

CHELSEA

*Fawn Galli gives a Chelsea home  
star treatment befitting of a family with  
seriously melodious connections.*

BY JANE GAYDUK

PHOTOGRAPHY BY EMILY GILBERT

ROCKY

STAR





**OPPOSITE PAGE:** Cole & Son's Palm Leaves wallcovering adds a playful element to son Simon's room. The sides of an arm chair and ottoman are upholstered in Quadrille's Petite Zig Zag. Cowtan & Tout's Peaceable Kingdom fabric pops on a square pillow. **RIGHT:** In sister Roxy's room, oversized butterflies float on Timorous Beasties' wallpaper. The pink bedside lamp was found at the Brimfield Antique Show in Massachusetts.



Wild animal prints, black patent leather stools, gold pillows, and a shiny round pendant light like a disco ball—sound like the domicile of a rock & roll crew? It is, but here the mosh pit has toddlers in it, and the animal prints are of butterflies and penguins. Glamour reigns nonetheless in the Chelsea loft where entertainment publicist Rebecca Shapiro resides with her husband, a music entrepreneur whose ventures include the beloved, now-shuttered Wetlands and Williamsburg's favorite hipster haunt, Brooklyn Bowl.

Shapiro had been saving tear sheets for years to hone in her vision: "I was looking for a downtown loft space that was livable for a downtown family," Shapiro says. She needed something "with an open feeling," as conducive to grown-up brunches as it was to less decorous play dates—a delicate mix for sure. When the time came to decorate, she enlisted a designer who knew the feeling—the interior designer (and mother of two boys) Fawn Galli, who is known for her signature use of color and texture and the beautiful (but functional) family homes she creates. For Shapiro, Galli knew the right answer would be a blend of the traditional and the modern, with a big dose of cool: a formula reflective of her clients' personalities, passions, and sense of humor. In the living room, with its traditional seating arrangement of sofas and armchairs, that humor was established with quirky fabrics from a Florence Broadhurst peacock feather print used

as curtains to a Donghia penguin print covering two X-stools.

Rock star glamour was introduced with reflective surfaces that shine throughout the open living area, like jolts of accent leather in black patent and gold, or that Tom Dixon pendant in the dining area, which mirrors a facing wall of music-themed art, which, hung salon-style, creates a home that is truly personal. "We have a lot of photographs from concerts over the years," said Shapiro of her collection. "There's a preppiness to it."

The prep continues with punches of shocking pink throughout the three-bedroom, three-and-a-half bathroom apartment's neutral foundation palette of beige and brown. "The sofas and the pillows being brown, and the carpet being brown, makes it very livable and very durable without taking away from the sophistication of the space," says Galli. Punches of pink include fuchsia pillows and a glassy lacquered hot pink cabinet. Shapiro's daughter Roxy rocks a bedroom wallpapered with large-scale powder blue butterflies, offset by bursts of pink: a pink headboard, pink toys, and more butterflies (pink of course) on the upholstery of what is agreed on by all parties involved in the design process to be the centerpiece of the room: a creamy, oversized Andrew Martin egg chair. The chair was initially brought in "just to try," says Galli, but Shapiro's husband declared, " 'my child must have this, it cannot go back.' "

The clients' appreciation for sophisticated whimsy was music to Galli's ears: "I like things that are ageless, but speak to the spirit of a child," she says, "Things that are fun and somewhat adult, but then have a child's comfort." The large palm-print Cole & Son wallpaper in son Simon's bedroom speaks directly to that youthful imagination. In the adult zone—the master bedroom—color has a place too, but slightly more muted: the headboard is clad in a floral blue-and-brown Lulu DK print which pops against elegant Schweitzer linens.

Unique as it is, the Chelsea home had goals common to most New Yorkers with young children: namely, creating storage, keeping to a budget, and focusing on durability. Galli prioritized finding inexpensive items that could be easily replaced; Shapiro wanted a livable living room with practical pieces that wouldn't incite panic when the kids got dirt on them. The solution was to get creative, with custom-built cabinetry providing extra spots to stash things away and flea market and online searches to source well-priced pieces with potential. "We're proud of finding things on eBay that look terrible, but are totally affordable," says Galli, like a pair of mid-century chairs that she had reupholstered in a lush pink Maharam velvet.

A mere six months of online bidding, planning, and shopping resulted in a space that is funky, eclectic, kitschy, and modern, much like the family that lives there. "It's very much who they are," says Ms. Galli of her clients.



# CHIC, SERVED FAMILY STYLE

**A**s evidenced by the Shapiro family home, living with kids doesn't mean living without style. Rebecca Shapiro (pictured right, with son Simon) worked with Fawn Galli to make chic choices that are attractive to all the home's residents, big and small (and feline too!). Some takeaway tips:

**MIX IT UP** The Chelsea apartment sports a high/low mix of fabrics, allowing the unique and precious to punctuate more functional basics. Case in point: sturdy brown Kravet sofas are seemingly indestructible (and impervious to stains), and they allow special fabrics to shine—like a Donghia silk embroidered with tiny Emperor penguins.

**WIPE IT DOWN** Pick surfaces and materials that are deliberately low maintenance. "White lacquer furniture," advises Fawn, who introduced such a cabinet, custom-made to serve as the living room's television media cabinet: it's easy to wipe down and repels dents from toy cars driving too fast (a similarly sensible cabinet, this one in hot pink, provides additional storage). Moore & Giles' Domino black patent leather tops two X-stools in the living room: it too can be cleaned of applesauce and crayon marks with the swipe of a towel.

**COVER OVER IT** Spills happen: Galli suggests buying chairs on the cheap and leaving some budget for reupholstering

(and reupholstering again). Here, she scored two mid-century arm chairs on eBay and covered them in a special pink velvet. Fingerprint accident? No worries: they can be recovered again someday.

**GROW UP** To maintain adult-level cool in children's rooms, Galli advises avoiding kiddie furniture. Bypass transitional toddler beds: "I would just get a regular size twin bed and put a headboard on it," says Galli.

**SUPERSIZE IT** An adorable wallcovering in a kid's room makes it special, but avoid being twee by blowing it up. "The idea of over-scale wallpaper takes it from cute to fantastical," says Fawn.



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** The kitchen's backsplash is lined in glossy Nemo tiles. In her room, Roxy curls up in an Andrew Martin egg chair upholstered in Mod Green Pod's Wee Jubilee damask-print organic cotton canvas; the curtains are made of Missoni's Leeka fabric. In the living room, durable brown Kravet sofas anchor a seating area that includes two shapely chairs found on eBay and upholstered in hot pink Maharam velvet. The pink and gold pillows are made of fabric by Création Baumann and Moore & Giles, respectively. The white glass and chrome cocktail table is from BoConcept. The curtains were made from Florence Broadhurst's cotton Peacock Feathers print fabric. Designer Fawn Galli in her client's living room, in front of a custom pink lacquer cabinet made by Elizabeth Bolognino.



**ABOVE:** A view of the living room. **RIGHT:** The master bedroom features a headboard upholstered in Lulu DK's Paradiso fabric by Donghia. The bedside tables are from Bungalow 5, with blue trays from West Elm. Waterfall sconces from Blue Marble Lighting hang next to the bed, which is dressed in Schweitzer Linens.

