



PHOTO: MARK ROSKAMS.

## PERIOD PIECE DINING ROOM

KNOWN FOR HER EASY-GOING ELEGANT STYLE, DESIGNER MICHELE BITTER BLENDS PAST WITH PRESENT IN THIS CENTRAL PARK APARTMENT.

**Finding furnishings to pair against such striking architectural detailing must have been a feat.**

Actually, the challenge came from using as much of the clients' preexisting furniture as possible. The chandelier was purchased for their country home, and while searching for a light for this residence, we decided to use this one here only temporarily, but it worked so well that we kept it. The table could have made the space austere and untouchable; however, the playfulness of the color on the existing chairs makes the room more approachable.

**A navy-and-white palette can often times feel a little more coastal and casual, yet you've made it feel so rich and elegant.**

I was inspired by the fabric on the back of the dining chairs, and the entire color scheme unfolded from there. I popped up the color of the owners' chairs by upholstering the fronts in a practical leather but created interest with the backs. Updating the millwork in a bright white lightened the space and added more contrast against the Admiral Blue panels of the adjoining playroom.

**You really turned the room's bookcases into so much more than just storage.**

Styling bookcases is one of my favorite things to do, but it is always tricky to create the right balance of books and decorative objects. These bookcases came out stunningly, though, thanks to a good mix of books, vintage glass and one-of-a-kind Bitossi ceramics in a great orange accent color. The orange hue reappears in the leather backs of the custom bookcases found in the space just beyond.

Dining Table / Wendell Castle / [lasvenus.com](http://lasvenus.com). Harushika Dining Chair Fabric in Nature! / Castel / [donghia.com](http://donghia.com). Home Builder / Chester Mierzwinski / CM Construction / **718.782.0049**. Royal Hide Dining Chair Leather in Purplish / [edelmanleather.com](http://edelmanleather.com). Interior Design / Michele Bitter / Michele Bitter Designs / [michelebitter.com](http://michelebitter.com).