

Beauty at the Beresford

Baby CZ founder **Carolina Zapf** and her husband, **John Josephson**, merged a variety of design styles to create an inviting home for their three children and the family's guests.

by Sue Hostetter

photographs by Marco Ricca

A view of the dining room through the grand entrance hall illustrates the generous room size for which architect Emery Roth became so well known. To the left hangs a painting of a young girl by a 19th-century Flemish artist, and to the right is an Orientalist portrait.



Carolina Zapf in the main living room, which is peppered with Asian accents such as this striking Vietnamese painting.



Leather "campaign chairs" frame a floor-to-ceiling bookcase in the formal dining room, giving the room an air of old-world charm. LEFT: John Josephson and Carolina Zapf.



ENTERING THE HOME OF CAROLINA ZAPF AND JOHN JOSEPHSON, one is greeted by utter calm and elegance: a rose-filled private landing, a mix of period-perfect furniture in Chinese red and soft yellow, ornate gold-framed paintings, a cozy fireplace, and family photographs flawlessly arranged on antique wood tables. It's hard to believe that three young children (Lily, five, and twins Sophie and Nicholas, almost three) not only reside in such an exquisitely appointed home but actually have the run of the house. Venture a bit further down a hallway, though, into the children's dazzling bright-green playroom and you'll find what seemed to be missing—screams of laughter, toys strewn about, and the general chaos of a mother and nanny running after three high-energy kids.

Zapf, who owns and does the designing for the children's clothing company Baby CZ, and husband Josephson, a managing director with the media and entertainment investment bank Allen & Co., bought this apartment in the legendary Beresford on Central Park West a few years before their first child was born, and have made no design adjustments to accommodate the mishaps that inevitably go along with having little people. "We try to teach our kids to clean up and set an example," says Zapf. "We want them to learn about beautiful things and how to take care of them from an early age. They do get wild and play hard," she concedes, "but they really do respect our home."

The Beresford, of course, has become one of New York's most fashionable addresses for A-listers with kids, including Jerry Seinfeld and John

McEnroe. Designed by famed architect Emory Roth in 1929 at the height of his career, the building, complete with multiple marble and bronze lobbies, has a romance and grace not readily found in a city becoming increasingly well known for contemporary glass-and-steel skyscrapers. "We really wanted a traditional apartment, designed in the first half of the century, with classic lines," says Zapf. "We were drawn to this apartment because it hadn't been touched—it still has the old wood floors with inlaid designs, the original window hardware and bathroom fixtures.... We felt like it was a real find."

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This venerable design history can be seen throughout the apartment—in the spectacular arched wooden doorways, the original oversize glass doors that lead out to the charming balcony, and the generous room dimensions. The one area that received an update by the couple is the all-stainless-steel kitchen, which feels contemporary but somehow mixes seamlessly with



The watercolor by Italian painter Attilio Simonetti was previously owned by Malcolm Forbes. The 18th-century Chinese desk was bought at a Christie's auction of the personal effects of interior designer Juan Portella.



Zapf and Josephson gutted the now all-stainless-steel kitchen, and say it's the place in the apartment where "everything happens."



Zapf and her three "fit models"—Lily, Nicholas, and Sophie—try on pieces from the new Baby CZ spring line.

Roth's original design. The kitchen also features some of the only modern furniture you'll find in the home, as well as Zapf's favorite pieces: silver chairs that were prototypes created by her father, world-renowned German furniture designer Otto Zapf.

"I grew up in a very modern house, so my style—not only in interior décor but also in the clothes that I design—has been very influenced by that," says Zapf. "But I was always fascinated by the evolution of design." This interest was obviously put to good use when Zapf decorated the apartment with her husband, given his taste for antiques, 18th-century French and English furniture, and 19th-century Asian paintings (including a commanding portrait of a Vietnamese matron, purchased on the couple's honeymoon, which watches over the main sitting room). Though Zapf and Josephson are obviously sophisticated aesthetes, "putting the house together was initially a challenge for the two of us," Zapf says with a laugh. "We learned a lot from each other, and now really enjoy decorating together. Our second home [on the north shore of Long Island] was a much easier task."

And though the family tends to congregate most often in the kitchen, the visual focal point of the apartment is undoubtedly the formal dining room-cum-library, which could easily pass for a room out of a grand manor in the English countryside. This is clearly where the serious entertaining takes place, such as the dinners the couple host, which are prepared by a private

chef and often boast a who's who of the movie, music, and high-tech worlds. Gorgeous leather-bound books line one side of the room; an antique writing desk faces a large window on the other end, where sunlight streams in. The pièce de résistance is the round English dining table for eight, which Josephson bought at auction in the early 90s. "This is definitely John's most treasured piece in the apartment," Zapf explains. "It's made of a rare decorative wood called yew wood... I believe it's what the English used to make their bows out of." Elaborate gold inlay shines on the legs of the table, mirroring the gold-leaf moldings overhead.

The conversation inevitably comes back to the children, who are now racing through the dining room bundled head to toe in Baby CZ designs, ready to set off for the park. "Having the Museum of Natural History and Central Park right across the street is crucial for the kids," Zapf says. "And they love this building... it has such a special family feeling. New York can be a very challenging place to live with kids, but it's also the most stimulating and exciting—and we feel like our apartment offers the perfect balance between this sense of excitement and our need for tranquility."

So, is life in New York City what Zapf envisioned when she was an 18-year-old moving to the United States from Germany? "You know, the first time I came to visit New York, when I was 12, my parents and I drove across the 59th Street Bridge and I got butterflies in my stomach," she recalls. "I knew right then that I would live here one day." [G]