

STEEPED
IN
STYLE



Gabriel de la Portilla Sophisticated Comfort



would make the home too serious. "I wanted to create something comfortable and inviting while still being tailored and sophisticated," he explained.

Fusing different styles and periods together with a soothing color scheme which sets off the furniture to an almost sculpted precision, de la Portilla effective-

ly avoids conforming to the way patterns are "expected" to blend. His emphasis on the dance between form and texture provides for interesting arrangements which at first may surprise, but which ultimately prove uniquely satisfying.

A mix of periods can be found throughout de la Portilla's thoughtfully

Left: Nineteenth century chair in original distressed leather; 19th century desk, both French.

Below: The Master Bedroom with Shaker style four post bed.



BY ANDREW WASSERBERG

When Gabriel de la Portilla took on the task of creating an inviting interior design for this classic, 2200 square-foot Greek Revival townhouse in Manhattan, he hoped to avoid typical Regency flourishes which, he felt,



designed interior, but exemplified best in the living room where he has set off a lush Chinese deco chaise from the early 20th century with a faux zebra skin rug; a daring yet well executed feat. Another unique example of the period/style blend can be found at the living room's other end where two lamps from the 1970s, one chrome the other lucite, sit atop a nineteenth century, carved oak table. The comforting

effect is accentuated by a soft lighting scheme which gives the room an old world elegance, but with modern touches which invite the observer to interact, rather than observe.

Palladian blue walls in the dining room provide a stunning backdrop for the Saarinen table, encircled by 19th century, Louis XVI style chairs. The high gloss white floor adds a bit of country flair

to the room, and serves to dilute the solemnity that such furnishings could very well convey.

Above Left: Chinese deco chaise with faux zebra rug, lucite lamp on French antler table with copper top.

Above Right: Saarinen table from Knoll with 19th century Louis XVI style chairs

Below: Original sofa upholstered in a sage green wool frisse, small plum striped chairs from American aesthetic movement, 1880, 1950s Italian upholstered chairs in gray wool satcen, painting above fireplace by Omni Saari, 1965.

