



RUBENSTEIN PUBLIC RELATIONS, INC.

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INTERIORS

Design team adds touch of Sheik to brownstone

When Zonnie Sheik, jeweler to the swells, walked into the Cerf/Wagner brownstone at 62nd street off Park Avenue, she could almost hear the tinkling glasses and the scintillating chatter of the Manhattan glitterati.

Phyllis Cerf/Wagner entertained the politicians here. The portrait of her husband, esteemed Mayor, Robert Wagner still hangs in the library on the parlor floor where books signed by Capote, Stein, Hemingway, Mailer, and Didion energize the rooms and the abstract oil painting by Frank Sinatra still adorns the parlor gallery.

Her first husband, Bennett Cerf was the founder of Random House and Phyllis not only wrote and edited the Dr. Seuss's series, but she became a beloved hostess to the cultural and political elite that electrified Manhattan from the 1950's to the end of this century.

"The meticulous renovation of this townhouse incorporates the finest craftsmanship to bring about one of New York City's most architecturally significant residences," said Barbara Evans-Butler, senior vice president at Stribling & Associates.

Evans-Butler is listing the 7,000 plus square foot, 14-room, 20 foot wide, five-story, landmarked 19th century townhouse for \$17.5 million for Sheik whose son Duncan is a star of Broadway's Spring Awakening.

Recognizing that she had discovered an old gem, Sheik — who enjoys transforming real estate when she's not creating prized jewelry — focused her creative talent to completely redesign, renovate and update the home into a 21st century state of the art "architectural digest" quality townhome.

She wanted to maintain the architectural integrity and historic legacy of the property, but also infuse it with her own style. Together with a team of artisans, they undertook a two-year renovation.

Colin Kappler and Jonathan Baker combined their architectural expertise and directed select artisans to restore the brownstone. Kathleen Rivers, a successful interior decorator from Charleston, South Carolina,



A team of artisans has breathed new life into the old brownstone on 62nd Street.

renowned for her decor at the Chattooga Club, focused on the interior.

Zonnie's team reincarnated the façade back to its former life and the garden into a peaceful oasis complete with a water wall. The entrance and garden level have been totally transformed by a marble gallery with one-of-a-kind bronze and gilded glass doors that lead to a contemporary and informal living/dining space with a chef's kitchen.

All rooms open onto a wall of glass and iron doors that completely re-orient the whole space with a central axis that accentuates the flow of space from the entrance door through to the garden.

Kathleen Rivers chose the color scheme of muted pearlescent colors in tribute to Sheik's trademark,

which are her pearls of every confection. The piano in the drawing room that was played by Bobby Short in the Cerf/Wagner home now echoes the Tony Award winning tunes of Sheik's son.



BARBARA EVANS BUTLER