



Kelly Zerbini

From childhood, Kelly Zerbini was surrounded by art and design. Her parents encouraged creative activities like sewing, paint-by-numbers, and summer art classes, while her godparents are architects in Chicago. Being taken to their studio classes in Mies van der Rohe's Crown Hall at the Illinois Institute of Technology at a young age made an indelible impression, and Kelly was especially excited about the possibility of a career where she could see an idea through from conceptualization to its final stages.

She followed that dream to The University of Cincinnati's highly acclaimed College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning, majoring in interior design. Initially set on a more commercial route within hotels and restaurants, Kelly took an internship at Clodagh Design, where she was exposed to the world of high-end residential design – and never looked back. Today she is partner and design director of Arthur Dunnam for Jed Johnson, designing homes that make owners and their guests feel a unique mixture of luxury and warmth each time they enter.

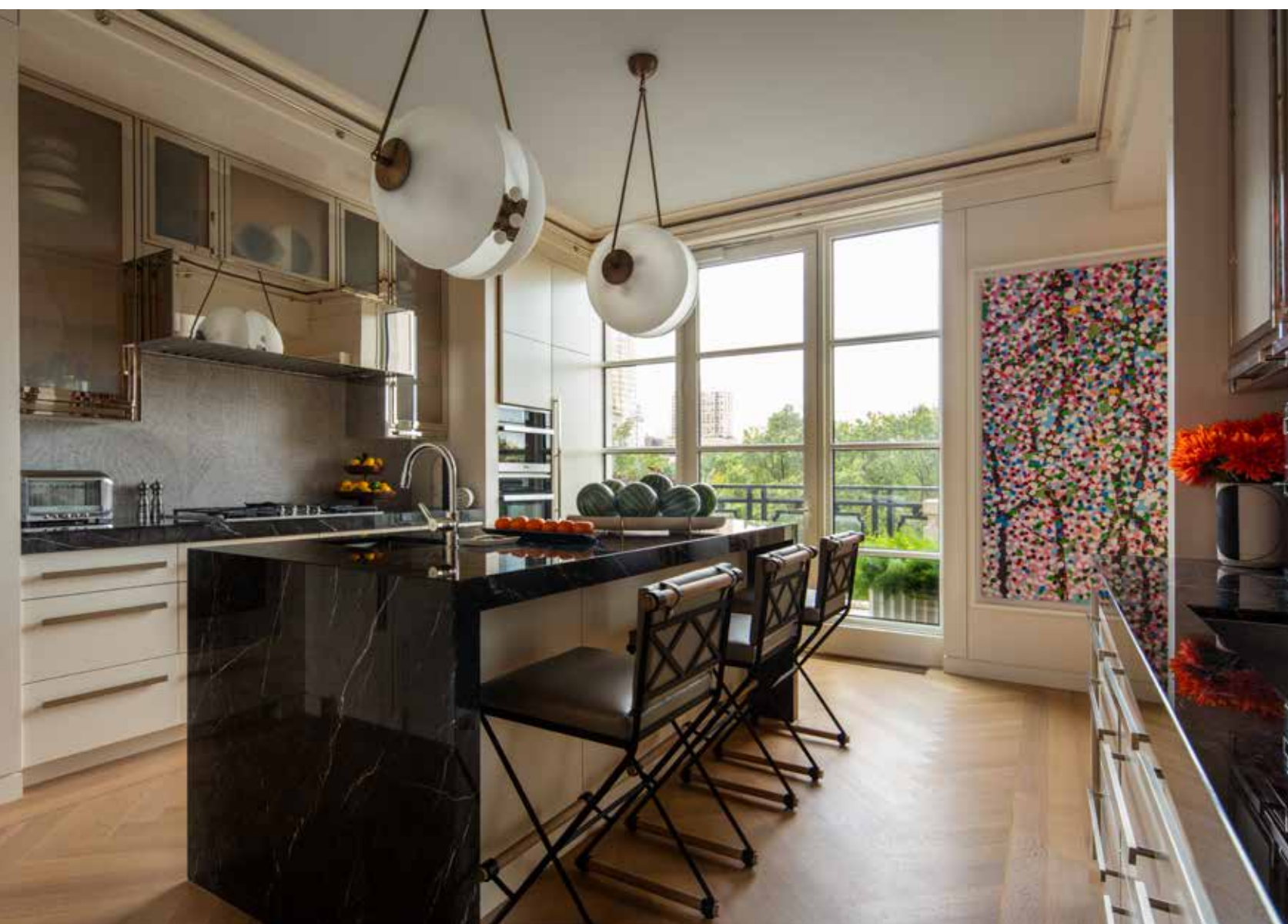
Stark and impractical interiors are not Kelly's style; instead, her belief is that a home should feel full of layers and love. Pieces both new and old ideally function as conversation starters: perhaps the floor lamp is made from a fallen walnut tree found in upstate New York, or the sculpture discovered at a flea market on vacation, or there's the surprise piece you never thought you'd like, but now can't live without.

This Manhattan apartment just off Central Park tells quite a few tales, thanks to the owner's blue chip art collection and openness to unusual shapes and materials. Scale plays the most important role, with soaring 12-foot ceilings and large rooms being cocooned into more intimate zones within. The home may be filled with large-scale artwork and furnishings, but it's the small details that really make the rooms sing. Custom lampshades, embroidered pillows, and curtain leading edge trims all add to the overall sense of a personalized and intimate home.

Many bespoke pieces populate the home, from designers such as Mattia Bonetti to Michael Coffey and Alaya Serfaty. Kelly custom-designed a dining table in collaboration with Newel Design, topped by a singular large slab of walnut sourced from Northern California. Integrated power outlets are hidden under bronze covers, making the table both a beautiful and functional centerpiece. The den is covered in reclaimed teak wall tiles, drawing its inspiration from Morocco. This room is furnished using Roche Bobois' Mahjong modular series, allowing the home's three children to stack and mix the seating arrangements to suit their mood.

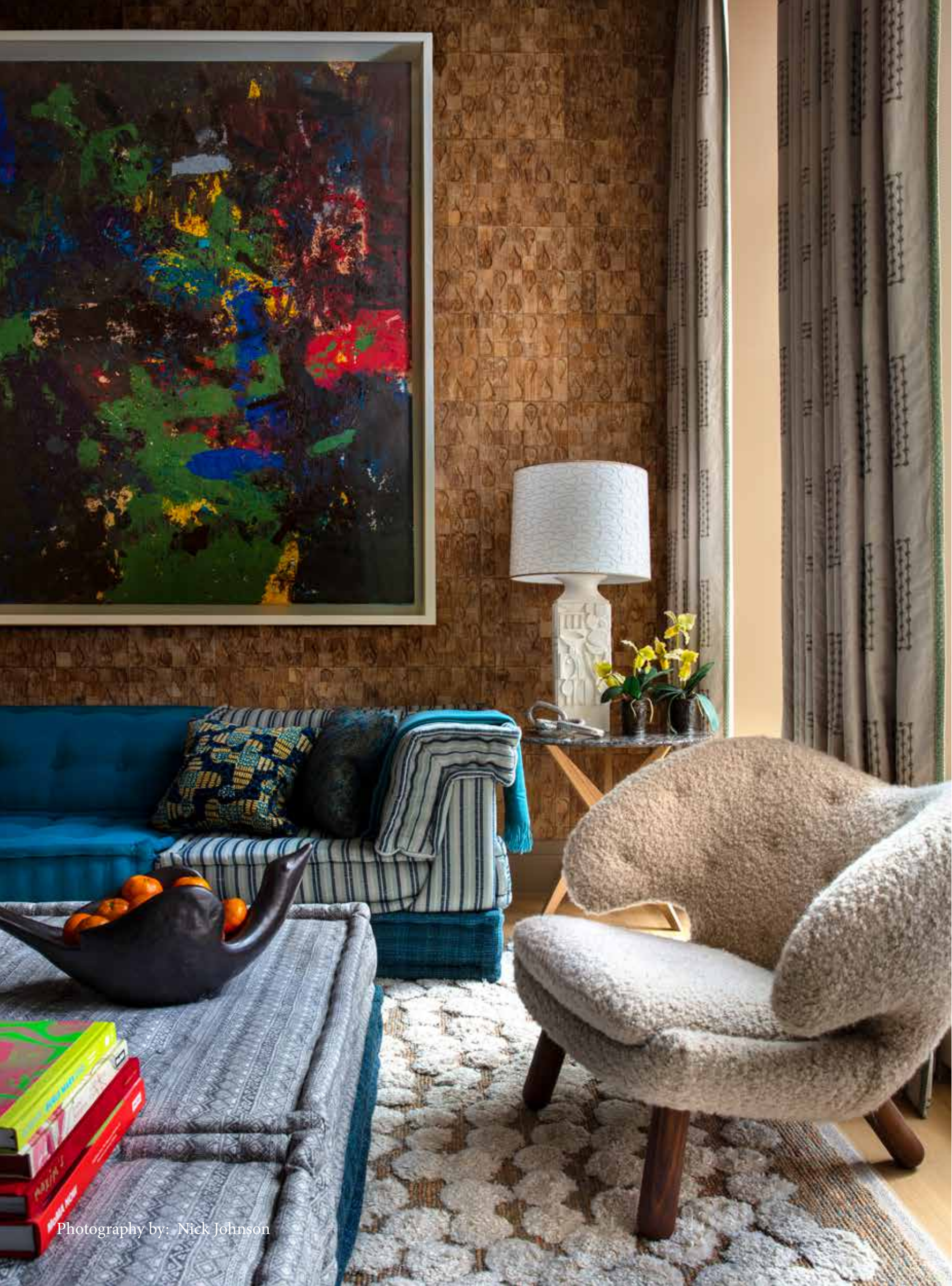
While the look of the building's lobby might make you feel as though you must wear your best fur to fit in, there is a sense of relaxation upon entering this home. Highly textured finishes that are soft to the touch allow the interior to envelope you, while the palette is neutral but not void of color and personality.



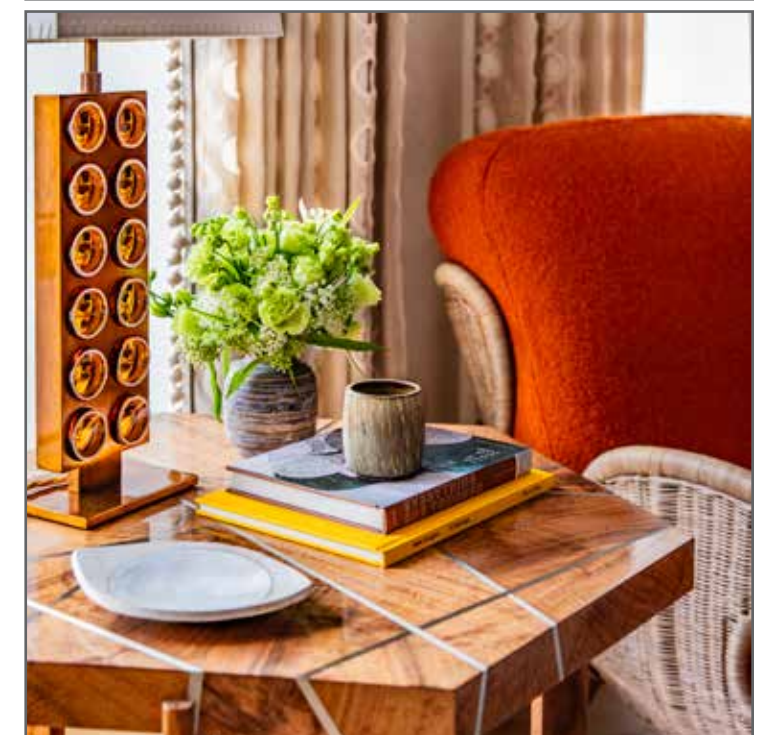








Photography by: Nick Johnson



“Don’t waste your money on generic furniture. There are so many interesting shapes, materials, and colors — why settle for boring?”

— Kelly Zerbini