



# MANHATTAN TRANSFER

TEXTURE ADDS VISUAL INTEREST TO A NEUTRAL PALETTE IN A MURRAY HILL PIED-À-TERRE

BY DREW LIMSKY · PHOTOGRAPHY MARK ROSKAMS

**WHEN DESIGNER MARY-LYNN RING** took on a 734-square-foot one-bedroom project in Murray Hill, she had two clients in mind: the new owner and a question mark. “My client bought it as either a pied-à-terre or a flip,” Ring recalls. “And he wanted me to design it as both, which was a challenge.”

The client was at first drawn to a black-and-white theme, but Ring didn’t think that would play to potential

buyers. “For a wider audience, we needed to warm that up a little with some neutrals,” she says. An array of rich beige tones in varying textures provided the solution. Ring anchored the living room with an overstuffed custom sofa in linen to refer to the owner’s existing tufted-linen headboard in the bedroom.

But the living room’s conversation piece is surely the 1940s deck chair with a custom cushion. “The real estate

**WARM NEUTRALS** The client initially favored a black-and-white scheme inspired by his Richard Serra artworks, but designer Mary-Lynn Ring used beige to warm up the space. The custom linen sofa was paired with a Gabby Home coffee table in faux shagreen with wood trim. “My client wanted the sophistication of a New York apartment but without hard edges,” Ring says. “It had to be enveloping. He really likes metal, but I encouraged him to bring in wood to warm it up.”

agent said it was a favorite with potential buyers,” Ring says. “That’s so funny, because it’s a \$20 eBay find, but there’s something about the history of it and the lines of it.” It was the deck chair that eventually narrowed down the world of potential homeowners: Her client decided to sell, as long as he could replicate the furnishings elsewhere.

“There was some back-and-forth around whether the client would sell the apartment furnished or not,” Ring recalls. “And he knew that chair was coming with him, as was the Holly Hunt table in front of it. Then as the process continued, he said, ‘You know what? I’m taking it all.’ It did make designing his next place pretty easy.” **SEE RESOURCES ■**

**TACTILE TEXTURES** CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: For reasons of space and durability, Ring designed a banquette with Sunbrella cushions; A rustic 1940s deck chair from eBay became a conversation piece due to its sense of legacy and hominess; Ring added a Calacatta gold marble border above the bathroom’s subway tiles for a bit of luxury; In the bedroom a faux crocodile desk, sourced from AllModern, is paired with a chair from Arteriors Home.