

Janice Levin's Jewels • Eleanor Roosevelt's House • Mira Sorvino's *Triumph*

AVENUE



“Prewar” Power Brokers

The architects and marketers of
New York's grandest apartments

Plus: The new buildings
that are outpricing
Candela's masterpieces



Splendor in the glass

*Intimate entertaining
is enhanced with a
home bar*

BY JILL BROOKE

WITH HOME ENTERTAINING SO IN VOGUE, A new appreciation for home bars has emerged. "For decades, designers always created a space for home bars," observes interior decorator Scott Salvator. "In fact, there were many gadgets made by Westinghouse in the 1950s to accommodate this need, such as tiny ice makers that could be stored in cabinets."

Most prewar apartments have a special space between the dining room and living room solely for this purpose, but new buildings, whose architects often prized form over function, rarely housed them. "Many more clients are asking for them," says designer John Barman. "You don't need a large area to create a home bar, and they can be attractive and convenient. Even a closet or bookcase can be refashioned

TOP: Campion Platt designed this Fifth Avenue home bar inside an anigre wood cabinet. The transparent glass shelving and mirrors give the bar the illusion that the shelves are floating.



Scott Salvator fashioned this '30s-style bar. Maplewood cabinets are painted with Essex green and black. A granite top accents a mirrored backsplash.

into one." Although the space needed for home bars is small, there are many creative ways to implement them.

Barman, who has designed home bars for Allison and Leonard Stern and Stone Phillips, says he tries to incorporate the style of the apartment into the bar. Wynton Marsalis wanted a New Orleans look, which was achieved through the bold use of deep blue on distressed wood. "A home bar is a place to have fun with color and built-in paneling," Barman says enthusiastically. "Burl wood is really popular now, and knotty pine is coming back."

And since it's often placed between rooms in a hallway, the bar tends to be narrow in a town house. Barman used one client's

Ross Bleckner painting as a focal point, then matched the cabinets to enhance the work's soothing colors. Many people also want their bars to showcase their glass collections. "One of my clients collects glasses from the 18th and 19th centuries," says Barman. "So we combined old-world cabinetry with glass cabinetry."

Architect Champion Platt built a home bar into a wall to display his client's glassware. "Glasses can add to the festive nature of an event, and many people collect them," says Platt, a designer and Columbia-educated architect. Ice machines and storage for alcohol can be hidden within cabinets, and pretty stemware adds to the romantic setting, be it a tête-à-tête or a larger group.

And whether it was decades ago or today, a second driving force behind building home bars is to keep guests out of the kitchen. After all, hostesses prefer a seamless presentation; they don't want anyone seeing such eyesores as food spills on the counter, dishes precariously stacked in sinks, and pots and pans cooking on the stove.

Fortunately, technology allows shortcuts to keep guests comfortably sitting on sofas instead of wandering around. "I always recommend building in a warming tray for hors d'oeuvres inside the cabinetry as well as a tiny fridge equipped with an ice maker," says Salvator. "I'm glad this trend is back. It makes for more civilized entertaining." ☛

FIND IT AT FINA
1-800-BUY-FINA



MICHAEL C. FINA

545 FIFTH AVENUE AT 45TH STREET,
NEW YORK, NY 10017
800-BUY-FINA
michaelcina.com
MENTION THIS AD FOR
FREE REGULAR DELIVERY
To order online promo code: AVEN