



Then, as now, the overarching feeling of the apartment was of phenomenal openness, with even more phenomenal views, augmented by predominantly white furniture and fittings. "I deal with color all the time when I'm working," Lauren says. "This is a way I feel like I can live in New York and be comfortable and simple. When I'm at home, I need to feel like I'm floating on a cloud." That floating feeling has been enhanced by raising the level of the living room so that you step up into it and by removing Donghia's matchstick blinds from the windows, which wrap around the apartment and seem to bring the outdoors inside. "There's a flow and a comfort I like better now," he says. "It's about the windows, and the light that comes in from the park. In the evening, with candles lit, it's almost like an event."

Further streamlining was achieved by replacing the original herringbone floors, which were stained a medium-brown, with darker wood in a simpler pattern. A structural beam that had been expanded by Donghia into a round, sculptural presence was taken down to its studs; the kitchen and bathrooms are now symphonies of clean lines and glossy surfaces. The tropical bamboo tones and textures that accented the white in the apartment's previous incarnation have been supplanted by black and chrome. The banana plants that once abounded in the dining room are gone; the accessories now tend to be reflective vases full of red roses, for example, while gleaming vintage lanterns hang overhead. Both the table and the dining chairs (which have taken the place of earlier rattan-and-canvas versions) are Lauren's own



In the living room, a sculpture by Rembrandt Bugatti is displayed behind a custom-made sectional, cocktail table, and leather-upholstered carbon-fiber chairs, all by Ralph Lauren Home; the side table is by Juan and Paloma Garrido, and the rug is by Stark Carpet. **FACING PAGE:** An original *Star Wars* stormtrooper and a painting by Joseph Stashkevitch in the entrance hall; the floors are of polished cherry. See Resources.