

december makeover

Writer **Christine Pittel**
Photographer **Tara Striano**
Producer **Elaine Wrightman**

Lighten Up!

Designers
Christina Sullivan
and Susan Bednar
hit the heights of
sophistication in a
Manhattan aerie

The low lines
of the sofa and
lamps don't get
in the way of
the view.

An L-shaped
sofa offers a
lot of seating
in a compact
form and subtly
differentiates
living and
dining areas.

Andr e
Putman's *Sitting*
on a *Cloud*
chair is covered
in durable,
stain-resistant
Perennials
awning material.

A sleek ceiling
soffit holds
recessed halogen
lights, which
provide both
overall and
directed light
as needed.

Sullivan and
Bednar ditched
the dowdy
draperies for
luxurious ivory
Ultrasuede
banded with
mustard yellow
and navy stripes,
which echo the
big, bold lines
of the window
mullions. For a
more dramatic
effect, the
designers took
the curtains all
the way to the
floor.

A solar scrim
diffuses sunlight
without masking
the view.

The designers
had their client's
toddler in mind
when they chose
the cornerless
Saarinen coffee
table.

The custom-
made rug's
dark navy
center stands
up to spills.



The wraparound windows were shrouded with heavy curtains. A clunky radiator cover bumped right into the love seat, which was way too small for the room. Designers Christina Sullivan and Susan Bednar of Tocar knew immediately that they wanted to let in the light and streamline the furniture in their client's living room. "If you're lucky enough to live on the 23rd floor of a Manhattan high-rise, you have to be able to see the view," says Sullivan. The Mondrianesque pattern of the window mullions is the strongest architectural element in the room, so the designers riffed on the artist's bold strokes and primary colors to create their own graphically sophisticated scheme. Modernist classics like the Eero Saarinen coffee table and the Warren Platner dining table continue the fine lines, fully integrating a space used for both dining and lounging. ●