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# SPACES

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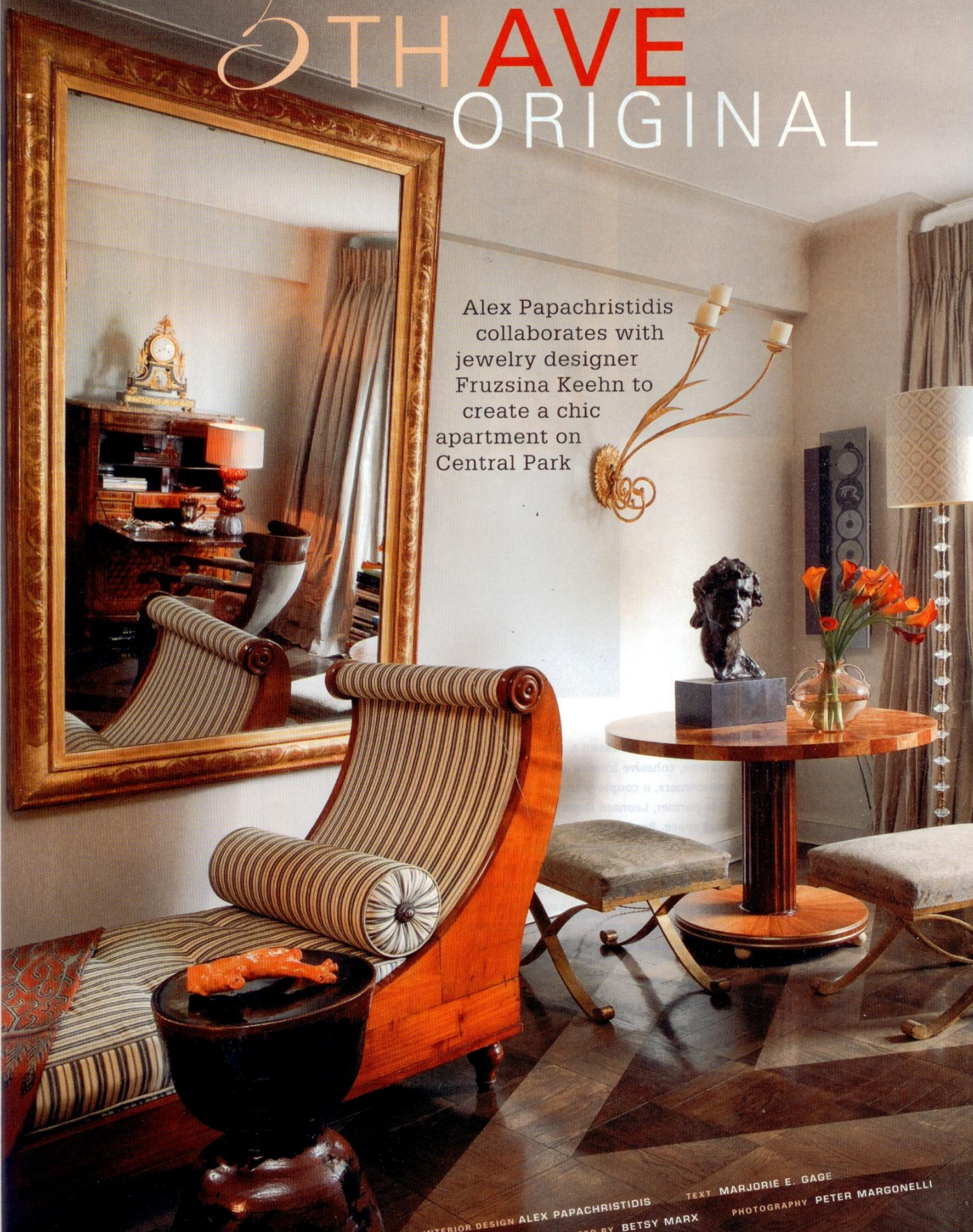


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# 5TH AVE ORIGINAL

Alex Papachristidis  
collaborates with  
jewelry designer  
Fruzsina Keehn to  
create a chic  
apartment on  
Central Park



INTERIOR DESIGN ALEX PAPACHRISTIDIS  
TEXT MARJORIE E. GAGE  
PRODUCED BY BETSY MARX  
PHOTOGRAPHY PETER MARGONELLI



modern CLASSICS  
Opposite: The living area's Italian giltwood scence and French chaise (upholstered in silk stripes) both date from the 19th century. This page: A 1940s Danish chandelier from Pascal Boyer Gallery illuminates the French Deco rosewood center table from Frederick P. Victoria & Son.



**studies IN SIMPLICITY** Main image: Family heirlooms—including an 18th-century French secretaire, clock, and painting—find their place among contemporary pieces of equal quality. The taffetta-upholstered sofa—tufted with velvet-covered buttons—was designed by Papachristidis and fabricated by Jose Quintana Upholstery. Inset, top left: The modern drip painting was discovered at a Parisian flea market. Inset, top right: A collage discovered in London is hung above a 19th-century marble-top marquetry commode.

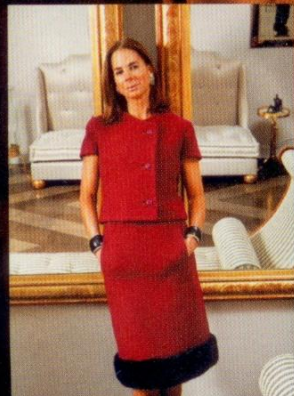
**"SOME WOMEN ASPIRE TO BE AUDREY HEPBURN OR HOLLY GOLIGHTLY,"** says designer Alex Papachristidis. "But Fruzsina Keehn doesn't aspire to be anyone other than who she is—and she is one of the chicest, most unpretentious women I know." Longtime friends, Papachristidis and his client—both native New Yorkers—share a passion for European antiques, quality materials, fine workmanship, and, above all, authenticity.

"Alex and I have been friends for years," says Keehn, a jewelry designer whose classically inspired work is sold around the world. "When I was moving back to New York from London three years ago, he was the person I turned to for advice on how to 'downsize' from my big old flat to my new place on Fifth Avenue. I wanted to be near the museums and the Park—I am an Uptown girl at heart."

The pair sorted through Keehn's collection of art, antiques, and family heirlooms—selecting pieces that would do double-duty in the 1,200-square-foot, one-bedroom. Against a backdrop of gray paint and stenciled floors, the pieces stand out like sculpture. "Even at her most fussy, Fruzsina prefers things to be very simple," says Papachristidis.

CONTINUED





**personal STYLE** Left: Fruzsina Keehn wears a vintage suit tailored to fit her personal style. "I buy vintage pieces and alter them," she explains. "Nothing costs much or has a 'name.' But I always look for quality fabrics and clean lines." This page: In the bedroom, a Rothkoesque painting from London is displayed above a 19th-century German commode from H.M. Luther in New York. Opposite: Papachristidis designed the bed, upholstered in steel-colored satin. Custom bedding from Schweitzer Linen. The Paul Evans lamp, from Guinevere Antiques Limited, in London, is one of a pair. Books are a passion.

An ever-growing collection of vintage clothing has begun to “cause a situation—I need more closet space,” Keehn says, laughing. But where there is a passion, Keehn and Papachristidis have worked together to find a place. “I really didn’t have room for bookcases, but didn’t want to part with my books,” says Keehn, who concentrated her stack of art and antiques volumes—many collected during her years studying at Christie’s and Sotheby’s—against a wall previously dominated by an unattractive radiator.

“Fruzsina doesn’t take herself seriously, but she has an incredible eye for detail that you can see, not only in the exquisite jewelry she designs, but in the clothes she wears, and the furniture and art she chooses to live with,” says Papachristidis. “She is an original—and so is her home.” ~ See Resources.

