



above
it
all

Park Avenue
style comes to
Las Vegas in
a neo-
classical
penthouse
designed
by Todd-
Avery
Lenahan

By Laura Johanson

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARY E. NICHOLS

OPPOSITE:

*The gracious proportions
and custom millwork of
the entryway define the
home's classic sensibilities.*

“I have a very low threshold for glitz,”

Jane Schorr says with a laugh. Which could explain why the high-rise home she and her husband Marc recently finished feels more like an Upper East Side apartment or a Washington, D.C. townhouse than a Las Vegas penthouse. It's the view that gives it away: rugged desert mountains instead of leafy Central Park; the lights of the West's brightest city instead of Georgetown brick.

Clearly, the flamboyance of Las Vegas is no match for the couple's East Coast roots. The Schorrs started their life together in New York City, and both were ready to go back to Park Avenue—if not in person, then at least in style.

So when downtown luxury living came to Las Vegas at the turn of this century, the Schorrs signed on for two floors at the top of Park Towers, then turned to Todd-Avery Lenahan, whose firm designs for hotels such as Four Seasons and Wynn Resorts, to create a neo-classical refuge from the neon lights below.

LEFT: Visitors step from the private elevator foyer into this dramatic entrance hall, which sets the design tone for the home with its grand scale, refined details, and historical references. The marble and granite floor is based on a late 20th century Lutycens pattern.

With a career that began in historic preservation and continued to include a term as a design principal for Walt Disney Imagineering, Lenahan has both the know-how and the nerve to pull off a Georgian-inspired home in a residential high-rise with office building tendencies.

Take the Palladian window in the entry vestibule, a grand space that sets a mature tone for the entire home with its finely detailed custom millwork, classic furnishings, and marble and granite tiled floor.



As an evocative cue of what's to come, the window brings drama and balance to the space. It's also a clever way to fill an awkward, two-story slice (a building design feature) out of a concrete shear wall. Lenahan then turned the window's flip side into a striking focal point in the master suite.

The project entailed a number of challenges that required similarly skillful solutions. The living room windows, for instance, are sheathed in several columns of layered, iridescent silk whose synthetic content helps create a lovely filtered effect. That they also screen enormous aluminum mullions that would detract from the room's period elegance is no accident.

Much of the 10,000-square-foot home's window treatments, millwork, and window surrounds take on this dual role, achieving the symmetry and detail of traditional style while compensating for building elements that don't support a residential feel.

Color helps, too. A palette of soft primaries enhances the couple's collection of contemporary artwork, and lightly defines without dominating rooms.

"Our previous house [one of only two homes on the fabled Shadow Creek Golf Club] was very monochromatic—very vanilla, as my husband put it," says Schorr. "We needed more color to accommodate Marc's tastes."

But she, too, is delighted with the way color has enlivened their surroundings. "The dining room blues were inspired by my original china that I picked when I was 24, and now it looks like I bought it yesterday."

Deeper hues identify the more public spaces, while more subdued, tonal shades color the bedroom suites, including a luscious fusion of vanilla, coffee, and cream in the master suite.

Every room is distinctive, the progression from one to the next a seamless expression of Old World style that is new to Las Vegas. It all makes for a very sophisticated living space and a gracious social stage, if not also a bit of a paradox: with its landmark look and unabashed luxury, it is in some ways as much a part of the Las Vegas glamour as it is apart from it. It is classic, in any case, and is, as Lenahan says, "quite grand, and a real surprise."

AT RIGHT: Layers of varying textures, patterns and fabrics provide a visual richness to the simply configured dining room, where views to the famous Strip let visitors know they're in Las Vegas.

