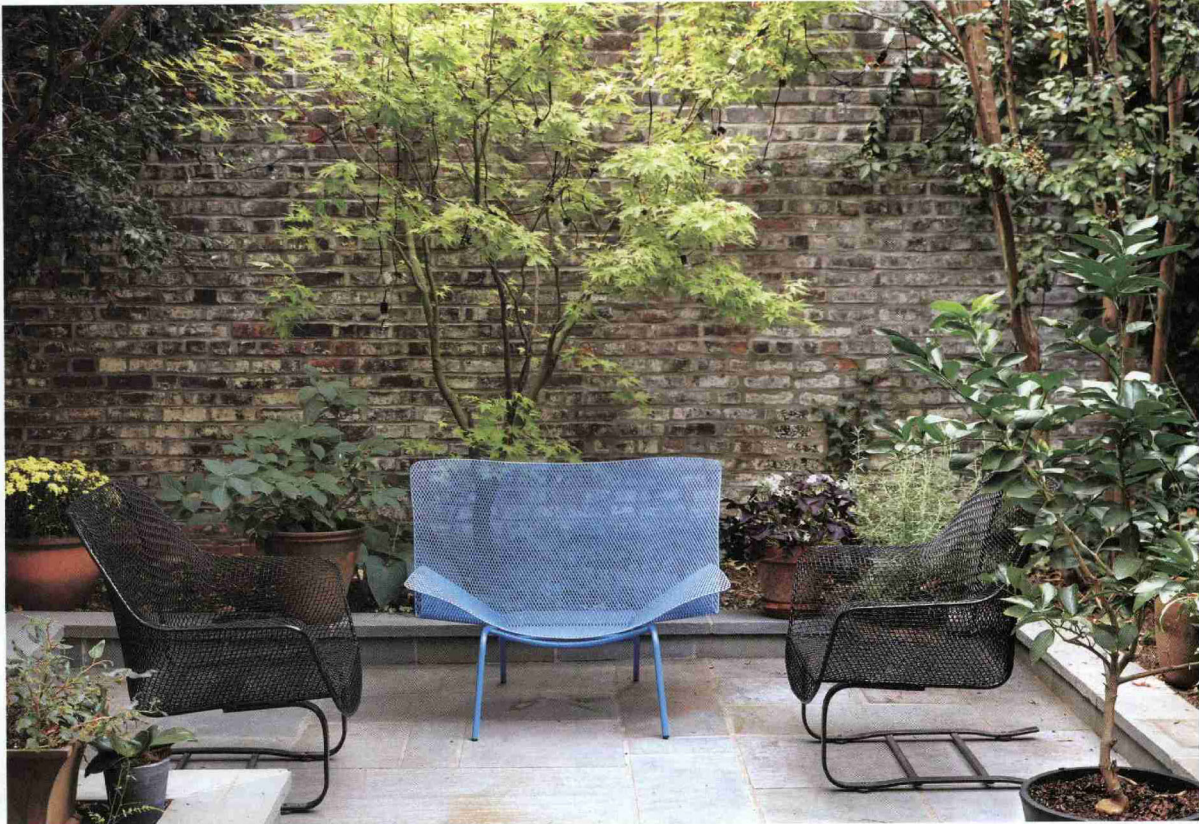


“THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE INTERIOR AND THE EXTERIOR HELPS EXPAND THE SPACE”



Rose and O'Neill started by gutting the parlor floor to take advantage of the corner unit's views and natural light. They moved the entry door, creating space for an intimate sitting room off the foyer, and designed a more modern staircase with an armature of painted steel. Now airy and loft-like, the parlor floor also contains an open kitchen and dining area, anchored by a black walnut dining table that can accommodate family dinners and large parties. A freestanding island painted in two custom shades of blue dominates the newly streamlined kitchen, which is framed by custom cerused white oak cabinets providing voluminous storage. ("The old kitchen made the rest of the floor seem uncomfortable and cramped," says Rose.) The master bedroom lies just beyond the kitchen and dining area, accessed via a violet-painted hallway that can be closed off. "It separates our bedroom from the

rest of the floor," says King Thomas, "making it feel like a capsule."

Downstairs, Michael Thomas's office, the living room, and the sons' bedrooms make up the bulk of the garden level. To amplify the verdant urban oasis outside, the architects added an oversize steel-frame window with a built-in retractable screen, as well as a wide bluestone windowsill that matches the patio's pavers and can accommodate oversize lounge pillows. "The connection between the interior and the exterior helps expand the space," explains O'Neill.

Now that their duplex has been pared down and polished, it looks like the third time was definitely the charm for the Thomases and their renovation efforts. But the experience was gratifying for their architects, too. "It's fun to work with an existing home and see what you can build into it," O'Neill says. "It can take on a whole new life." 🌿