

CLASSIC HOME

FALL 1994

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MIX MASTER

DESIGNER
ERIC COHLER
STIRRED NEW LIFE
INTO HIS OLD
NEW YORK
MAISONETTE BY
PLAYING OFF
CONTRASTS.

BY ELVIN McDONALD

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
JEFF McNAMARA







ABOVE: Sunlight streams into the study and bounces off the "Hodroll Stripe" wallpaper from Clarence House. The sofa wears Cowtan & Tout's "Montaigne Blue." The Bouvier American Empire side table dates to circa 1825. **LEFT:** Traditional details in the library include cove moldings and Gothic fretwork wallpaper on the ceiling. A George II clock and Regency secretary distinguish the space. From India, the elephant ladder leaning against the bookcase can be folded into a small cylinder. The rug is a Caucasian. The chairs are upholstered in Cowtan & Tout's "Veronique Rouge." **OPPOSITE:** An antique rosewood bed dominates the bedroom. The duvet cover and drape fabric are "Romanesque Stripe" from Clarence House. The quilt is American and dates to the late 1800s. "Eira Large Stripe" wallpaper from Clarence House offers a sense of greater height, while the molding adds interesting detail.

Eric chose to return the interiors to their earliest splendor. Most of the original features had been removed, so the designer examined the architectural details of other apartments in the building. Then he set out to reproduce them. Thus, cove moldings and parquet floors once again distinguish the interiors.

The apartment has an entrance-way heralded by pillars with Ionic capitals. The walls of this area are sheathed in Georgian paneling. A central gallery seems to extend the apartment well beyond its 1,200 square feet. Another "playful trick"

that creates a sense of more space is installing "doors that don't go anywhere," says Eric. A set of double doors in one room is misleading; one door leads to the kitchen, the other dead-ends into a wall.

The living room acquires architectural interest through its walls, which are cloaked in plywood that mimics Georgian paneling. In other rooms, striped wallpaper makes the spaces seem larger and taller, and wallpaper on the ceiling intensifies this illusion.

Bountiful windows draw light into the apartment. "You need sun-

glasses when you come in," jokes Eric, who installed sunshields on the windows to protect the client's extensive painting collection. Drawings, marine paintings, and primitive portraits abound in the apartment. The quintessential English gentleman's other cherished items range from Chinese monochrome porcelain to an elephant ladder. These ladders were used by people in India to mount elephants; the British brought them back to England for use in their libraries. In this apartment, it is just one of many things that give the interiors their unique personality. ●

