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HOUSE OF THE MONTH

# Flights of FANCY

Shunning conventional New York loft style, Chassie has created a bold and bright family home, which reflects her love of fashion, pattern and colour

WORDS • JOANNA SIMMONS  
PHOTOGRAPHY • MATTHEW WILLIAMS

## HOME PROFILE

**The owners** Chassie Post, lifestyle editor for fashion website gilt.com, her musician husband Phil Costello, and their eight-year-old son Rohde.

**The property** A second-floor apartment in a former printworks, built in 1938, in Chelsea, New York. There is an open-plan kitchen, dining and living space, a concealed office, master bedroom with en suite, and a further bedroom and bathroom.

## LIVING ROOM

'I love the combination of modern space with an infusion of traditional,' says Chassie. 'The hybrid look is interesting.'

## GET THE LOOK

The wallpaper is *Birds And Butterflies* by Schumacher. The French chairs were an eBay find. For similar, try *Sweetpea & Willow*. For a similar upholstered sofa, see *Ideas To Steal*. For bold, patterned throws, try Missoni.



## CONCEALED OFFICE

Floor-to-ceiling storage in the dining space conceals Chassie's neat office. 'One problem in New York apartments is that there's often no storage space,' she explains, 'so you either have to edit ruthlessly, which is not my forte, or find a place to put your stuff.'

## GET THE LOOK

For a good match to this floor colour, try *Grecian Spa 4 emulsion* by Dulux. The vintage *Selene chair* is by Vico Magistretti for Artemide. The *Magis Vanity chair* at Made In Design is a good alternative.



**GET THE LOOK**

FROM SECOND LEFT Simple white loose covers hide an unassuming sofa that blends against the bold wallpaper. Find a similar sofa at [sofa.com](http://sofa.com). Wallace Sacks does similar geometric cushions. The painting is by the Georgia artist Carolyn Carr. The guitar is a Gibson Flying V, 'bedazzled in rhinestones – so glam!' says Chassie. Blinds help filter the bright sunlight, find Venetian blinds at John Lewis. The Greek Key trim used as blind tape adds another layer of detail – for similar, try Samuel & Sons.



**LIVING ROOM**

'I didn't buy any new furniture for the loft,' says Chassie. 'What is here is just what I've lugged from apartment to apartment.' She restrains herself when it comes to acquiring additional pieces. 'Large items can junk up the space pretty fast, so I've tried to let the details and art act as jewellery for the house,' she explains. The sideboard belonged to her grandmother. 'It's the one bit of dark wood in here,' says Chassie. 'It helps to ground the room.'

**GET THE LOOK**

Find a similar wooden sideboard at Tower Bridge Antiques. Chassie found the butterfly wall decoration discarded on the street. For similar, go to Surface View. The nest of Florentine tables was bought from an online auction. Try Crown French Furniture for similar.



**I**'m a maximalist,' says Chassie Post, laughing. 'More is always more for me. I love a big statement!' Nowhere is this more apparent than in her gorgeously glam Manhattan apartment, which she shares with husband Phil Costello and son Rohde. Birds and butterflies flutter across the walls, thanks to elegant Schumacher wallpaper, against which contemporary art and a mix of vintage pieces and yard-sale bargains sit. 'I imagined a kind of southern gothic feel for the space,' explains Chassie. 'Like an eccentric granny had lived here and left all her stuff, then we just moved in with a few modern pieces.'

A lifestyle editor for the fashion website [gilt.com](http://gilt.com) and a TV pundit on all things style-related, Chassie also has decorating in her blood. Her mother worked as an interior designer back in their native Georgia. 'My mum is all about texture and beige, but I can't get involved in that,' says Chassie. 'I admire people who can work subtly, but it's not in my nature. I've

bolder. Then I dressed the furniture in white slipcovers, to pull it all together.' It's a recipe Chassie has used in her current home, which she and Phil moved into 10 years ago.

'When we first saw it, it was this crazy loft with a faux-rock island in the middle and stipple plaster on the ceilings that looked like baked Alaska,' remembers Chassie. 'It was a hangover from the Eighties! Maybe it was super-chic and I just didn't get it,' she adds.

The couple gutted the place. 'We made it into a giant box, painted turquoise and white again. I loved it!' says Chassie. But with the birth of Rohde, eight years ago, it was time for a rethink. 'Our lives changed. Babies need rooms, so we renovated again.'

Architects Meyer Davis reconfigured the space, creating a room at the front for Rohde and a small master bedroom tucked off the dining area. They also encouraged the couple to think about practical ingredients, such as built-in storage and a family-friendly kitchen. 'I come from the south where the kitchen wasn't in your living room. I wanted it out of the way,' says Chassie. The solution was to make it discreet, with neat floor-to-ceiling cupboards, so it didn't intrude on the open-plan design. 'Now we use it constantly,' she says.

When it came to decorating, she reintroduced her beloved white and turquoise, but this time added wallpaper – lots of it. 'I invest in the walls,' she says. 'That's my way. I give them drama, then everything else can be really simple. It's bold, fun and affordable.'

*'I love to see how people decorate their homes differently, but this is the only way I know.'*

found over the years that colour makes me really happy.'

Chassie's love affair with all things bright and beautiful began when she moved to New York and her friend, interior designer Miles Redd, stripped her apartment, then painted the floors white and the walls turquoise. 'It transformed the space,' says Chassie. With each subsequent move, she simply rolled out this look. 'I did the same colours, but they grew bolder and

The finished living area now feels quirky, but sophisticated. 'I was looking for a sort of crazy, technicolour aviary, full of birds and butterflies,' says Chassie. 'I thought this wallpaper was going to be super-bright, but when it was up, it started to read more monochrome. It was far more sophisticated than I had planned.'

'I want my apartment to feel slightly inappropriate, like wearing evening wear and black lace stockings during the day,' she laughs. 'Bold just really works for me!'

Contact Meyer Davis at [meyerdavis.com](http://meyerdavis.com); see Miles Redd's work at [milesredd.com](http://milesredd.com)





#### DINING SPACE

'I've been the grateful beneficiary of many pieces from family and friends,' says Chassie. The white-lacquered dining table was a gift from interior designer Miles Redd, who had used it for a charity dinner. Chassie bought the giant mirror years ago in Georgia.

#### GET THE LOOK

The table is a vintage piece but the Aspen dining table from Habitat is a good alternative. Find a large selection of dining chairs at Little Paris.



#### KITCHEN

'In the US, everyone has enormous kitchens and they live in them, but I didn't want that,' says Chassie. 'I would have liked all that cooking mess out of the way, but that's hard to do here. We even suggested hiding it behind glass sliding doors, but our architects were like, "Hmm, not that practical!"' Instead, floor-to-ceiling cupboards create heaps of storage.

#### GET THE LOOK

The cupboards are painted wood. The worktop is marble; Stone Age stocks a good selection. Find Viking ovens at DR Kitchen Appliances.



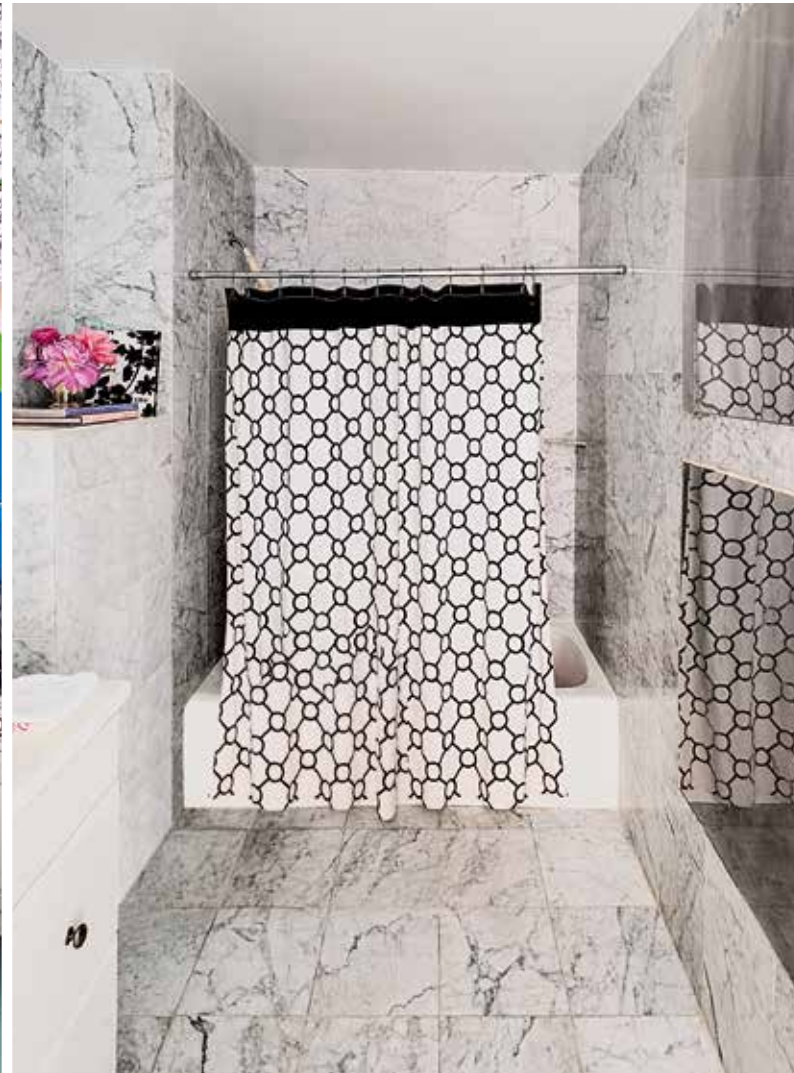


**DINING SPACE** ↑

'This was a hulking brown piece,' says Chassie, 'so I just painted it in a Farrow & Ball grey. I've tried to learn to love woody tones, but their subtlety throws me for a loop!' The painting, called *Now I'm Gonna Take A Vacation*, is by Rita Ackermann. 'I got into her when she illustrated a Sonic Youth album cover.'

**GET THE LOOK**

Try [frenchfinds.co.uk](http://frenchfinds.co.uk) for a similar sideboard. Chassie painted hers in Farrow & Ball's French Gray eggshell. Find Chinese lamp bases at [yellowsunrise.co.uk](http://yellowsunrise.co.uk). Rita Ackermann is represented by Andrea Rosen Gallery.



**BATHROOM** ↑

There is a clean, modernist feel to this bathroom, with its marble and simple white fittings. Chassie couldn't resist adding a splash of pattern, though, with the geometric shower curtain.

**GET THE LOOK**

The shower curtain is from Jonathan Adler. For a similar deep shower tray, take a look at the *Duschwannen* by Bette at [reuter-badshop.com](http://reuter-badshop.com).



**MASTER BEDROOM**

'This is a small room with no windows,' explains Chassie. 'If my son didn't wake up so early this would be a good place for a lie-in. It's very quiet.' Despite its small size, Chassie still papered the room. 'I wanted to make it feel like a little jewel box. I couldn't leave my beloved turquoise behind, so I chose this dramatic paper, which is a modern take on toile.'

**GET THE LOOK**

The wallpaper is *Paradise Background* from Quadrille. The bedding is from Matouk. The lamps and mirror came from Chassie's mother. To find similar lamps, go to Oka. Ayres & Graces stocks similar mirrors.





**LIVINGETC LOVES**

- Chassie's unconventional approach to decorating. Forget creating a neutral backdrop and adding pops of colour, she delights in doing the exact opposite!
- The way dramatic walls covered in patterned paper and contemporary art are teamed with more subdued furniture.
- The genius, sleek storage in the dining area, which hides Chassie's office and Phil's recording equipment.
- How Chassie refuses to be ruled by practicalities. She admits wallpapering the entire apartment was not entirely sensible, but the results are exquisite.
- The unpretentious mix of yard-sale and eBay finds, family hand-me-downs and renovated pieces. Chassie's furniture combines history, heart and soul.

**ROHDE'S BEDROOM**

'This is a traditional loft with windows on one side only,' says Chassie. 'In an act of good parenting, we gave our son the only bedroom with windows!' Chassie's friend Miles Redd suggested the stripes. 'He thought it would look like a box from handbag and jewellery store Henri Bendel,' she says. 'I added all the red. The combination of brown and red seems bold and boyish.'

**GET THE LOOK**

The wallpaper is by Rose Cumming. The Big Cata quilt and cushion covers are from Roberta Roller Rabbit. For similar fabric, try Korla.

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