

All About the Art

EMILY FISHER LANDAU CHOOSES HER PALETTE IN NEW YORK





Interior Design by James Aman
and Anne Carson
Text by Joseph Giovannini
Photography by Scott Frances

Decorating, like writing, is a matter of editing, especially when a great Picasso and Dubuffet are at stake. The pride of Emily Fisher Landau's living room, not to mention her entrance gallery, dining room, library and bedrooms, is the art. "Leo Castelli once stood in front of the Dubuffet," recalls Landau, "and said, 'It doesn't get any better than that.'" But the quality and depth of the collection belonging to Landau, a trustee of the Whitney Museum of American Art, doesn't mean that she and her husband, Sheldon, wanted to sacrifice comfort when they asked James Aman and Anne Carson to redesign their Park Avenue pied-à-terre. Picasso and Dubuffet never intended their paintings to be hung in big plain cubes of space painted a blinding titanium superwhite, and the Landaus saw no reason to subject themselves, their children, numerous grandchildren and their beloved Persian cat, Mishoo, to rooms that necessitated sun-



"We tried to create a quiet, elegant backdrop for the art," James Aman says of the apartment he and Anne Carson designed for Emily Fisher Landau (above) and her husband, Sheldon. LEFT: Picasso's 1932 *Femme à la Montre* and the 1959 bronze *Torse Végétal* by Jean Arp overlook the living room. Tray table from Sentiemento Antiques; Steinway piano.



Fernand Léger's 1951 oil *Etude pour les Constructeurs* is flanked by his *Personnages au Camion de Garage*, 1955, left, and Picasso's 1969 *Personnages* in the dining room. Chandelier from H. M. Luther. Chairs from Karl Kemp & Assoc., with Brunshwig & Fils fabric; Hermès scarf on chair back at right.

glasses. What the commission required was elegant simplicity rather than museum-quality minimalism.

Fresh from working on the couple's Palm Beach penthouse, Aman and Carson knew their clients' tastes, their collection and their openness to trying something spirited. Having helped transform the old Rhinelander Mansion into Ralph

Lauren's flagship store, Aman also understood the care needed for the ceremonial rooms of grand, storied Manhattan interiors. (The Landaus' apartment once belonged to Isidor Straus, an owner of R. H. Macy and Company, and his wife, Ida; both perished with the *Titanic*.) In the Landaus' Florida apartment, glamour and restraint were deftly cultivated,