

NAVIGATING *neutrality*

(THIS PAGE) The living room's Murano chandelier hangs from a silver-leaved medallion. Barrel chairs from eBay are tufted in Kravet and Donghia velvet. Mantel, Tartaruga Design. Wall cabinets, Wood-Mode. Shagreen cabinets, Mary-Lynn Ring. Rug, Restoration Hardware. (OPPOSITE) The solarium extends the living room and includes the dining area. Mattaliano chair in Keleen Leathers and Samuel & Sons linen tape. Mirrored tables, Oly Studio.

Mary-Lynn Ring redesigned every corner  
of her Murray Hill condo for maximum function

# A BRAINY BLONDE

INTERIOR DESIGN MARY-LYNN RING

TEXT SALLIE BRADY

PHOTOGRAPHY ERIC PIASECKI



AN OUTDOOR *living room*

(THIS PHOTO) A white picket fence backdrops the terrace's cabana. All resin furniture and lanterns, Restoration Hardware. Upholstery, Sunbrella fabric.





INVITING ROOMS *personal style*

(OPPOSITE, BOTTOM LEFT) Walker Zanger's Calacatta Gold marble combines with wood to continue a neutral palette in the galley kitchen. Architectural models, Timothy Richards. (OPPOSITE, BOTTOM RIGHT) In the master bedroom, a French horn sailboat echoes the swell of a raffia-wrapped chest from Thomasville. (THIS IMAGE) Ring found a pedestal table she liked on eBay and had her millworkers reproduce it in white oak with four leaves that she hides in a banquette she covered in Robert Allen velvet. The dining area can seat 10. Silver-leafed Chervan chairs with Kravet mohair and Edelman Leather. Floor lamps, Circa Lighting.

**SHE HAD A VISION:** WHEN DESIGNER MARY-LYNN RING FIRST SET EYES ON her “soulless condo” in a standard 1960s white-brick building, she saw potential beyond the fixed blinds in the solarium, the cookie-cutter rooms, and a terrace that was a “hot mess.” Importantly, she saw the Empire State Building and the East River and realized she could tear down walls and blinds and build up molding, paneling, and custom cabinetry to create an elegant, light-drenched space that opened to the outdoors. For six years, the designer and her husband lived in the two-bedroom before they started renovating. Ring was intent on maximizing every last inch

of 1,400 square feet of interior space and all 690 square feet of outdoor living, and she came up with some clever ways to do so.

First she created the envelope that would now open the living room to the kitchen and to the solarium. She wanted the solarium to feel, not like a place where “I grow things,” but an extension of the living room. She claimed a corner of it as a cozy dining area with a banquette framed by floor lamps. The space expands to seat 10 for dinner when leaves are added to her custom dining table. Ring worked a similar trick in her office, where a custom Murphy bed transforms the room into a guest retreat.



The terrace was also treated as an extension of the apartment by installing creamy two-by-three-foot concrete pavers that relate to the palette employed indoors. To contrast with the furniture's light fabrics, Ring stained the oak floor chocolate with green undertones. "I did 45 different tests to get this batch mix," she says. She also played with light on ceilings, silver-leafing a medallion in the living room and using a homemade finish of bison wax and mica powder on the master bedroom ceiling for subtle sheen and movement.

For furnishings, Ring was inspired by French classics from the 1920s through 1940s, finding pieces everywhere from Paris flea markets to showrooms. A surprising number of her treasures were discovered on eBay. "That's what I do when I can't sleep," she jokes. "I like elegant, timeless pieces with a degree of craftsmanship." Couple those qualities with luxurious materials, and you have a beautiful blonde environment that's serene, smart, and inviting. ~ See Resources.



## DUAL ROLES *performed beautifully*

(CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT) Thanks to a queen-sized Murphy bed, an office/study can double as a guest bedroom (above). Desk chairs here are part of the dining suite and are pulled into duty for dinner parties. The Bella Figura sconces from Lee Jofa become reading lights when the bed is down, just as the Oly Studio drinks tables become nightstands. Bed, cabinetry, and desk with two work stations, custom by Mary-Lynn Ring. Club chairs and velvet upholstery by Mitchell Gold+Bob Williams. Garrison Rousseau parchment and suede ottoman from Nina Griscom. Cashmere throw, Restoration Hardware. Silk draperies in all bedrooms, The Shade Store. In the master bedroom, a dramatic wingback bed by Hickory White from Lillian August is upholstered in Holly Hunt velvet and linen. Mohair throw, Kravet. The bedside tables of cerused oak, shagreen, and bone inlay were designed by Mary-Lynn Ring.