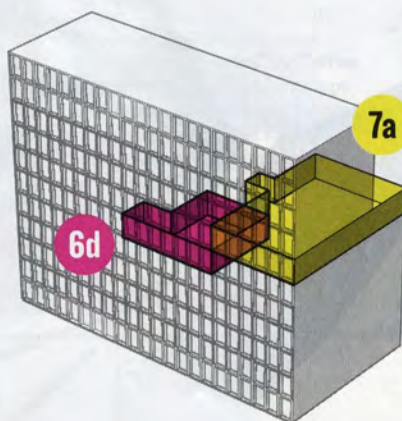


GREAT ROOM



The Pied-à-Terre Downstairs

Who needs two second homes in a single apartment building? One London-based family's extravagant coping strategy.
 BY WENDY GOODMAN



The Living Rooms
 The original apartment, above, was significantly larger than the second, but that didn't stop designer-architect Robert Couturier from using a similar approach. He anchored both living areas with attention-grabbing pieces of art—a painting by Sol LeWitt and a black-and-white photograph series by Rachel Whiteread—and surrounded them with neutral furnishings. Above, a Maison Jansen coffee table and sixties Italian leather chairs. At right, a vintage fifties Angelo Mangiarotti coffee table and Cassina sofa.

PHOTOGRAPHS: DAVID ALLEE FOR NEW YORK MAGAZINE (6D); PETER MARGONELLI/ COURTESY OF ROBERT COUTURIER (7A); ILLUSTRATION BY JASON LEE

APARTMENT
6d



GREAT ROOM

IN 2008, DESIGNER-ARCHITECT Robert Couturier landed a dream project: a London-based family's second home in an iconic Herzog & de Meuron building downtown. It was to be a 2,400-square-foot, south-facing three-bedroom floor-through splashed with bold colors and a wild mix of contemporary art and modern and vintage furniture. Then, last year, he was approached with a strikingly similar job: same clients, same aesthetic, and, incredibly, the same building. An 1,100-square-foot one-bedroom on a lower floor had come up for sale, and the Londoners had snapped it up. It was to be something of a pied-à-terre for their existing pied-à-terre—a place to host guests, throw parties, and escape from the four kids slowly annexing the apartment above. Because the new space was smaller, a few structural changes were required to match it to the original. Door frames, for instance, were enlarged to play up the drama of the floor-to-ceiling windows. But by and large, says Couturier, “we had the same approach. [The two apartments] are like twins—there’s no stepchild here.”



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The Bedrooms
For the new master bedroom, bottom, Couturier tweaked the original's blue-walls-and-white-linens template. In 7a, a photo of Mies van der Rohe's

Farnsworth House hangs above the bed, flanked by Raymond Loewy night tables. In 6d, the wall-mounted sculpture is by Federico Uribe from Gallery Fumi in London.

7a

6d



PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID ALLEE FOR NEW YORK MAGAZINE (6D), PETER MARGONELLI/COURTESY OF ROBERT COUTURIER (7A)

The Dining Rooms
 Couturier outfitted both the old and the new space with their own statement features. In the former, that meant an overhead Ingo Maurer light fixture.

Ron Arad chairs, and a Paul Smith rug. In the latter, a photograph by Michael Eastman from Barry Friedman gallery and a sixties Verner Panton table-chairs set.