

steeped in style



Downtown Living
Uptown Style



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When the owner of this 19th century lower Manhattan townhouse asked interior designer Sabrina Balsky to refurbish the space, serenity was key — along with creating a showcase for his collection of Asian art and artifacts. (The Rothko painting above the living room fireplace is the principal exception.) Balsky responded with a mostly neutral palette that makes each room both a soothing refuge and a gallery-like setting where the perfectly placed art can be seen to optimum advantage. In the hands of a skilled decorator, the right shades of red, pale green and plum, as demonstrated here, can both provide color and, in effect, become brilliantly conceived neutrals.

Balsky custom-designed many of the furnishings, including the deliberately overscaled upholstered pieces in the living room, to accommodate each room's exacting dimensions. In the lower level media room, Balsky designed a wall of individually lit niches to display key elements from the owner's ever-evolving collection.

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Photography: Scott Francis