

DESIGNER HOMES

Inside a Rising Designer's Sophisticated Family Brownstone





The living room, with a pair of French Art Deco chairs and a long tufted sofa, is the "catchall room" and the site of family time and game-day hosting (there's a TV cleverly hidden behind the antique mirror above the mantel). "I wanted it to feel elegant enough to hold its own in this old beautiful brownstone but then be family-friendly and approachable enough," Nina says.



A sturdy Plexicraft waterfall coffee table is topped with favorite objects, from a Cire Trudon candle ("My favorite scent is Pondichery. It reminds me of an Indian spice market") to sculptural glass vases.

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I love things that are tactile and old, and also new and shiny. But everything has a sophisticated, approachable feel to it.

— Nina Farmer



Working from home, Nina gets to spend lots of time with her daughters, eight-year-old Quinn and five-year-old Colette. The painting above the sofa is by Nina's artist mother, Mira Goldberg.



In the living room, a romantic portrait by Nina's mother hangs above an Indonesian altar table that Nina made into a perfect plant stand: "I find corners of rooms need a little life, so it's best to keep plants there."



Antiques and heirlooms—including art gifted "from my parents and grandparents, which is always special to be able to pass down," says Nina—complement the marble fireplace, which is original to the house. The chairs are antique, and the 1940s bar cart sees regular use during predinner drinks.



The formal dining room, with its beautiful 12-foot-high octagonal ceiling, is also the home's grand entry. "We can fit 10 to 12 people in here," says Nina of the leaf table. The high-gloss walls are painted with Farrow & Ball's Lamp Room Gray. The Lynn Geesaman photo was Nina and her husband's first art purchase together.

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I love that when people walk in, their eye travels all around the space and takes in all the different things that we've collected over time that are so special to us, that everything feels interesting and well loved.

— Nina Farmer



Everyday meals occur around the kitchen's marble island counter surrounded with Emeco barstools. "Everything happens here!" laughs Nina. "We don't get to cook long gourmet dinners every night, but when I get the chance I love to." The range is La Cornue, and the vent hood is Best by Broan.



Nina kept all the shelving open to take advantage of the high ceilings while serving as gorgeous displays. Here, her collection of white Nymphenburg vessels and an Hermès platter complement the sculptural vase from Aero on the counter.



"I like keeping an eye on what's happening in the house yet having my own space off the kitchen," says Nina of her built-in office area, organized with fabric swatches, paint chips, and inspirations.

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I thought it was important to flood this space with as much light as possible, so I loved the idea of the metal windows. It's a touch of nostalgia but very current as well.

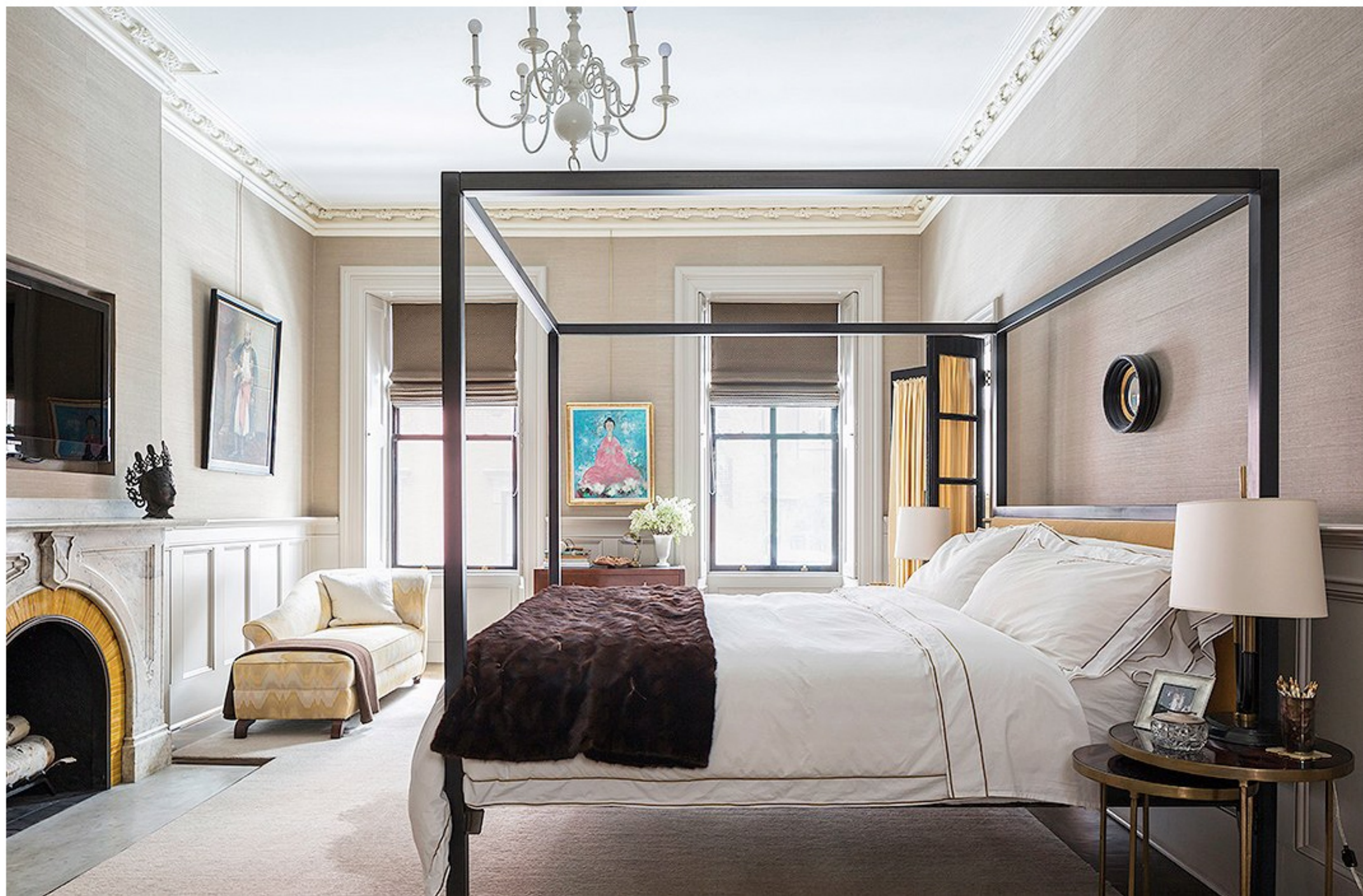
— Nina Farmer



Black-and-white family portraits line the stairwell, leading the way up to the second floor. "We collect it from our family—vintage photos of them, my parents' wedding picture, the kids throughout. You never can have enough picture space," says Nina.



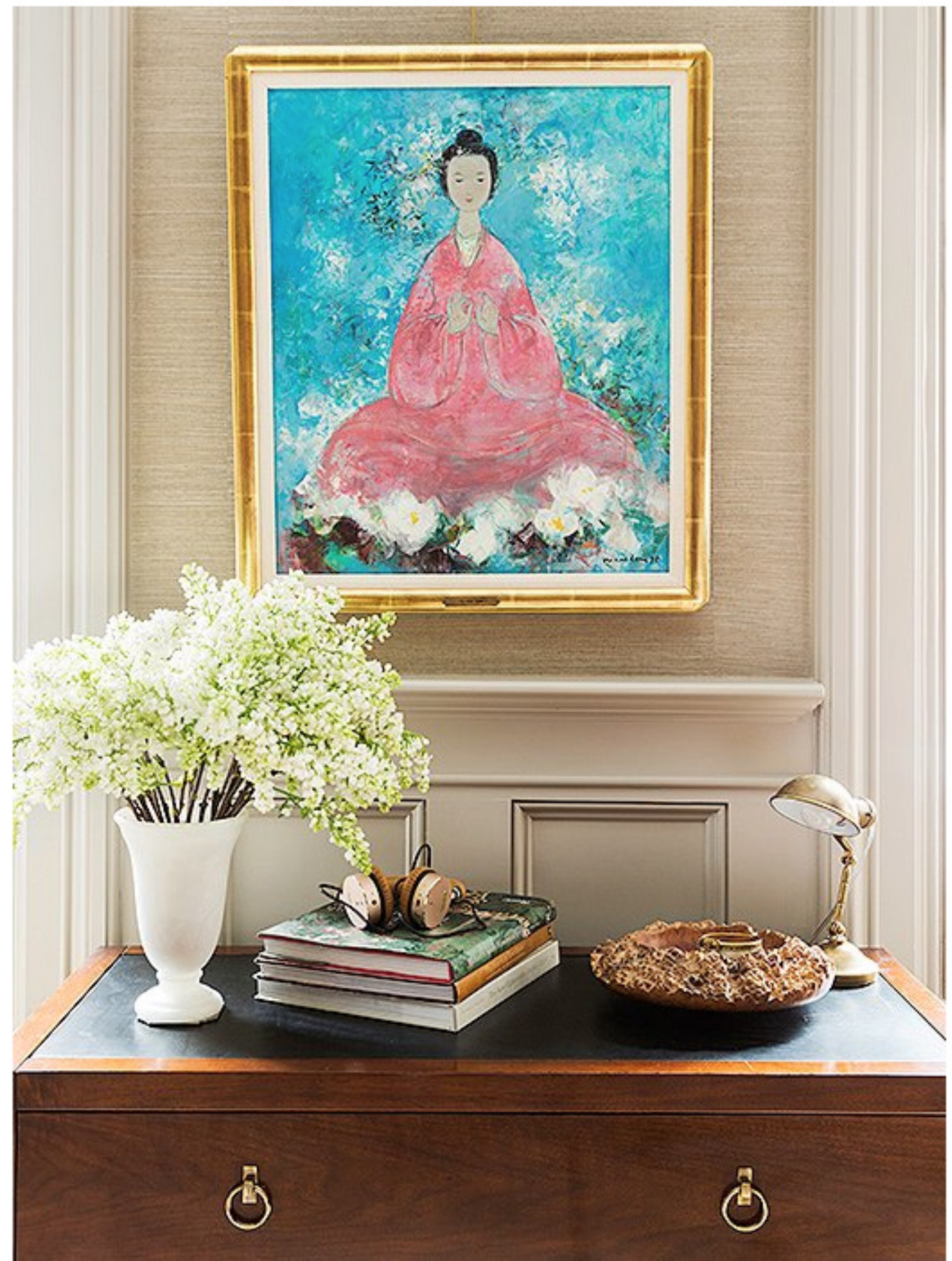
Like the rest of the home, the girls' playroom—where Quinn draws and Colette might show off a few ballet twirls—serves its purpose elegantly, with a lacquered table, graphic rugs, and a midcentury chest. "I really wanted it to feel like their zone."



"When we originally bought this floor our master bedroom was the living room," Nina explains. "Even though it wasn't my first plan to have it be so large, I actually ended up loving how roomy it is. The tile on the fireplace is original, and I love a yellow-and-gray color palette, so that was my inspiration for the whole room."



In a corner of the master bedroom sits Nina's most prized possession. "The chaise is actually the first piece of furniture that I ever bought on my own after college," says Nina of the Fendi piece, which she reupholstered in a yellow-stitch fabric. "It's traveled with me all this time." The vintage painting of a maharaja is from Jaipur, India.



A painting that Nina and her husband discovered abroad hangs above a chest of drawers holding books, magazines, and Nina's keepsakes. A wooden bowl by Nina's father makes an elegant catchall for her jewelry.



Plaster moldings and doors painted in a Fine Paints of Europe high-gloss black frame the entrance to the spacious walk-in closet, which was once a nursery for Nina's daughter.



Nina outfitted the master bedroom closet with an Osborne & Little wallpaper and Dalí prints for a whimsical note. "It's fairly large for a city closet, but I love that it's so open," says Nina of the tailored space she shares with her husband.