



Sculptural seating—including Ron Arad's electric blue Victoria and Albert sofa and the 1960s Italian leather chairs flanking the Jansen coffee table—reinforce the influence of contemporary art in a living room defined by Von Bayern's monumental *Monk*.



Robert Couturier uses contemporary paintings, photography, and textiles to define a London-based family's New York flat

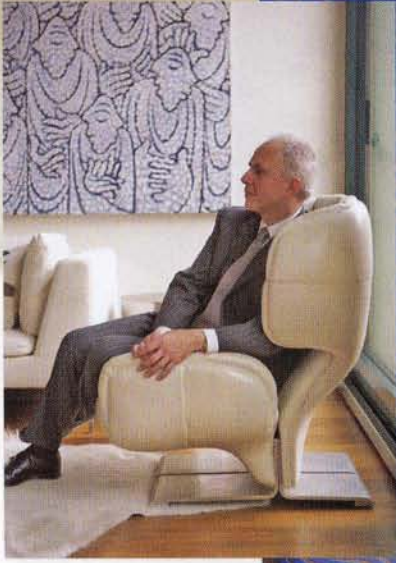
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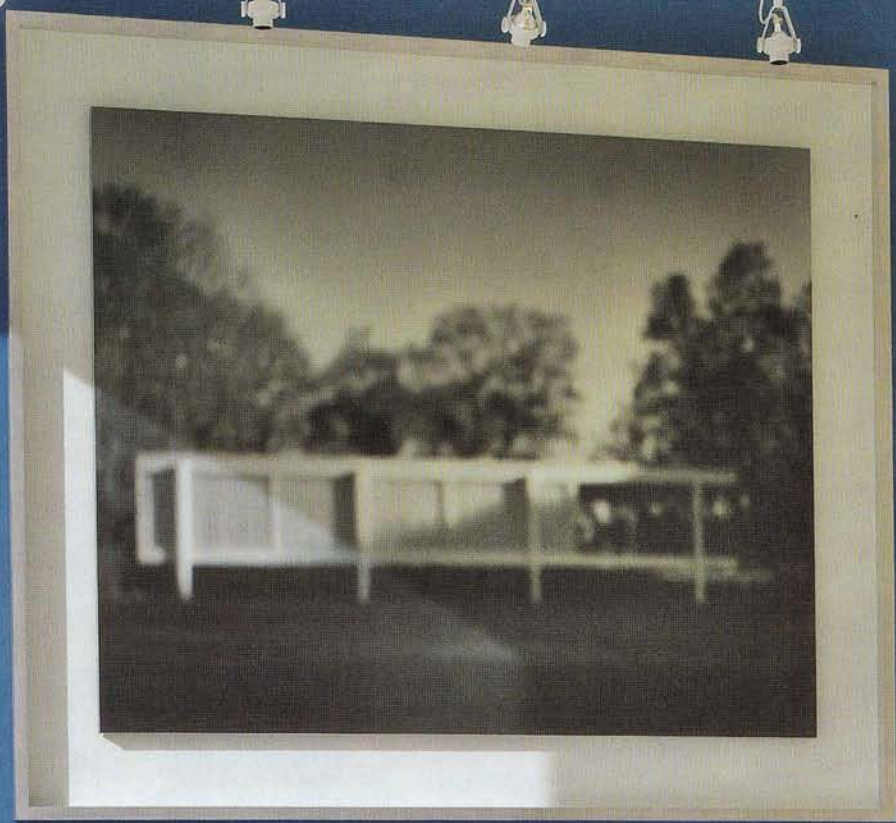
In the dining room, color, pattern, and form distract the eye from the galley kitchen. Ron Arad's Three Skin Chairs assemble atop a Paul Smith design from The Rug Company; the domelike light fixture is by Ingo Maurer. Opposite: The family room's twin coffee tables were designed by Pierre Cardin in the 1970s. Pillows by Judy Ross and a rug from Marc Phillips partner with a Milo Baughman chrome chair and streamlined B&B Italia sofa.



"The design here is not intellectualized, IT'S NOT THAT KIND OF APARTMENT,"  
SAYS ROBERT COUTURIER. "It's simple, young, and fun."







Opposite: Couturier (inset) selected striking furnishings intended to complement his clients' art collection.

In the living room, Gabriella Crespi's Yang Yin bar reflects the loops and curves of a work by Sol LeWitt.

This page: Hiroshi Sugimoto's gelatin silver print of Mies van der Rohe's Farnsworth House stands out against the master bedroom's bold blue wall. Night tables by Raymond Loewy; bench by Karl Springer.







Couturier agreed with his clients' rejection of curtains: Left bare, the window walls look almost like framed paintings. Unobtrusive furnishings, such as the master bedroom's 1930s plate-glass desk and Milo Baughman armchair, keep the focus on the New York views.

**"I LIKE TO WORK FAST," SAYS ROBERT COUTURIER. "IT KEEPS THINGS INTERESTING." WHEN A COUPLE WITH four children, for whom he was creating a London home, asked the architect/designer to also shape their 2,000-square-foot NoHo apartment—and to complete the project in three weeks—Couturier got his wish.**

The brief was simple. The 12-foot-high walls would showcase pieces from his clients' painting and photography collection (featuring works by LeWitt, Chia, and Sugimoto), giving the apartment a contemporary personality. "The idea was to find things that were distinctive, so it would be evident the apartment was theirs and couldn't be anyone else's." But not too many things, he adds. "If you start accumulating or intellectualizing things, it's going to look ridiculous instead of young, fresh, and fun." Accordingly, Couturier relied on what he describes as "my little tricks." Adding color to selected walls and ceilings helped individualize spaces within the open-plan public area "and to make the bedrooms feel less like a hotel." High-key objects like a curvilinear Ron Arad sofa, a Jansen coffee table, and Gabriella Crespi's piquant Yang Yin bar add vitality. "Even the views look like paintings," Couturier says. ~ See Resources.