

# Modern— with Children

*A New York*  
media couple forged a livable space for their family that doesn't give short shrift to high design.

Alexis and Oren Glick with their one-year-old, Slate, in the living room of their Manhattan apartment. Seating includes two *Link* sofas by CRD Verzelloni from Suite New York, a pair of Florence Knoll leather lounge chairs, a Hans Wegner armchair and a 1952 Poul Kjaerholm side chair from Fritz Hansen. The Corian cocktail table is a custom piece from FTF Designs, a company owned by architect West Chin and designer Roseann Repetti. The collage above the FTF credenza is by Greg Miller.

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## Family life—the big, juicy kind with three kids under 10 and busy parents who juggle successful careers as expertly

as they do mini foam footballs and *Star Wars* action figures—seems at odds with the standard precepts of the New York City white-box loft apartment. Hushed spaces with spare photography on the walls and pale orchids trembling in the corners can be difficult to reconcile with the kids at play or at dinner or in the bath. But you know minimalism has turned a corner when, in a kitchen lined with charcoal-colored oak and paperwhite Corian, a capacious steel sink is requisitioned for the daily dousing of a toddler named Slate.

Further proof of the easy livability modernism can achieve is contained within Slate's vocabulary, which includes the word "shower" and speaks of a preternatural appreciation for the sleekly honed limestone haven with dual rain-forest showerheads that normally accommodates the hygienic ministrations of the adults.

Making the cool appointments of contemporary design captivating to someone who drinks his milk from a sippy cup has its challenges, but it helps that his parents—Fox Business Network anchor Alexis Glick and husband Oren Glick, who owns the digital-imaging studio Shootdigital—are design buffs. More integral is the assistance of an architect and a designer who get that design-centric serenity for a vibrant family can be both comfortable and sophisticated. It's precisely why the Glicks hired West Chin and Roseann Repetti (who are also husband and wife).

The Boffi kitchen has graphite-toned oak cabinets, Corian countertops and a stainless-steel backsplash. The Gubi stools are by Komplot Design and covered in waterproofed leather from Spinneybeck. Among the storage accessories is a refrigerated drawer dedicated to diet cola. The cooktop, oven and hood—installed in and above the service prep island—are from Gaggenau, the espresso machine from Küppersbusch.

PRODUCED BY SUSAN TYREE VICTORIA. PHOTOGRAPHS BY PETER MURDOCK. WRITTEN BY MARIO LÓPEZ-CORDERO.





The Glicks' 3,400-square-foot space in the Flatiron district wasn't always miles of chalky walls and creamy, rift-cut oak floors. "It looked like the suite

they comped you if it was 1970 and you were a high roller in Vegas," says Oren of the once-choppy quagmire of rooms that featured glass panels etched with flamingos, mauve toilet bowls, a motorized dry cleaner's rack in the closet and a lurid red kitchen.

Despite all that, it held enough space for the Glicks—at the time, they already had one child and were expecting a second (Logan is now 6, Kyle 4). They had Chin spec the space. Through the garish veneer he saw a wide rectangle with high ceilings and room to stretch out. A gut job stripped everything away and replotted the home with large public spaces—dining, family, media and play rooms and the kitchen—flowing directly into each other.

"I call it horizontal living," says Oren. "The best thing about the apartment is the bicycles: Our boys ride from one end of the apartment to the other uninterrupted."

In looking for a bigger, more flexible space, the Glicks also wanted to take a step away from the traditional. "We were yearning for something new, with clean lines," says Alexis. Ensuring that clients have ample space to put things away is something of an avocation for Chin. "People want to be able to hide things, but they don't want to have to climb up a stepladder to access them," he says. A standout feature of the refitted apartment is enough concealed space to accommodate an Everest of worldly goods, housed behind panels of Macassar ebony, white lacquered wood and statuary bronze.

Above: The dining area off the living room has a wall that's been skimmed in concrete; photographs are by Philippe Salomon (left) and Peter Rosa. The Corian table is another custom piece from FTF Designs; the *Urchin* pendant fixture is from Comerford Hennessy. Opposite: The husband-and-wife architecture-design team of West Chin and Roseann Repetti in front of the foyer's partition-glass wall; floors are rift-cut oak.

In outfitting the apartment, the Glicks wanted to establish a balance between urbanity and accessibility. "Being too modern was something we wrestled

with," says Alexis. "We wanted to keep it kid-friendly. Our first question was always 'If the kids spill, can we clean it?'" Repetti had an arsenal of options at the ready: In the kitchen, stools are indeed covered in white leather, but it's been waterproofed, and smudges wipe right off. Equally hard-wearing brown Ultrasuede covers the sofa in the media room, and Repetti supplied a whole slew of refined custom furniture—kitchen, dining and cocktail tables—that employs the same tough-as-nails Corian used in kitchen countertops. "We wanted every space to feel light and airy, and it's amazing how the Corian does all that in a durable way," says Alexis.

In order to set off the photography that the couple collects, Repetti kept the color scheme muted. "We put in just a few splashes here and there," she says, pointing out an Arne Jacobsen Egg chair upholstered in Kelly green. Part of the point was also to make sure

that the three-bedroom space possessed versatility, so that it could be modified to suit evolving tastes as the children grew older.

The bathroom in the master suite has thoroughly proved its cross-generational appeal. With an elevated platform that contains a gargantuan overflow bathtub connected by pebble tiles to an ample shower stall, it is perfect for getting the whole brood clean in one fell swoop. "I can stick all my kids in at once, and for them it's like a lap pool," Oren says. "The place is our oasis," says Alexis. See Resources, last pages.

This page: The media room's scrupulously detailed paneling hides the television set, which every morning is tuned to Alexis's shows, *Money for Breakfast* and *Opening Bell*; art is by Greg Miller. Opposite (clockwise from top left): The master bedroom has an ebony wall; the zebra-wood powder room looks much bigger than it is, since one of its walls is mirrored; the master bath has a custom overflow fiberglass tub.



### What the Pros Know

"You can get two things out of built-ins," says designer Roseann Repetti. "You can get storage, and you can get an architectural element, which can add warmth to an apartment without wasting space." The monolithic Macassar ebony sheets that hide the AV equipment in the media room and closet space along the hallway were meticulously installed so their graining creates mirror-image motifs. "You are creating another volume, especially in a mostly white interior," says architect West Chin. In the bedroom, this translates into a unit formed from statuary bronze that, with concealed shelves, becomes both a headboard and a clutter-buster. "It gives you depth, so you don't get swallowed up by blank walls," he says. Sometimes, though, a built-in is all about sleight of hand: How do you disguise a huge water heater without making it impossible to get to? By tucking it behind a zebra-wood panel in the powder room (above).

