

ELITE DECOR

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**SENSATIONAL
STYLE,
INDOORS AND OUT**

**AT HOME WITH
A WASHINGTON POWER
COUPLE**

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In the master bedroom, an Hervé Van der Straeten chandelier from Ralph Pucci International, a lithograph by Elizabeth Peyton, and a Beauvais Carpets rug; the bed linens are from Story's line for Casa Del Bianco. Facing page, from top: A brass wall lamp by the Urban Electric Co. and a sink vanity by Urban Archaeology. The dressing room features a red-oak rolling ladder and a Louis XVI bench. See Resources.



Modern art often provides a point of departure as well as a sense of drama. For example, the glossy aubergine ceiling (distinctive wall treatments are another Story signature) in her combined kitchen-dining room was inspired by a favorite Elizabeth Peyton lithograph of Oscar Wilde's lover Lord Alfred Douglas sporting a vivid purple necktie.

Born in Japan (her father worked for the Tokyo branch of the oil company Esso), Story spent part of her childhood in Singapore. Her extensive travel throughout Asia reveals itself in refined Eastern furniture and decorative objects. In the striking library she created for her husband, red-lacquer

Chinese side tables and crimson Burmese storage urns warm up the edgy look of black leather and steel. The former fourth-floor entry hall—cleverly converted into a cozy office for Story—features walls sheathed in chinoiserie wallpaper hand-painted with shimmering fish.

As sumptuous as the decor is, no room is off-limits to the couple's two sons, Duke, 5, and Edward, 1, although Story admits having children influenced her choice of fabrics, including durable wool and leather in darker hues to hide stains. "I don't view my house as a museum," she says. "The kids are welcome to climb on the chairs."

The designer was similarly decisive in turning the former living room, with its working fireplace and marble mantel, into the master bedroom. She outfitted the ample space with a French 1940s chair, shagreen occasional table, and Hervé Van der Straeten cast-bronze chandelier from Paris so heavy the ceiling had to be reinforced. The pièce de résistance, however, is the walk-in closet. Worthy of a '30s Hollywood starlet, it boasts an inlaid marble-top vanity, floor-to-ceiling shelves for her extensive collection of handbags and shoes, and an old-fashioned library ladder that slides along a track.

But for Story the space's best feature is not what's on the inside, but rather the New York City treasure outside her window. Awakening to that serene oasis each morning, she says, "gives me a sense of calm in this exciting, fast-paced city." ■



Lucca Antiques (for information: luccaantiques.com). **MB2 bench** by *Paula Antinori*, to the trade from *Mariana Antinori Inc.* (for information: marianaantinori.com). **Peonies rug**, to the trade from *Beauvais Carpets* (for information: beauvaiscarpets.com). **Custom-made headboard** by *Luther Quintana Upholstery Inc.* (for information: lqupholstery.com). **Geometric bed linens**, available by special order, by *Sara Story Design for Casa Del Bianco* (for information: casadelbianco.com).

ETCETERA

Page 166: Coral Fan melamine dinner plate, \$44/set of 4, by

