

PHOTOGRAPHY PETER MURDOCK

TEXT MARC KRISTAL

INTERIOR DESIGN CHRISTOPHER COLEMAN

Christopher Coleman
balances neutrals
with brights on the
Upper East Side

colorFORM



TURQUOISE textures

The upholstered dining chairs are covered in sculpted mohair the color of the sea. An Artemide fixture hangs above the white glass pedestal table from DDC Furniture. The photograph on the wall, from the client's collection, is by Edward Burtynsky.



MATERIAL things
 The living-room carpet, crafted by Tai Ping, takes a classic paisley and blows up the scale. "Materials make things interesting," Coleman adds, citing the coffee table's wenge wood base, the chrome swivel on the orange sling chair, and the Lucite "Bumday" table, here handed in the home's signature turquoise.

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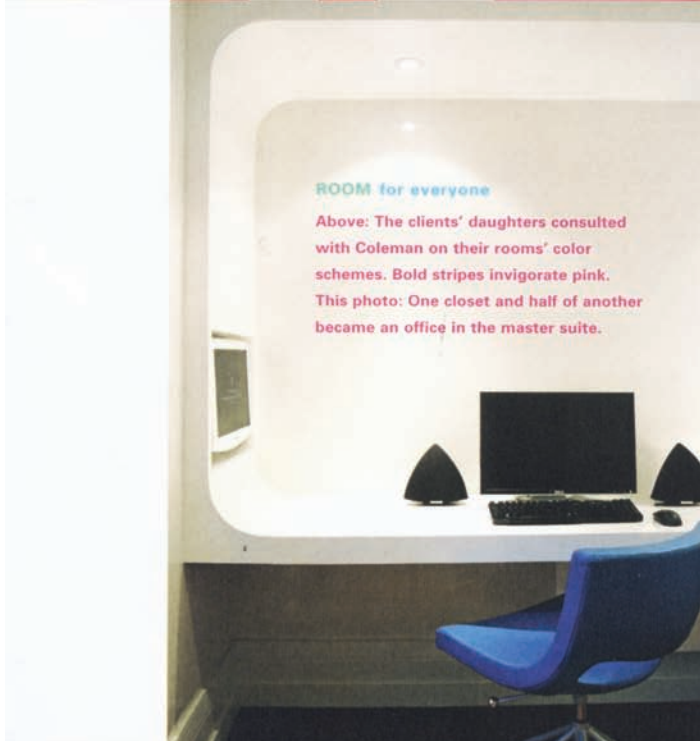
CATCH the EYE

In the den, teak paneling contrasts with a lacquered turquoise ceiling and USORLA swivel chair. Coleman chose the sofa for its unapologetic Lucite base. SeaVision, an aquarium maintenance company, services the double-sided fish tank, at left. Carpet from Patterson Flynn & Martin.





squeeze RIGHT in
Coleman created a dining nook in a former pantry to answer his client's desire for an informal dining space, selecting blazing shades of orange to counterbalance "the beige countertops, mosaic stone backsplash and marble floors."



ROOM for everyone

Above: The clients' daughters consulted with Coleman on their rooms' color schemes. Bold stripes invigorate pink. This photo: One closet and half of another became an office in the master suite.

"YOU CAN'T JUDGE PEOPLE BY HOW THEY DRESS," OBSERVES DESIGNER Christopher Coleman, citing the owner of this five-bedroom East Side apartment. "Every time we met, he was in a suit—I thought he was really buttoned up." But when Coleman set three design schemes before his client, "he went for the edgy one." For this divorced businessman with pre-teen daughters, "edgy" meant "cool and sexy but masculine," the designer explains. "And with two kids, he wanted a place he could use."

Though known as a colorist, Coleman, who studied graphic design, began with shape and pattern, selecting curvilinear furnishings that "look better, suit the body, and save space." With lines drawn, Coleman took up his palette. "My client's a beach person and he responded to turquoise, so we used it as a repeating element, heavily in the dining room and den, somewhat in the living room, a touch in the bedroom."

Otherwise, the designer established a neutral ground—a muted paisley rug in the living room, the den's teak paneling, white patent leather on the entry walls—"and accented it with doses of color" (the Radioactive Orange breakfast nook is a notable exception). If there's an element that sums up the apartment's vividness, wit, and client-centric approach, it's the double-sided elliptical fish tank between the living room and den. "This man knows his fish, so it's not just for show," Coleman says—before admitting that the tank's sublimely-colored occupants were selected by how they dressed. ~ See Resources.