

SEXY AS ELLE

An NYC living room
made easy by Elle Decor's
Michael Boodro

By DAVID KAUFMAN

THIS fall marks a pair of major milestones for seminal shelter magazine Elle Decor. Along with celebrating its 25th anniversary in print, it's releasing **Elle Decor: The Height of Style** (Abrams; \$45), a new book celebrating some of the chicest interiors to have graced its design-rich pages. Filled with interiors by top design icons like Steven Gambrel and Kelly Wearstler, the book, which came out on Tuesday, showcases some 220 rooms from across the globe.

Elle Decor editor-in-chief Michael Boodro (inset) helps break down this stunner: a Manhattan living room by Gotham decorator Todd Alexander Romano. "The room may be small-ish," Boodro says, "but Romano manages to squeeze 15 pieces of furniture into barely 350 square feet."

Here's how to get the look.



There may be a lot going on, but the furniture layout remains classic and simple. A sofa (Weldon Sofa from Mecox Gardens, mecox.com) is placed against a wall and accented by a cocktail table in front of it.

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Use strong colors, but insist upon harmony. Dramatic yellow curtains (Velvet Nailhead Curtain in Horseradish from West Elm, westelm.com) catch the eye, but additional bold colors — like orange in the leopard print — offer a perfect contrast.

Celebrate a focal point, but don't let it overwhelm the room. The fireplace is emphasized by mirrored tiles and capped by a glam mirror (Sunray Mirror from Horchow, horchow.com).

The room gets its glamour not just from color, but also from shine — via mirrored surfaces and gleaming floors. It's offset by the softness of a warm, cushy rug (lamb's wool rug from ABC Carpet & Home, abchome.com).

Bold colors and animal patterns may be noticed first, but the room is mostly neutral. Key pieces like the gray sofa and tone-on-tone striped chairs (Azure Chair from Bunny Williams Home, bunnywilliamshome.com) help achieve the look.