

# Art Department



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## GILT COMPLEX

IN A GRAND TURN-OF-THE-CENTURY DUPLEX, MAN-ABOUT-TOWN KENNETH JAY LANE LIVES A GRAND TURN-OF-THE-CENTURY LIFE.

WRITTEN AND PHOTGRAPHED BY SARA K. MORTIMER

PHOTOGRAPHY BY PIETER ESTERSOHN

**THE HUGE DRAWING ROOM** In Kenneth Jay Lane's apartment is one of New York's greatest hidden treasures. Lane's reaction when he first saw it—"Finally, a square room!" he proclaimed. "And what a ceiling!"—was probably not much different from that of Lord Pembroke's, who had commissioned Inigo Jones to build the sensational cube room at Wilton House some 350 years earlier.

The great room in Lane's duplex was, in fact, built by America's leading turn-of-the-century architect, Stanford White. The architect's fans can be divided into two groups: those who revel in the nostalgic drama of his fatal love affair with the underdog starlet Evelyn Nesbit, and those who revel in the extravagance of his Belle Époque architecture. What survives of White's work are mostly public buildings. His private houses were, for the most part, too expensive to maintain.

Lane's Proutian digs, the core of a landmark townhouse on Manhattan's Park Avenue, are a brilliant exception, and virtually all the original details remain intact. You enter into a complex, beautifully appointed foyer, where the soaring walls are painted in subtly varying shades of red. Circular mirrors reflect light above a pair of faux-painted burl-walnut doors. A staircase rises to a balcony and the bedroom, with a ceiling of the palest forget-me-not blue. Beneath the balcony, a third door opens to reveal the splendor of the drawing room.

Even the most elaborately reconstructed rooms from the Edwardian era often seem to have the life drained out of them. Not Lane's apartment. It is not a reconstruction, nor is it furnished

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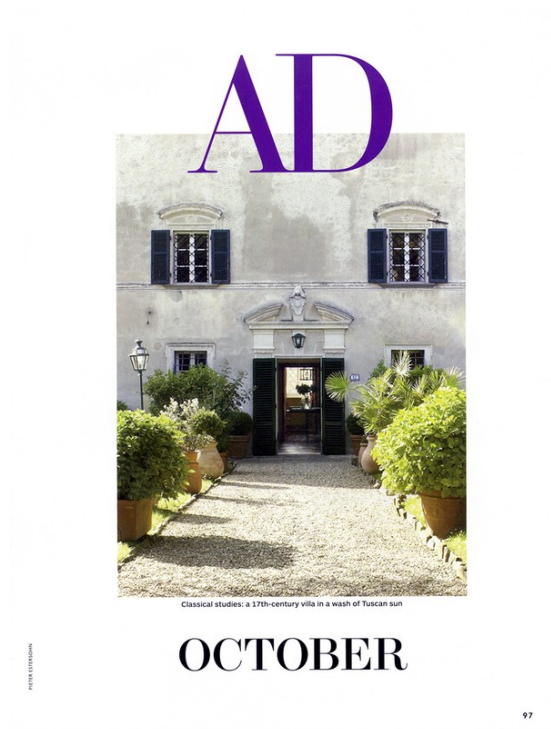


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## IN LIVING COLOR

Mixing brilliant paints and bold fabrics, stylish linens matriarch Dede Pratesi displays her signature flair at her family's historic villa in Tuscany

TEXT BY JAMES REGINATO PHOTOGRAPHY BY PIETER ESTERSONH  
PRODUCED BY ROBERT RUFINO

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Villa Lunardi, the Pratesi family's 17th-century stone manor in Tuscany, which has been thoughtfully restored over the past 20 years. Opposite: Dede Pratesi, center, in the home's *imonaia*—traditionally used to store potted lemon trees in winter—with her son, Federico, his wife, Gaila, and their children, Margherita and Athos. For details see Sources.



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## AN ACQUIRING MIND

South Arabian sculptures, Old Master drawings, and cutting-edge photography make fashion designer Kasper's apartment a work of art

TEXT BY MITCHELL OWENS  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY PIETER ESTERSOHN  
PRODUCED BY ROBERT RUFFING

Fashion designer and art collector Kasper strikes a pose in the silk-walled library of his Manhattan apartment. *Ferruccio & Co. Solenne* (1925) by Fernand Léger hangs over the fireplace, and the chair at Kasper's side is a Chinese antique. For details see Sources.



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Melissa Sellers with her son, Walter, center, and his friend Jack in the dining room of her house in Brooklyn. Sellers and John Danzer of Plunder-Sider designed the granite-topped table and leather-clad benches. See Resources.

## the heights of style

Decorator Tom Scheerer helps a family achieve domestic bliss in Brooklyn

text by ANGUS WILKIE

photography by PIETER ESTERSOHN

produced by DARA CAPONIGRO



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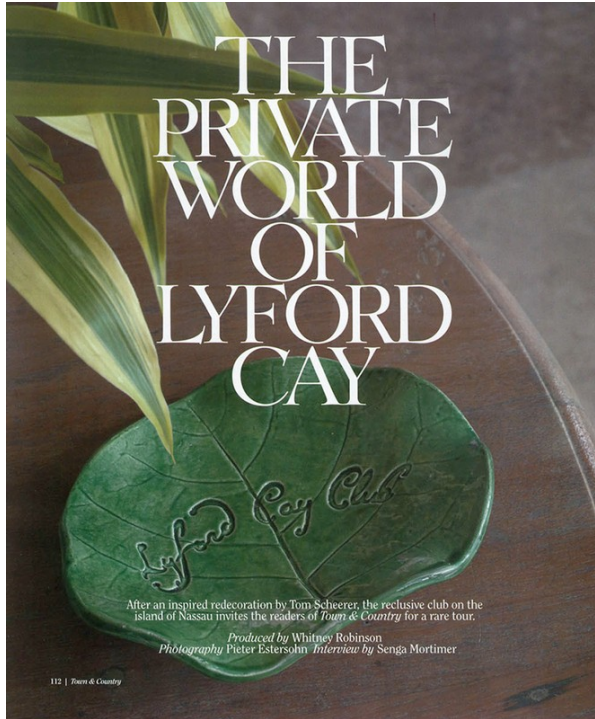


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