

Art & Commerce

AT A LANDMARK MANHATTAN ADDRESS, INTERIOR DESIGNER NEBIHE CIHAN DESIGNED A SPACE FOR A BUSINESSMAN AND A CONNOISSEUR OF MODERN ART

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In the guest bedroom next to the EdenPlus bed is a jiff side table, both by Flexform. The sculpture is by the British artist Richard Deacon. Left: Designer Nebihe Cihan



THROUGH THE 10-BY-10-FOOT WINDOWS of this penthouse, New York City sprawls lavishly in every direction. Along with panoramic views of Manhattan, the space also overlooks Central Park. Naturally, a view like this needed interiors that could hold their own—if not in scale, then most certainly in artistic quality and ambition. Rumored to also be a future home to celebrity couple Jennifer Lopez and Alex Rodriguez - among other A-listers - 432 Park Avenue is believed to be the tallest residential tower in the western hemisphere. The Rafael Viñoly-designed skyscraper is located in the heart of

Manhattan, between 56th and 57th Street, and is as prime as real estate gets.

"As a prolific modern art collector, the homeowner wanted the art to take center stage - almost as if in a museum, but with a slightly more intimate feel," says Nebihe Cihan, the interior designer for the project. Cihan's job was made easier by the space's 12-foot-8-high ceilings and long hallway leading to the living room, "which feels as if you've just entered an art gallery or museum," she adds.

Among the key highlights of the homeowner's collection, which Cihan helped curate, are sculptures by British artists Tony Cragg and Richard Deacon, paintings by Idris Khan, and a neon installation by Welsh conceptual artist Cerith Wyn Evans. "I usually integrate the artwork at the end of a project, so this was different in terms of [the way I have worked] in the past," says Cihan.

The greatest challenge was to marry the art with the furnishings, and also imbue the space with a sense of calmness. Cihan accomplished this across the apartment's three bedrooms, and the living and dining areas, by using a palette of white and neutral tones, and furniture and furnishings that were stylish and contemporary, but elegantly understated. The stars of the show, though, clearly are the artworks - and the views.

It is easy to imagine guests seated around the Flexform dining table overlooked by an Idris Khan work, interacting with each other and the work's reflection on the table's glass top; or pausing in the hallway to admire the Cerith Wyn Evans work in neon that reads, 'Just play me two bars of stardust'. In the evenings, guests might gather in the living room to watch as New York flickers alive, brightly lit and busy, framed perfectly in the 10-by-10-foot windows - and a work of art in its own right. □

In the dining room, beneath an artwork by Idris Khan, are the Gypsy side table and leather-upholstered Morgan dining chairs, both from Flexform. The chandelier is by Damien Langlois-Meurio. Left: The striking exterior of 432 Park Avenue soars above the Manhattan skyline

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Above: In the living room, two Guscoletto Self wing chairs face a Magi daybed and a Thomas armchair, all by Antonio Citterio for Flexform. The sculpture is by British artist Tony Cragg, for which interior designer Nebiye Chan had a custom plinth made in Calcutta Ori marble



Above: In the bedroom, the Grandmare bed is paired with Gipsy side tables, a Guscio armchair, and a Feel Good Ottoman, all by Flexform; the art on the wall is the Egyptian artist Wael Shawkly. Below: The painting in the hallway is by the American-Iranian artist Nicky Nadjoum; the sculpture is by Korean artist Gimhongsok

