



## We'll take Manhattan

*A Herzliya apartment  
recreates the look  
of a New York City loft*

• By GLORIA DEUTSCH  
Photos: Eyal Izhar



Walking up the three flights of a rather grungy 30-year-old building with no elevator in the middle of Herzliya, the last thing you expect to see is a Manhattan-style loft.

But when architect Orly Eran opens the door to show me around the apartment which she renovated for her childhood friend Hagit, the New York associations immediately come into play, which is exactly what the owners wanted.

Having lived in the US for many years, they wanted to recreate the same atmosphere in downtown Herzliya and the talented Eran has done it – with the clever use of muted shades, the knocking down of interior walls and original paint effects, which make the apartment look much bigger than it really is. Studio-style track lights on the ceiling also contribute to the feeling.

"We were not looking for a family home to raise children, but a space which we could enjoy on our own, and use to entertain our friends," explains Hagit, a retired language teacher.

"We took two small bedrooms and made them into one large bedroom. We incorporated the balcony into

Are we in SoHo? 'If you take good things and mix them imaginatively, you will find that all the colors work together,' says the owner.





another to make a kind of den, as we didn't want to have a television in the lounge. But the most obvious changes were in the living-room/kitchen."

Two pillars right in the center attest to the fact that walls have been knocked down, but Orly has made them into a feature, painting them a cool eau-de-nil green, but leaving a white frame around the top, which she has repeated on other walls.

"If you paint the whole wall into the corners it tends to look like a shoebox and it's very difficult to get a clean line between the wall and the ceiling," she explains, "so I made a white frame which helps to give the illusion of height. I invented it in this apartment and have used it many times since."

White canvas blinds, usually left closed, create a perfect backdrop for the wooden furniture the owners brought from the States, including a 200-year-old tallboy. They blinds help to maintain the Manhattan illusion by keeping out the less-than-beautiful view of Herzliya's rooftops.

ALL THE fabrics and textures in the apartment were chosen to complement each other, with a similar eau-de-nil shade on the three-piece, a muted brown and cream on the vintage Fifties chairs Hagit inherited from her parents, and the indeterminate mole hue of the dining chairs. Piles of chintzy cushions soften the look. A rough sisal rug covers the parquet in the sitting area. For contrast, the Thirties Arts and Crafts sofa on the other side of the room has been upholstered in a dark purple fabric.

As for the kitchen, it has been done in a combination of wood and corrugated silver that looks from a distance like stainless steel, which, as everyone knows, is essential for the Manhattan loft look. I especially liked the frieze of brightly colored tiles made to look like faux books and the shiny emerald-green front of the refrigerator and oven.

A half island jutting into the room provides cupboard space, a work top, a room divider and, at its extremity, wine storage. Hagit points out all the unmatched vintage crockery in bright orange and green shades from the Sixties inside the glass-fronted cupboards.

The narrow dark staircase up to the roof was opened up by knocking down the side wall, leaving it banister-less and enlarging the window, through which light pours in from the west. By removing the access door to the roof and the closed ceiling above the stairs, this upper-level room now feels part of the rest of the house.

The room – whose purpose is not yet entirely defined – is tastefully decked out in terra-cotta tiles,



a large Chinese antique cupboard at one end and an attractive bench which was once in a railway waiting room at the other, now upholstered in the same purple material as the one in the lounge. A bright orange quilt covers the bed. The room leads directly onto the huge roof, which the owners use for parties.

"We once had a big party in the apartment and the caterers did all the cooking on the roof. It was marvelous, as the kitchen stayed clean," says Hagit.

At the bottom of the open staircase stands an imposing bronze statue by the Irish sculptor Edward Delaney and next to it a rough bronze basket made by his daughter. Other quality art works decorate the walls.

"If you take good things and mix them imaginatively, you will find that all the colors usually work together," says Hagit. "The secret is to be open-minded and flexible."

*Do you feel you own one of Israel's most beautiful homes? Please e-mail Up Front at [upfront@jpost.com](mailto:upfront@jpost.com) or fax to (02) 538-9527.*