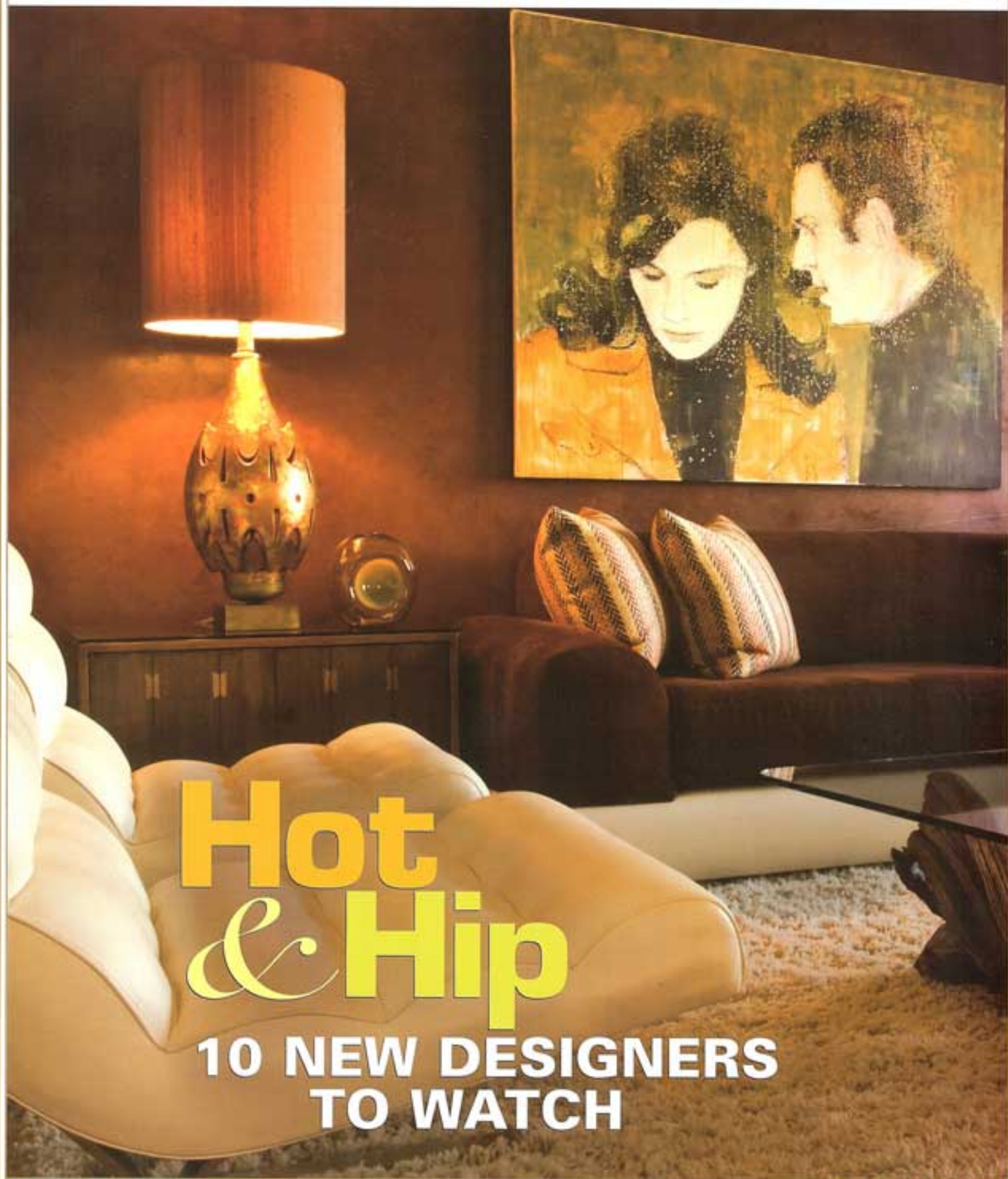


NEW YORK SPACES

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Hot & Hip

10 NEW DESIGNERS
TO WATCH

CARTE BLANCHE for COOL

It's design down to the last detail
when a developer moves into
one of his own projects

INTERIOR DESIGN BY CHRISTINA SULLIVAN & SUE BEDNAR LONG
TEXT BY LEE LUSARDI CONNOR

THINK JAMES BOND OR CARY Grant: upscale, sophisticated, modern yet traditional. That's what Christina Sullivan and Sue Bednar Long, principals of Tocar Interior Design in New York, were thinking when their client basically gave them free rein to design a pied-à-terre in Manhattan's Chelsea Club condominiums.

"I told them, 'Here's the key, express yourself, do what you want to do,'" explains owner Joseph Klaynberg. His company developed the Chelsea Club, and he had chosen an approximately 1,500-square-foot two-bedroom apartment as his own.

"We had worked with him in the past and knew his aesthetic," says Bednar Long. "He wanted it to be functional and very cool." At the same time, the apartment had to provide comfort and a respite from the press of business and the jangle of the city outside.

The place had only minimal furnishings, including a white leather sectional sofa from ddc, when the Tocar team began the job. "The space seemed utilitarian and loftlike," says Sullivan. "We wanted to keep it

A strong black-and-white theme imparts a masculine feel to this Chelsea home. The stark palette is accented with pops of forest green in accessories like pillows, topiaries and even custom-ordered M&M's on the coffee table.

masculine but add texture and interest."

As a first step, the designers decided to use furniture placement to segment the large main room into clear living and dining areas. As in the entire apartment, the modern-style furniture is softened by interesting texture—in a zebra throw rug, the silver-leaf paper on a kitchen column, the shagreen wall covering behind the television.

In the dining area, the sleek table and chairs contrast with a fur area rug and a Jason Miller antler chandelier. "The antler is, of course, a traditional chandelier style," says Bednar Long. "But this one is made of cast ceramic with a beautiful white gloss finish, which makes it not traditional."

The cool black-and-white color scheme is warmed with pops of forest green, which appears in topiaries, in velvet trim on a cashmere throw and as accents in ceramic pieces. The designers even ordered custom-made deep-green M&M's for the green Venetian glass ashtray on the coffee table. The color theme is continued in the second bedroom/study, with the addition of chocolate brown



In the main living space, above, the modern aesthetic is softened with textural accents, including the zebra throw rug underfoot, a shagreen wall covering behind the television and silver-leaf paper on a kitchen column. Stitched-leather cubes in the study, opposite, serve the same purpose.



A framed silver-leaf prayer paper in the master bedroom, above, adds to the space's Zen-like feel. That continues in the master bath, opposite, where white lacquer is paired with gray-blue honed limestone.



and camel accents. That space also features stitched-leather cubes that can easily be moved in the event extra seating is needed in the living room.

For the master bedroom, the designers decided to pare down even further. "I hate to use the word 'Zen,' but there really is a calming, spa-like feeling in there," says Bednar Long. The art above the bed features a mounted square of silver-leaf prayer paper. "It has a nice sheen to it," she says. "It makes a modern statement, but it's not distracting." The night-table lamps follow the old/new theme. Their antique rounded bases have a soft crackle glaze, but the silver shades have a tapered futuristic drum shape.

The spa effect continues in the master bath, which features lots of white lacquer and a gray-blue honed limestone countertop, as well as interesting textural accents such as framed shells and rock crystal candles.

The designers even provided towels and robes monogrammed with the Chelsea Club logo. That's because the developer did have one special request—that the apartment complement the overall design of the Chelsea Club.

"I told them to design it soup to nuts—accessories, dishes, wine, champagne glasses, soap, shampoo," says Klaynberg, who sometimes turns the pied-à-terre over to clients or visiting family members. "So far, everybody who has seen it seems to love it." ☐