

ELLE DECORATION

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FOR YOUR
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STYLE FOR LESS
**42 ORIGINAL
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RELAXED
GLAMOUR**



02

*Open plan, light,
bright and full of
beautiful furniture
– just four of the
reasons why we love
this New York loft ♦♦*

WORDS **AMANDA TALBOT**
PICTURES **NGOC MINH NGO**

TO
HITE
WHITE





Entirely white, from its gloss-concrete floors to its 15-foot high sweeping ceilings, this immaculate open-plan space is the perfect backdrop for French art dealer Olivier Renaud-Clement's mouth-watering collection of Italian industrial design from the Sixties and Seventies

What inspired you to keep the space all white?

I've followed the ideals of Japanese interiors; I'm very inspired by their approach to simplicity in design. Using white enables me to project my ideas and create a feeling of peace. Plus, it gives people in the space more presence and I find using white means I don't get distracted and there is no sense of aggression.

Do you ever crave a hit of colour?

Not really. I used splashes of brown like my Mario Bellini sofa to add warmth. I've always loved the colour brown because it's rich and chic. I've also created comfortable corners to lounge around in and hung a sheer nylon fabric in front of the 15ft x 18ft mirror that nearly covers the entire wall. This softens the space, adds light and makes believe that there's another room behind the fabric.

How practical is living with all white?

You have to be a little careful but it doesn't mean I would stop people drinking red wine! It's not a home for children or dogs but I'm a single man so that's not an issue.

How do you describe your interior style?

I'm attracted to material and shapes. I use Italian design pieces from the Sixties and Seventies because they are like perfect visions of the future. To avoid making the space look dated, I mix them with my contemporary art collection.

What inspired your passion for vintage Italian design?

The Italian designers had a particular brilliance at combining function and form while exploring the newest materials and technologies of their day. I view these pieces as sculpture as well as furnishings.

What is your top tip to living this way?

It requires a certain rigour. The main thing is to avoid accumulating clutter. I collaborated with New York architect Steve Blatz in designing the loft and we created some clever storage solutions. I store all my books in a hidden cabinet under the living room window and I have a large warehouse of pieces that I can't live with at the moment. It can be frustrating at times but I think it's important to always keep a clear vision of what you intend to achieve with your home.

To see more of architect Steve Blatz's work view his website www.blatzarc.com



Living area Sheer nylon fabric masks a huge mirror which nearly covers an entire wall. The swivel chair is attributed to Finnish-American designer Eero Saarinen – the owner believes it was for Saarinen's lounge at JFK Airport in New York. The sofa is a vintage piece by Italian designer Mario Bellini for B&B Italia (try Ligne Roset's 'Pumpkin' sofa for similar) ➡

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'YOU HAVE TO BE A LITTLE
CAREFUL LIVING WITH ALL
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PEOPLE DRINKING RED WINE!'



Study (opposite) A museum-worthy showcase of fabulous vintage Italian designs, this loft has a 'Poker' table and rare 'Aton' lamp by Sixties Italian designer Joe Colombo for Zanotta. The chair is a prototype by the industrial designer Achille Castiglioni bought in Berlin at Jochum + Tissi. The moulded plywood 'Sella' chair is also by Achille Castiglioni. The white cabinet was designed by the homeowner and New York architect Steve Blatz. It stores the homeowner's files and phone.

Sitting area The built-in bookcase is the only area where the owner displays his books. The chair and ottoman are vintage pieces by Italian designer Mario Bellini for B&B Italia. The sculpture is by Sartori Light Sculptures. The dazzling artwork is by German artist Adolph Luther ♦♦

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'I'VE KEPT AWAY FROM
USING HEAVY CURTAINS
AND DOORS BECAUSE
I HATE BEING IN THE DARK'



Living area The fluorescent light sculpture was a special commission by Japanese artist Yuichi Higashionna while the chair is Italian designer Joe Colombo's 1963 'Elda' chair. The black fragmented artwork is by former Dior Homme designer, Hedi Slimane

Kitchen With its mirrored-glass cabinets, the tiny kitchen is high maintenance. The chair is from Queen Elizabeth II's coronation in 1953. A Colombo lamp sits on a table by Ineke Hans (the 'Bjurstä' table from Ikea is similar) ♦♦

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Bedroom Both lamps are by the Italian designer Joe Colombo, who was big in the Sixties. They're from a series he called 'Flash'. The artwork which is at the bedroom entrance (opposite) is by Michael Phelan and Jonah Freeman **DECO**

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I'VE FOLLOWED THE IDEALS OF
JAPANESE INTERIORS. I'M VERY
INSPIRED BY THEIR APPROACH
TO SIMPLICITY IN DESIGN



goodbye