

Story by Virginia Gardiner

Photos by Anthony Cotsifas and Patricia Heal

My House



Photo Finish

There's nothing new about the New York story of white-walled apartments with turn-of-the-century trimming, rusty radiators, and teeny kitchens getting chic interior makeovers, only to remain hidden by hundred-year-old façades. It's the sort of juxtaposition New Yorkers are used to, no more surprising than walking from one eclectic chapel to another in the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, and less startling than the dioramas in the city's American Museum of Natural History, where dark deco-era walls encapsulate vivid scenes of steaming jungles and arctic nightscapes. America's leader in the urban triumvirate of population, density, and age is also the most prone to interior transformations with radically altered senses of space and time.

Crossing the threshold from the building hallway to the apartment of photographers Anthony Cotsifas and Patricia Heal is a transition that inspires them. As Heal explains, "There's a discretion to having this complete contrast; it makes our apartment like a sanctuary. We thrive on the juxtaposition." Heal and Cotsifas, married since 1991, are fond of visual comparisons, as evinced in their work, which often takes the form of diptychs in which harmonious images collide and the eye explores the relationship between the two.

As photographers, these two are perennially at the intersection of art and commerce, which, when it comes time to build your house, is a good place to be. "Through the industry we've gotten to know so many skilled people," says Heal, "stylists who work with ▶



Moses (above) enjoys warm hues in the living room (top), on Rietveld chairs which the couple reupholstered in red.

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