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Designers Amanda Jesse and Whitney Parris-Lamb gave this New York loft a dual personality

PHOTOGRAPHY Nicole Franzen

STYLING Katja Greeff

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houses

home profile

THE DESIGNERS

Amanda Jesse and Whitney Parris-Lamb, co-founders of Jesse Parris-Lamb.

THE PROPERTY

A converted former industrial space in SoHo, New York. An entrance area leads into the open-plan living space, with a kitchen, dining area, living room and smaller seating area. There are two bedrooms, both en suite, and a WC.

ENTRANCE

Walls were given a bespoke finish balanced between industrial concrete and Venetian plaster.

Wall treatment, Philis Himmelfarb Design and David Evan Wohl for Jesse Parris-Lamb; try Polished Concrete Interiors for similar

SNUG

This smaller seating area has a more intimate feel.

Catalpa **sofa**, Roman and Williams Guild, in hand-painted leather, Holland & Sherry, and alpaca velvet in Burnt Orange, Mokum at James Dunlop Textiles



BAR

The high-shine design is bespoke by Jesse Parris-Lamb.

Vintage Jindrich Halabala armchair upholstered in Tibetan sheepskin. Alwa side table, Sebastian Herkner for Pulpo. Wing stools, Alexander Lamont, in Tiger Mountain, Dedar

LIVING AREA

A wrap-around banquette seat serves as a focal point in the open-plan space.

Banquette, bespoke by Jesse Parris-Lamb. Marianas table, Argosy Product Division. Dining chairs, vintage Charles Dudouyt



With velvet banquette seating that wouldn't look out of place in a Manhattan club and a kitchen island shaped like a cocktail shaker, this SoHo loft home is all about partying and having fun. Interior designers Amanda Jesse and Whitney Parris-Lamb had a blast creating this apartment that comes into its own on a Saturday night, but their challenge was to also include more restful spaces that are perfect for lazy Sunday mornings. 'The owner wanted it to feel more like a hotel lobby or nightclub than a conventional home, but we ensured it's a soft, comfortable and high-end place for day-to-day life, too,' explains Amanda. With a creative mix of materials and luxuriant colours, this exceptional home has a balance between night and day, and the public and the private.

Mindful of the building's industrial roots and the city's art-deco heritage, Amanda and Whitney also wanted to work these elements into the story. Deco-feel screens in steel and micro-fluted glass also help maintain

a smooth flow in what is predominantly an open-plan space, cleverly concealing storage and a WC. But the duo were careful not to go down the pastiche route. 'We studied a lot of authentic deco designs, but we didn't want ours to feel like a reproduction,' says Whitney. For decoration 'we took inspiration from a curvilinear motif in a French deco rug and then blew up the scale and abstracted it to feel more modern,' she adds.

The deco theme continues in the cosy smaller seating area, where heavy textures and rich materials lend a particular intimacy. 'At night, this little corner sparkles with glossy wood, polished copper and mirror glass,' says Amanda. It's a good example of how materials were key to bringing atmosphere into this home, particularly as the overall backdrop – the walls and floors – was to remain industrial grey concrete. Whitney and Amanda's solution was to go deep into texture and colour. 'We chose super-saturated textiles and opulent finishes,' says Whitney. But as they progressed, they and

their artistic plasterers developed a finish that brought 'the light-play and movement of Venetian plaster' to the concrete.

In the kitchen, surfaces and detailing also come to the fore. The monolithic island feels refined thanks to the scaled-up fluting and gentle curves. 'Early on, we nicknamed it the "silver bullet" as it was inspired by an art-deco cocktail shaker,' says Amanda.

By the entrance, the circular banquette that wraps around a structural pillar has a dual personality. First of all, the mohair velvet 'transforms from a warm olive in the day to pure gold in the moody evening light,' says Whitney. Then there's its functionality. After dark, it acts as a welcoming hub where guests enjoy their first cocktails. But, like every self-respecting metropolis superhero, come Monday morning it's back to being quietly good-looking and useful. 'It's where the owner sits to put on his shoes before he heads out to his day job,' smiles Amanda.

jesseparris-lamb.com



KITCHEN

Manhattan hotel bar style meets loft living. The cabinets are in walnut with stainless-steel fronts that have been sandblasted and waxed for added patina.

Kitchen, bespoke by Jesse Parris-Lamb. **Bar stools**, Wyeth. Live Sawn French Oak parquet flooring, The Hudson Company



POWDER ROOM

This small space gets the saturated, high-gloss treatment, with vivid tiles complemented by an equally dramatic black basin and distressed copper fixtures.

Tiles in Dark Emerald, Pratt & Larson. **Basin,** Kohler. **Isa taps,** Waterworks

MASTER EN SUITE

A vintage Paul Frankl credenza provided the inspiration for the vanity unit.

Vanity unit, bespoke by Jesse Parris-Lamb. **Thurloe wall sconces,** Urban Electric. **Brassware,** Lefroy Brooks

GUEST ROOM

The sleeping spaces were where Amanda and Whitney indulged in their favourite deep hues and patterns. 'Colour and materials were everything for us in this project,' says Whitney.

Walls in Townsend Harbor Brown HC-64, Benjamin Moore. **Headboard,** bespoke by Jesse Parris-Lamb in Utopia by Pierre Frey; made up by Genesis Upholstery. **Light,** Schoolhouse Electric



MASTER BEDROOM

Rich shades of ochre and plum warm up the concrete backdrop.

Goddard **armchair,** Pinch, in Cuba in Ochre, Sahco. **Screen,** bespoke by Jesse Parris-Lamb, in Papiro, Fortuny; made up by Genesis Upholstery

houses

home truths

MOST PRIZED POSSESSION?

Amanda: When I'm on site, my 25ft Stanley tape measure.

WHAT ARE YOU HOPING FOR IN 2021?

Whitney: Unity, justice, travel and being able to hug my friends and family.

FAVOURITE DESIGN ERA?

Both: We'd love to time travel back to the 1930s and 40s to be students at Black Mountain College. We met in graduate school and truly love working and learning together.

LAST PIECE OF FURNITURE YOU BOUGHT?

Whitney: A vintage Roger Capron coffee table with a rich russet-coloured tile top.

BEST WAY TO DE-STRESS AT THE END OF THE DAY?

Amanda: We each live within a 20-minute stroll of our studio, so our walks home through Brownstone Brooklyn give us time to decompress – before returning to the chaos of life with young families!

INTERIORS IN 2021 WILL BE...

Whitney: Well ventilated!