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TRICKS OF THE TRADE

Three designers from this year's Kips Bay Show House reveal how they work when a room dictates the decor.



The living room of John Hay Whitney's historic 16-room New York mansion gave designer Richard Mishaan a rich architectural palette.

CAMPION PLATT LIBRARY



“CONTRAST WAS CRUCIAL TO CREATING A SENSE OF LIGHTNESS—DARK WALLS, EVERYTHING ELSE PALE.”



Designer Campion Platt loved the rich mahogany paneling lining this cozy parlor-floor study, but he wanted to trade in the darkened men's-club mood for a lighter, modern Hollywood glamour befitting its former occupant. (John Hay Whitney was an early investor in Technicolor, as well as in iconic films like *Gone With the Wind*.) Working with artist Ricardo Brizola, Platt created extra sheen by covering the once-burgundy trim in bone-colored

Venetian plaster infused with crushed mother-of-pearl, and painted the ceiling in bone lacquer. To give the small quarters a more expansive feel, Platt had all of the furniture custom-made in slightly scaled-down proportions, and created several distinct conversation areas. Arranged in pairs, the varied seating echoes the wall paneling's symmetrical detailing and establishes a sense of order, creating a serene, calming atmosphere just right for a relaxed evening cocktail.

Ivory upholstery recedes into the sand-colored wall-to-wall carpet by Stark, which conceals the dark wood floors underneath. Giant movie-still artworks by art collaborators David McDermott and Peter McGough introduce color and further the cinematic atmosphere.