Masonry	1.13%
Metals	0.86%
Carpentry and Drywall	8.70%
Finish Carpentry	3.19%
Architectural Millwork	20.21%
Mouldings	5.27%
Thermal and Moisture Protection	0.13%
Doors and Frames	6.42%
Architectural Hardware	4.22%
Windows	0.00%
Stone and Tile	8.25%
Corian	0.20%
Wood Flooring	1.37%
Painting	0.17%
Mirror and Glass	1.00%
Equipment	0.80%
Plumbing	2.39%
Plumbing Fixtures	1.70%
Heating	0.65%
HVAC	4.07%
Electrical	8.96%
TOTAL COST	85.11%
Project Management	1.70%
Insurance	1.70%
Overhead, and Fee	11.49%

C

Chosen Design

Light bounces on reflective ceilings

Working with an incredible painter, the ceilings were first plastered flat and then built up with layers of paint which were wet sanded into a near mirror reflection.

Maintaining the original beams, and then adding false beams to make rooms symmetrical, kept the ceiling bays as high as possible.

The high gloss ceilings brighten the interior by reflecting light through the home and give the illusion of increased height.



Assembling multiple apartments gives multiple angles of light

By combining apartments, light could move into the apartment from all four exposures. While this is common in houses, apartments rarely command full floors, particularly along Park Avenue.

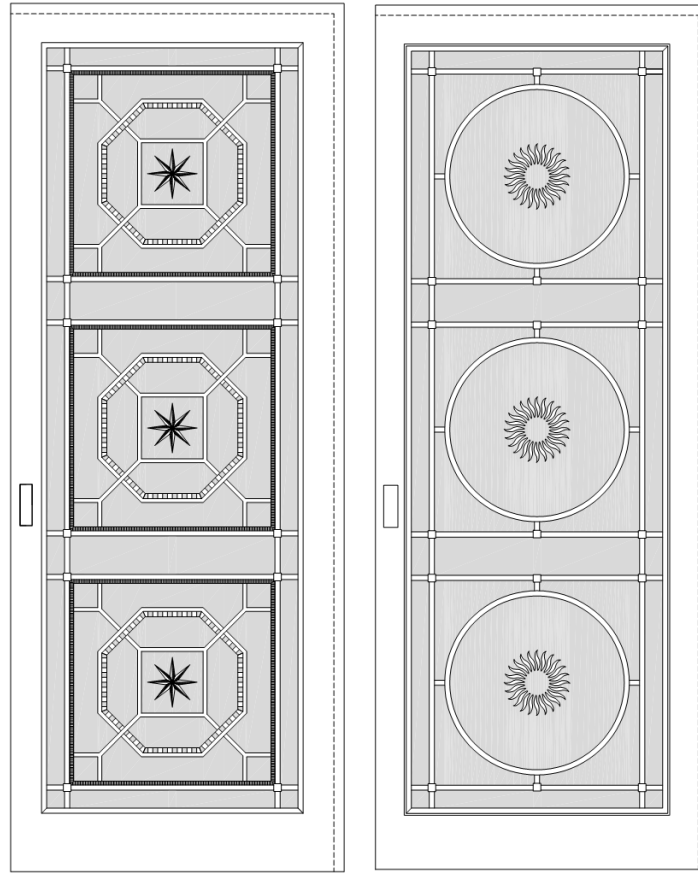


Craftsmanship was appreciated

For the door to the intimate areas of the master bathroom, a frosted glass and bronze door was contemplated.

From there, the enjoyable collaboration among design team, client, and fabricators began.

Every detail was considered. Even dozens of choices for rugs were reviewed throughout the home.





One can see the thought that went into the project in details such as this door. The wood direction of the wood grain has been considered at the various sections. The skill level and craftsmanship required to execute this door can be seen in the veneer matching and where the bronze pieces join at the two divergent lines.



All four corners in this room had perfectly matched plaster mouldings. The final artisan is the plasterer, but without the rough framing being exactly planned it would have been impossible.



How secondary spaces are treated is similarly as important as the linings of a topcoat. They may be rarely seen, but they are still evident.





Timeliness

This apartment could not have been built in 1929. Its use of high gloss paint on walls and ceilings surpasses the technical abilities of our predecessors.

Classic techniques and ideas creatively combined with contemporary technology gave the design team both new and old tools to create a family home that excites, comforts and entertains.

Nestled into the nooks of this bunk bed are USB chargers and LED lighting.



The gold leaf ceiling masks recessed flangeless lighting over a vibrantly colored living room.



A mirror over the fireplace obscures a television behind a one-way mirror.





The owner's bar is his favorite space. He was intimately involved in designing the one- of-a-kind, custom metalwork for his collection of whiskey and barware,

When entertaining, a bar top crosses the door, preventing access and providing a dedicated workspace for the bartender.



Private Spaces

As public as her husband is, one of the requirements of this large family apartment was a place for the lady of the house secluded with a closed door. The end of the corridor past the guest rooms and laundry is the location of her private refuge.



Every bit as private, his study is near the kids' gaming room. His French polished walnut study acts as a private retreat to savor his perfect family home.



Client Testimonial

Rusk Renovations served as the GC on our 7400 sq. ft. renovation on our home on the UES in Manhattan. After working with several high-end GCs over the years, Rusk sets the gold standard. Smart, responsive, and totally professional--the Rusk team are truly craftsmen. It starts with John Rusk, but the project manager and the site super were equally fantastic, and we had very few bumps in the road (and for a project this size, that's very rare, particularly for an older building). The ultimate product is fantastic, and the continuing support and service has been strong. I do feel that the original estimate on timing of completion was somewhat unrealistic, but as anyone who has done a renovation in New York City knows, it always takes more time than one expects.

A few other details:

1. The apartment was very clean throughout demolition and the renovation.
2. The subs Rusk used were very good.
3. They always worked with me to keep costs low.
4. Great at problem solving.
5. Rarely missed weekly walk-throughs.
6. Kept me abreast of all problems as they arose.

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