

The Transformation of a Space into a Home is an Art

Robyn Baumgarten of Just Designs
turns this residence into a masterpiece

INTERIOR DESIGN
by Robyn Baumgarten

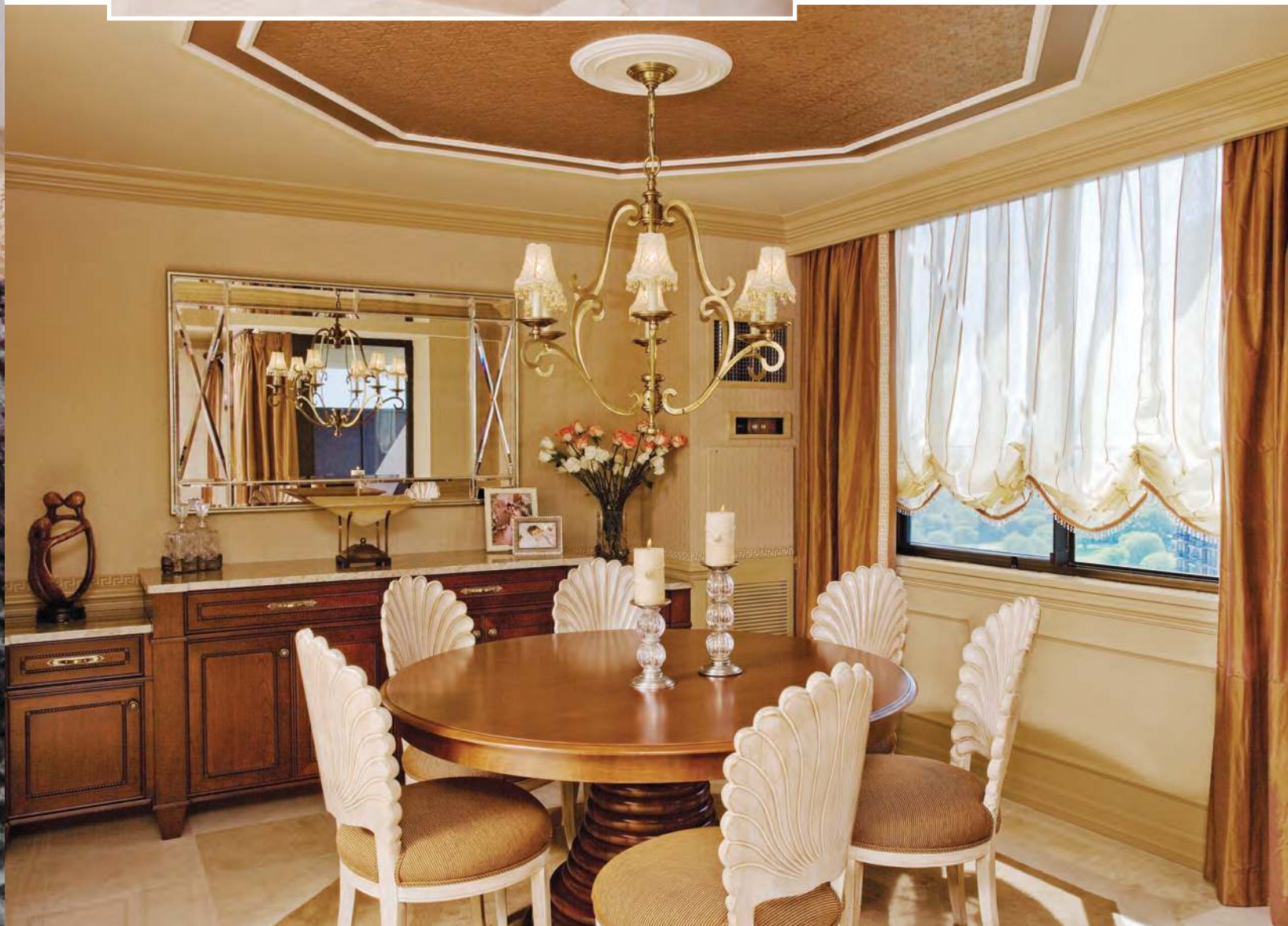
STORY
by Carrie Rubinfeld

PHOTOGRAPHY
by Noel Allum



When the owner moved into the well-known North Shore Towers she wanted a haven, but was confronted with a blank palette. With a desire to start life anew, she had symbolically rid herself of all her furnishings. Walking through the empty rooms, she wondered how she could transform them into the refuge she craved. Enter Robyn Baumgarten of Interiors by Just Design of Melville.

Ms. Baumgarten stood with the owner at the large window overlooking the Manhattan skyline and listened. She wanted a warm and beautiful, yet sophisticated and elegant home. One that would welcome family and friends with comfort and love, particularly the grandchild she was expecting. “Robyn immedi-





ately embraced the space and my guidance with a powerful solution to build home into every room," said the owner. "I fell in love with Robyn's creative talent, sensitivity to my needs and take-charge work style."

Ms. Baumgarten used a combination of personal and architectural details to build character into the space. "A distinct inspiration influenced my design of each room," Ms. Baumgarten stated.

Beginning in the master bedroom, she started with color. The owner wanted a feminine room. Pink was chosen for the desired effect. "Color is a very important design element. Here, we used a soothing mono-chromatic color scheme," said Ms. Baumgarten, who added a double moulding in two different shades of pink to the walls. She

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built a space for a cushioned seat under the window to create a cozy reading nook, also in pink.

Interiors by Just Design is adept at cost-saving design strategy. In the bedroom, she used amazing, high-end fabric sparingly to create elegance. A satin and velvet striped fabric was used on the front of the pillows, for example. "I call this my Prada-Target Approach. Use high-end materials sparingly to highlight cost effective design, achieving a luxurious look," Ms. Baumgarten also applied this to the living room, where she brought in a copy of a very expensive designer table, at a cost effective price.

In the living room, architectural interest was created by building a library-like wall unit

that housed an unusual u-shaped sofa. The middle panel of the wall unit was highlighted with texture by using grasscloth wallpaper.

"I was continually surprised and delighted by the ways in which Robyn personalized my home." In the dining room, Ms. Baumgarten used moulding to create a hexagon on the ceiling, which she mirrored with a hexagon-shaped rug beneath it, under the dining room table. A customized buffet was built into an unusable space in the room. On the walls, a textured wallpaper was used. Above the chair rail, an upholsterer applied a Greek Key fabric trim detail. The detail was repeated on the leading edge of the window treatment panels.



Old family photographs were enlarged and displayed above the day bed in the guest room awaiting the arrival of the owner's future grandchild. Soft, cream-colored furniture was used to create warmth and a unique custom wraparound headboard was created for the daybed.

"I am eternally grateful to Robyn Baumgarten for creating a comfortable, inviting, elegant and timeless home," said the owner, "It is just what I wanted." ■

