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Though he's known for his cool and restrained rooms, Russell Groves turns out to be the ideal designer to transform a glassy Manhattan duplex into a stylish yet kid-friendly home. But for the owners, that was no surprise

TEXT by NANCY HASS
PHOTOGRAPHY by BJÖRN WALLANDER
PRODUCED by ROBERT RUFINO



Like the classic observation that dogs tend to resemble their owners (or vice versa), it's not uncommon for homeowners, by the end of a big project, to notice that their taste has magically merged with that of their decorator or architect. The design process is arduous and involved, after all, and the avalanche of decisions, large and small, tends to drive you close.

But the relationship between David and Laurie Rosenblatt and designer Russell Groves goes beyond the typical synergy born of spending a lot of time together mulling aesthetics and door hardware. As the story of this airy yet nuanced Manhattan penthouse illustrates, it's possible to achieve virtual symbiosis.

The Rosenblatts first discovered Groves's work in 2009 when they were looking for a weekend home in bucolic Litchfield County, Connecticut. They fell in love with a 19th-century barn that had been moved from Canada and rebuilt in the Colonial-era town of Washington. They were enraptured by the sleekly casual finishes; the rich, warmly neutral color scheme; and every bit of the furnishings, down to the cashmere throw strewn artfully across the daybed.

The house, they learned, had been done by Groves, who worked with Peter Marino and Richard Meier before starting on his own, and who is responsible for the Coach flagship store in Manhattan, Tiffany & Co.'s Shanghai outpost, and Michael Kors's beach house. The Rosenblatts, who have four young children and consider

LEFT: In the living room of David and Laurie Rosenblatt's Upper East Side Manhattan duplex, which was designed by architect S. Russell Groves, the daybed, covered in an Hermès fabric, and sofa, in a Great Plains fabric, are custom made, the Milo Baughman-style chairs are covered in a Great Plains linen, and the cocktail table is by Roman Thomas; the light sculpture over the piano is by Soledad Arias, the rug is by Fort Street Studio, and the walls are painted in Benjamin Moore's Decorators White. **ABOVE:** A custom-made Swarovski-crystal light fixture hangs above a stainless steel-and-glass staircase; the bronze spheres are by Hervé Van der Straeten, and the photographs are by Sam Samore. For details, see Resources.

