

# How A 1,000-Square-Foot NYC Apartment Was Renovated Into A Stylish Modern Retreat



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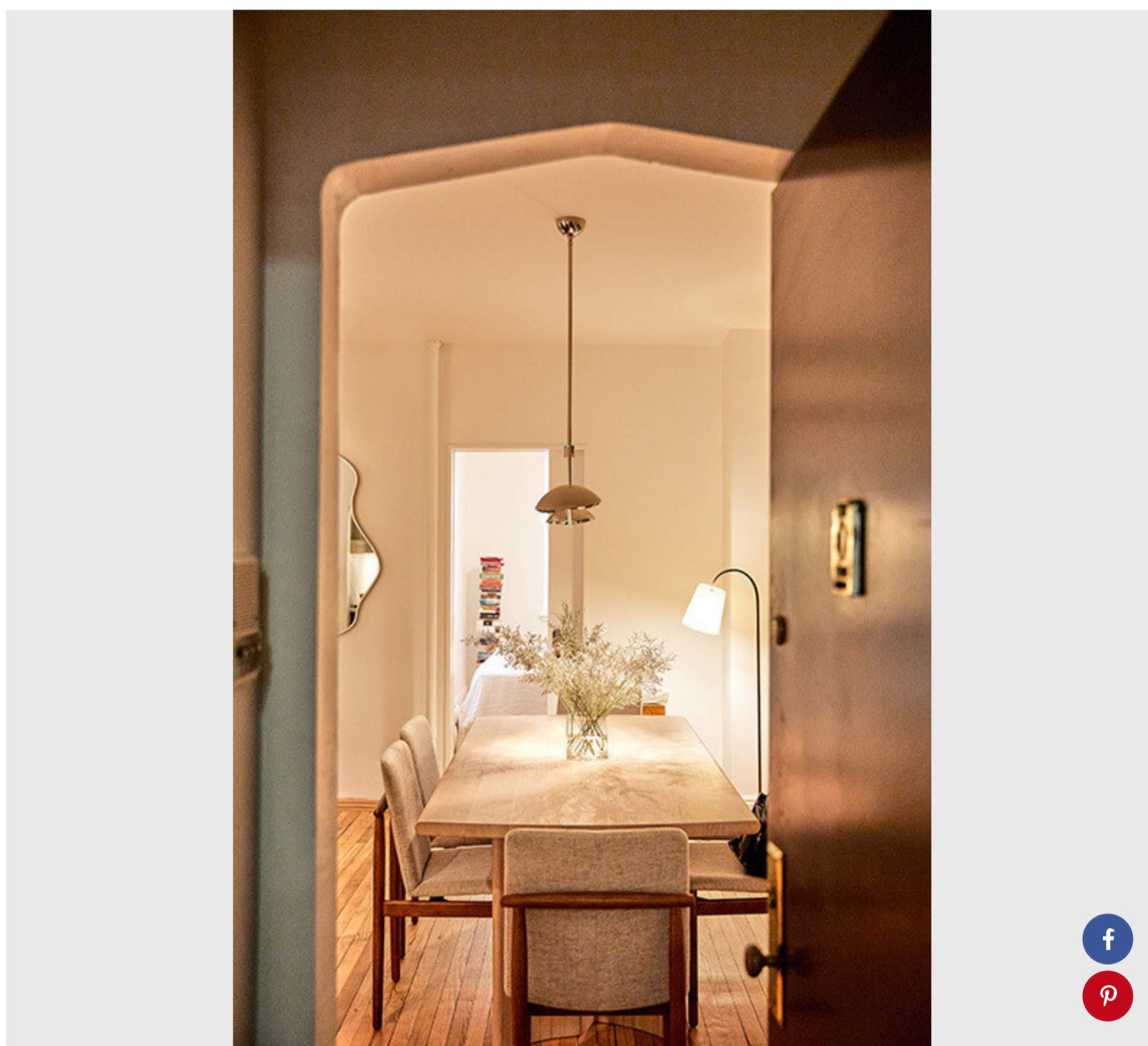
Photographed by Perry Hall for Opa.

Any New York apartment comes with its quirks. There are old fixtures, weird nooks and crannies, and a laughable lack of storage. So, when you can give one a renovation, it's an amazing opportunity to make these small spaces feel fresh, modern, and livable. Case in point: this charming Upper West Side garden apartment. After having no structural updates for decades, the homeowner decided to hire architectural firm [Opa](#) to transform the 1,000-square-foot one-bedroom home.

"I am a modernist at heart which means I am always searching for theory, concept, and simplicity in my design solutions. Thankfully, this client appreciated a cleaner, streamlined aesthetic," shares Aria Jahanshahi, the founder and principal of [Opa](#).

"This project marks another fruitful collaboration with interior designer, Leigh Sarembock Studio," says the architect. "Together, our collaborative, holistic design approach brought the client's vision to life with programs that elevate the space without sacrificing its original function."

Want to take a full tour of the brand new apartment? Read ahead to get a peek inside this cool modern renovation.



Photographed by Perry Hall for Opa.

"The space was definitely in need of an update — it was clear that the same owners had lived there for many decades, with no signs of any real renovation," explains Jahanshahi. "It felt quite claustrophobic."

"Some rooms were overrun with poorly planned and mundane built-in millwork and dim high-hat lighting. I knew right away that the kitchen and bathroom had to be gutted to the studs," he says. "Oddly, the sunroom seemed to be completely unused and stark compared to the rest of the [home]; we worked on elevating [it] into a luxurious secondary lounge space."



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"The living room actually had a charm to it, notably its original rounded doorway," he explains. "We knew that we wanted to accentuate that original feature as part of the sunroom entry. So, we developed a curved threshold wet-and-wine bar to reclaim space without impeding on each room's original function."

*Custom Credenza; [Room And Board](#) Coffee Table; [RH](#) Sofa; [Ferm Living](#) Mirror.*