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show & tell

100+ IDEAS TO STEAL



A 1998 move to New York gave interior designer **ANDREW SUVALSKY** the opportunity to work alongside designer Benjamin Noriega-Ortiz. After six years as senior designer, he launched his own company, Andrew Suvalsky Designs; today he creates modern environments that are accentuated with color. See a SoHo loft that is a symphony of cobalt in "Bring on the Blues" (page 66).

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BRING ON the BLUES

Cobalt helps a SoHo pied-à-terre make a big splash



DAVID HOCKNEY MEETS Auntie Mame. That's what London-based impresario Laurence Isaacson envisioned when he recently decided to downsize his New York home.

It makes sense that he turned once more to Andrew Suvalsky, who while at Benjamin Noriega-Ortiz Design had been the senior project director on Isaacson's former abode. Now head of his own Manhattan firm, Andrew Suvalsky Designs, the designer already knew what the homeowner liked.

"Laurence didn't want to lose any of the fabulousness of his previous apartment, which was a few doors down in SoHo and nearly twice as large," Suvalsky explains. "He gave me only two mandates: Incorporate cobalt blue as much as possible—think David Hockney's iconic painting *Big Splash*—and make it a cozy, comfortable place with enough of a wow factor—that's the part that reflects the heroine of Broadway's *Mame*—for the extensive entertaining he does."

The 2,000-square-foot penthouse was basically "a big white box with good bones," Suvalsky says. Equipped with high-quality but standard-fare appliances and little else, it required just one architectural change to suit Isaacson: an open kitchen. As co-owner of the Greenwich Village bistro Paris Commune and a board member of the Royal Shakespeare Company and the Ambassador Theatre Group, Isaacson is a pro at creating good times. He felt that such a reconfiguration would add both a sense of drama to his get-togethers

A newly reconfigured open kitchen in this SoHo penthouse sets the stage for grand gatherings as well as more intimate soirees. Bright blue adds impact.





Neutral hues in the living room, above and left, are punctuated by cobalt-blue accents, including a Murano glass chandelier. Meanwhile, the media room, right, is enveloped in the shade, with draperies and a specially commissioned wall covering that features crushed glass on lacquer.



and create a relaxed atmosphere.

With that change completed, Suvalsky's work focused on color, texture and light. The process was easier than it might have been because designer and homeowner were so in sync. At their first meeting, they found that in their pre-shopping excursions they had tagged some of the same items as must-haves, including the blue Murano glass chandelier now hanging in the living room.

Cobalt blue really takes over in the media room. "Like blue comets streaking across a night sky," as Suvalsky describes it, the crushed blue glass on black lacquer wall he commissioned sets the tone and, along with the blue draperies and sofas, contrasts sharply with the creamy white furniture and floor.

The master bedroom and the baths are the only spaces not cobalt-centric. There, seafoam green imbues subtle glamour: A mirrored wall in the bedroom reflects the pearlescent-leather headboard and linen-dressed bed, while the baths shimmer with ombre Italian glass tiles, their walls meeting in curving angles.

In the living room, neutral hues counter cobalt-colored furniture and accessories. The windows, draped like the walls in sheer wool challis, become architectural elements that draw attention to the 13-foot ceilings. Putting a soft spin on the room is the 1960s coffee table that Suvalsky found. Its limestone ribbon base, he notes, "adds a feminine touch."

When needed, the living room transforms for formal dining in a matter of minutes. "The coffee table is exchanged for the glass-and-chrome table behind the sofa, accent chairs scattered throughout the apartment are placed around it, and it's ready to go," says Suvalsky. For casual entertaining, the open kitchen comes into play: Its plasma television is positioned so it's viewable from every corner, and the bar functions as a dining table for small groups or a serving area when guests congregate on the sofas and chairs.

The apartment is now stylish yet practical, adding spice to the west side of Isaacson's transatlantic life. It seems this downsize managed to achieve color and comfort on a grand scale. ☺