



OUT ON A LIMB

The designer of a Manhattan warehouse takes a no-holds-barred approach, creating a vibrant, passionate home for a family of five.

PHOTOGRAPHS HALLIE BURTON WORDS KIRSTY DE GARIS



THIS PAGE The central staircase forms a spine that connects all levels in dramatic style. The towering sculpture is by Julian Opie. The coffee table was custom-designed by Ghislaine Viñas Interior Design (GVID). OPPOSITE PAGE The foyer sets the unconventional tone for the home, with orange and white chairs from Svenska Möbler that look like they've been dipped in paint. Ping-pong-ball chandelier by Zia Priven. Custom-designed wallpaper by GVID. Artwork on wall by Vik Muniz.



Designers mean different things when they say they love colour. For some, that translates simply to a set of blue cushions against an otherwise beige backdrop, but the woman behind this six-storey Manhattan warehouse has made no bones about using colour to create a family home that's both extremely bold and very beautiful.

Ghislaine Viñas, a transplanted Dutch-born interior designer who spent much of her childhood in South Africa, began collaborating with her client, curator and gallery owner Paige West, after they were introduced by a mutual friend a decade ago. The pair share a passion for colour that's exemplified in the furniture and accessories Ghislaine selected and the artworks Paige chose for her home.

Paige presented Ghislaine with two thematic guides for the interior design, a two-year process that began one year into the warehouse's extensive renovation. The first was a huge Lisa Ruyter painting hanging in the kitchen and the second, a close-up photograph of a brilliantly coloured budgerigar that Paige showed the designer. The office, as a result, is bold turquoise, with a literal interpretation of the bird in the light fitting: a bright turquoise feather pendant lamp.

The top four floors of the warehouse are used as the family home for Paige, her husband – real estate developer JC Keeler – and their three sons, Charlie, five, and three-year-old twins Jack and Fred. Above the top floor is a roof terrace accessible by ladder, while a grand curved



THIS PAGE The living, dining and kitchen level is conducive to extended meals with family and friends. Black surround sofas by Niedermaier. Custom-designed rug by GVID. Pendant lights by Suzan Etkin Enterprises. OPPOSITE PAGE The custom-designed kitchen island is a striking highlight that links with the yellow sofa. Hand-crafted 'Maun Windsor' informal dining chairs from Mabeo, based in Botswana. Pendant lights from Hivemindesign. Painting by Lisa Ruyter.



staircase, a solid contemporary design reminiscent of the classic circular staircases of yesteryear, links the four floors through their centre. Beneath the family home is a self-contained guest apartment, complete with indoor climbing wall that JC uses when there's nobody staying, and at street level is a large lobby that beautifully sets the mood for the rest of the residence.

Two enormous entry doors welcome the visitor from the madness of Manhattan outside. The moment you set foot inside the lobby, the mood shifts to bright and playful. Wallpaper designed by Ghislaine and her business partner and husband, Jaime Viñas, is a bold clash of oversized fleur-de-lis set on a pale grey and white polka dot background. A chandelier made from ping pong balls raises an amused eyebrow, and two reupholstered chairs were painted white and orange. "It looks like they've been dipped in orange paint," Ghislaine says.

She incorporated the family's tastes in travel – Aspen is one place very close to their hearts – and introduced referential elements in the interior decoration of the home, taking miniature fir trees from train sets and affixing hundreds of them to a white wall in the top floor family living area as a kind of three-dimensional mural. "It's a tongue-in-cheek nod to that love of theirs," she explains.

Much of the furniture Ghislaine selected for this home is rounded. "I like curves," she explains. "I like circles. I don't like a lot of patterns, but I like circles and I like stripes." The fifth floor, below the family living area, is where they eat and entertain. The curve of the canary yellow sofa in a small breakout seating area serves to soften the black of the adjacent formal living and dining suite. The black dining area was the one zone where Ghislaine opted for more sophisticated styling, yet even here she couldn't help but introduce a frivolous element to the austere, classical setting. The seat of each chair is embellished with a large photograph of a plateful of the family's favourite food: you'll find lobster on one seat, chicken pot pie on another, a bowl of cereal on a third. The rug beneath the black formal living area beside the dining table is broken up with white and yellow graphic images of snowflakes – another nod to the family's love of Aspen.

The kitchen is an almost entirely white space, except for the bright yellow island bench in the middle and red chairs around the neighbouring table. It's almost as if Ghislaine can't help but inject a furiously festive pop of colour and mischief into everything she touches, and the effect is infectious. This tendency extends to one of the bathrooms, where neon outlines of clouds serve as hanging lights. "There are kids living here," she says, by way of explanation. "In a way we were poking fun at these children living in the concrete jungle of Manhattan – we had fun with it."

Ghislaine has worked on a succession of projects with Paige, including the family's summer home in the Hamptons, which she says is even more colourful than this house. She has relished the work with her client, who has now become a very close friend.

"We even finish each other's sentences these days," Ghislaine says. "I smiled all the way through this project." ❏

THIS PAGE A photograph of a budgerigar was the inspiration for the colour scheme in the study and resulted in this turquoise feather pendant light from ABYU. A striking desk by Robert Austin Gonzalez and an Eames 'Soft Pad' chair sit in front of a Lukas Roth photograph. OPPOSITE PAGE, ABOVE Ghislaine created a plate installation for the walls of the living, dining and kitchen areas. Yellow 'Arne' sofa from B&B Italia. OPPOSITE PAGE, BELOW Ghislaine custom-designed a white daybed for this reading area. Wall lights by Jaime Hayón for Artquitect.





SPEED READ

Both the owner and the designer of this six-storey warehouse share a passion for colour that's seen throughout. + Primary hues combine with quirky design pieces to create a sense of play. + The upper four storeys comprise a home for a family of five, linked by a grand central staircase reminiscent of older mansions. + Below that is a guest apartment, with its own indoor rock-climbing wall. + Frivolous elements include a chandelier made from ping-pong balls and chairs that look as if they've been dipped in paint, while artworks include a towering sculpture and photographs by internationally renowned names.



THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT The trees on this wall are a nod to the family's love of Aspen, Colorado. A guest bedroom features Andy Warhol blinds and a desk lamp by Ilse Crawford. Brooklyn-based trio 3 Fingers Painting hand-painted a striped wall in another guest bedroom. Chair from Kartell and photographs by John Schabel. In the main bedroom vintage side tables offset modern 'Solis' pendant lights from Pablo Designs. Artworks by Alyson Shotz. OPPOSITE PAGE The owners' quirky taste in art speaks for itself on the top floor, with Hanns-Peter Krafft sheep grazing on a green rug.

