

NEW YORK INTERIORS

BOLD
ELEGANT
REFINED

BARBARA & RENÉ STOELTIE
Foreword by KENNETH JAY LANE



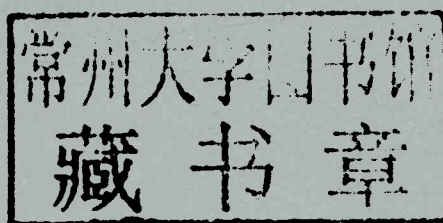
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Acknowledgments

We would like to express our gratitude to all those who helped with the creation of this book.

In addition to the owners and occupants of the extraordinary homes that fill these pages, we would particularly like to thank our friend Christopher Flach for providing us with a roof over our heads during our time in New York, and our friend Kenneth Jay Lane for accepting our invitation to write the foreword. Without their precious generosity, we would never have been able to transform the magic of the Big Apple into words and images.

Text and photo styling

Barbara Stoeltie

Photographs and layout

René Stoeltie

Translated from the French by

Mark Carlson

Copyediting

Lise Connellan

Typesetting

Juliette de Patoul

Coordination

Laurent Germeau

Color separation

Barbara and René Stoeltie

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NEW YORK INTERIORS

This book is dedicated to the memory
of Diana Vreeland

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FOREWORD

New York is a city that is continually changing; having lived here all my adult life I am constantly amazed by its perpetual transformations. Old factory buildings are converted into expansive and elegant luxury lofts. Late nineteenth-century mansions are broken up into modern and stylish apartments. The puritanical style of decoration, considered by some to be formal and subtly English but slightly outmoded, is gradually giving way to a different approach borne from the imagination of an innovative new generation.

The range of interiors presented here by Barbara and René Stoeltie—lavishly illustrated and ingeniously captured in natural light—demonstrates as never before the rich multiplicity of the city. Whereas in Paris, London, Rome, or Madrid, a very recognizable sense of culture and history often dominates the interior design of its homes, New Yorkers' residences are as varied, eclectic, and diverse as the city's inhabitants.

— Kenneth Jay Lane



INTRODUCTION

The New York that we know and love has nothing in common with the “helluva town” in Bernstein, Comden and Green’s famous song from the musical *On the Town*. Our New York is more than just an awe-inspiring mass of concrete, steel, and glass that is called Manhattan. It is an island of a thousand facets—one that, over the years, has never ceased to share with us some of its most closely guarded secrets.

Forget about those garish clichéd postcard images that you’ve seen too many times. Leave behind the Statue of Liberty, the Empire State Building, and Fifth Avenue. Get off the beaten track and follow us down the busy streets of Tribeca, along an elegant Midtown avenue, and into the heart of a Harlem full of surprises. Come with us up the steps of a brownstone, past its front door, where an exquisite neoclassical interior lies. Ride with us to the top floor of an early twentieth-century colossus, and be amazed by a spacious penthouse and a terrace with a view of Central Park. Let our inveterate curiosity rub off on you as we spend an unforgettable day in a house on 149th Street, whose unique interior and wall-to-wall contemporary art will take your breath away.

New York is a city that is at once chic and bohemian, traditional and avant-garde, imposing and intimate. But this unique atmosphere is not confined to the borders of the ancient tribal land of *Mannahatta*. New York’s distinctive spirit can also be found in the leafy hills bordering the Hudson River, as well as in a gorgeous Greek Revival home with an English-style garden in the heart of Westchester County, or in an exquisite country house filled with Shaker furniture, barely a half-hour’s drive from the city. The famous New York state of mind is not limited to this landmass where the skyscrapers compete with each other to touch the clouds. New Yorkers who are fortunate enough to enjoy both the dynamism of the Big Apple and the peaceful pleasures of its green environs are happy indeed.

The New York we love is the preferred destination for many artists, craftspeople, decorators, architects, and all those who delight in creatively embellishing their home. The sheer number of exceptional spaces in this city never ceases to amaze us: resplendent apartments with gleaming paneling covered with old master paintings, glassed-in eagles’ nests high atop an art deco skyscraper, and handsome brick houses with gardens worthy of a country village. The many charms of the Big Apple will delight you; follow us through the pages of this book and let us introduce you to “our” New York.

MANHATTAN CHIC

Louis Bofferding





