

# Urban Vessel

"I'm used to spending time on boats," says New York-based architect and interior designer Page Goolrick, who has been sailing competitively for 15 years. "It's influenced my design. Sailing vessels are beautifully designed, flexible, made for performance, but also attractive. They are not ornamental; they do their job and do it well, but they're beautiful." It seems that the two disciplines have conspired to make Goolrick's design streamlined, efficient, and unobtrusively inventive. And these qualities are nowhere so apparent as in the Gramercy Park apartment she recently renovated for herself. ▶



Goolrick designed sliding partitions that when closed still allow light to flow through her 560-square-foot space, and when opened reveal cocoonlike sleeping quarters.

# My House

Goolrick's 560-square-foot pied-à-terre functions much like the interior of a small yacht: efficient, adaptable, highly functional, and glossily good-looking. With a place for every little thing, and lacking fatuous details, she has created a decadent minimalism on a budget of only \$70,000. The apartment is brightly white and richly veined with wood, a dark-stained (formerly cheap blond) parquet floor, walnut shelving, and a walnut sideboard by Knoll. In the bathroom, she used glass tile to generate depth and luminosity. The overall effect has been to create, within a single interior, spaces that are both lofty and intimate.

From the front door, the hallway looks toward a wall of glacier-green, sanded-acrylic sliding doors that form a box around the bedroom. The doors that flank the bed (there's very little room around it—this is a nest if ever there was one) are translucent, but those at its foot are opaque partitions made from lacquered white MDF

Storage beneath the bed obviates the need for a dresser and allows for a narrow pass between bed frame and sliding partition. Dark-stained parquet floors offset the muted colors

used throughout the space. Goolrick reoriented the kitchen and chose sleek stainless steel countertops and bright white walls and cupboards to create the illusion of space.



panels set into Häfele tracks and which, when open, park perfectly against a furred wall of the same width. Goolrick designed custom hardware that allows various panels to telegraph together when open, stacking seamlessly against walls of the same width, and to open sequentially without the messy look of floor channels.

An upholstered headboard is recessed into the wall, leaving a small cavity above to hold books or photographs. Beneath the mattress, a platform contains eight drawers floating slightly off the floor to make room for feet to approach the bed without banging into it. Sleek white cabinetry to the left of the bed hides a flat-screen television that pivots out of its niche, shelving, and a chute-like pocket to hold shoes.

In the hall, the rear of each of two walk-in closets is lined floor-to-ceiling with mirrors, which makes the space, tiered with two racks for clothes, look significantly bigger and deeper than it actually is. (Anything ▶





One of Goolrick's custom lights cantilevers over a marble-topped Saarinen Tulip table with the slight camber of a laden fishing pole. The table acts as both dining and work

that Goolrick planned to store was measured and the storage containers made to that measure: Trousers on a clip hanger, for instance, took 10 inches of depth instead of the more standard 24 inches.)

Likewise, the kitchen feels economical without being parsimonious: It has simple steel countertops, sheer wall panels, a ribbon of faucet, and two hip-high Sub-Zero refrigerator-freezers that leave room for cabinetry above. Goolrick modified IKEA drawers by cutting openings in them to accommodate plumbing and electrical wiring. "Because the space is so small, I can't just bring anything home. This is kind of like a great hotel suite with a kitchenette, and I like that because it keeps me light and free. Editing is a big part of the [design] process."

In the living room, where books about de Kooning and Matisse and *The Poetics of Space* are piled on a coffee table, a wide mirror above the sofa bed allows the green canopy of trees in the park seven floors below to be seen from

every corner of the apartment. Windows on Lexington Avenue are fitted with blinds made from heavy white sailcloth (and do indeed resemble sails) that pivot about 180 degrees, cantilever parallel with the window to let light in, and park perpendicular with the sill to diffuse light and create privacy. Reaching the corner, where two windows meet at a right angle, they pirouette smoothly to cover the facing window.

The dining room table serves as Goolrick's home office. Behind the table, a diminutive white cabinet contains the equivalent of an office in the equivalent of a sailboat bench: a printer, modem, fax, telephone, and, recessed inside a secret alcove in the shoulder of the cabinet, a stereo. Goolrick designed the cabinet to be exactly 8.5 inches deep to stow a ream of 8.5-by-11-inch paper. "You want to use every inch in this city," Goolrick says. "Every half-inch amounts to something, but it's not necessary to have a lot of square footage to live well." ▶



space; the cabinets to the side store all of the requisite office supplies tucked away neatly in custom drawers. Goolrick's space multitasks almost as efficiently as she does.



## How to Make My House Your House

### A Countertops

Steel bathroom and kitchen countertops and a floating steel windowsill in the bedroom were fabricated by Bowery Restaurant Supply. The steel, a cool counterpoint to glass tile and the warmth of the wood grain, emphasizes clean lines and gives the illusion of volume. [www.boweryrestaurantsupply.com](http://www.boweryrestaurantsupply.com)

### B Tracking

The track system used to enclose the bedroom and hang the sailcloth blinds is Häfele's sliding-door fitting HAWA Junior 80/Z. Goolrick used it on the floor-to-ceiling sanded-Plexiglas kitchen/foyer panels and the opaque bedroom/living-room panels. [www.hafeleonline.com](http://www.hafeleonline.com)

### C Lighting

"I got into lighting [design] because I couldn't find anything good enough for the spaces I was designing for my clients," says Goolrick. "We used to make them as placeholders until the client could find the right light, but we'd go back months later and the lights would still be there." The ceiling light shade is covered in a fine white linen with a frame of brushed nickel. [www.goolrick.com](http://www.goolrick.com)

### Ventilation

A Cirrus Hugger fan from the Modern Fan Company hangs above the bed. Designed by Ron Rezek, it's available through many sources, including Lee's Studio and Lighting by Gregory. "It was the simplest, smallest



fan I could find," says Goolrick. "I thought, I'm going to feel like I'm in a blender if I get the big one." [www.modernfan.com](http://www.modernfan.com)

### Home Office

Stowed as tidily as jib sheets and a spinnaker in her made-to-measure cabinetry, Goolrick's scaled-down home office doesn't lack amenities: a Canon i80 color bubble-jet printer, an Apple laptop with a 12-inch screen, an Apple wireless station, a Bose subwoofer, and a Sony CD player. This is also where her tiny, thumb-size Apple mini flash drive (for recording and carrying large-format drawings that she doesn't want to email to herself) lives. [www.canon.com](http://www.canon.com) / [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com) / [www.bose.com](http://www.bose.com) / [www.sony.com](http://www.sony.com) ■