





Graceful Garden Living Above Park Avenue

This apartment is legendary, having once been owned by Gianni Agnelli of Fiat and his stylish wife, Marella. But the building is distinctive for other reasons. It is one of many buildings built in 1929 before the Great Depression, and it benefited from the multiple-dwelling law passed in that year that allowed apartment buildings to rise to nineteen stories provided the top floors were set back. The result in this building and its twin across the street is an unusual arrangement of penthouses, duplexes, and triplexes, with windows designed to take advantage of views in several directions.

Another feature that followed the unconventional angling of apartments above the twelfth floor was the possibility of having small gardens in unlikely places. In this apartment, for example, the visitor faces a mini garden with a Roman fountain and wall sculpture

LEFT: Red maple foliage, a specimen hinoki cypress, and a border of blue hydrangeas accent an unusual view of a post-1929 building in which setback floors created opportunities for terraces.

immediately upon stepping out of the elevator. It is tucked beneath what appears to be a flying buttress, an architectural element supporting the structure above. Another mini garden, on what might be more accurately described as a balcony rather than a terrace, adjoins the living room. Both gardens feature spreading red maples, ivy, and boxwood hedges supplemented by hydrangeas and pansies in summer with seasonal plantings at other times of the year.

RIGHT: Stone paving provides a contrast with brightly colored foliage and blooms along the east wall of the terrace. A boxwood hedge softens the edge overlooking an assortment of buildings in various architectural styles.









OPPOSITE: From a second smaller terrace adjoining the apartment one views the larger one facing north and east.

RIGHT: Glass doors from the living room open onto the narrower end of the terrace. Climbing hydrangea decorates the wall where the terrace extends northward under an archway to the opposite end.