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AUSTRALIA ON SHOW
THE FURNITURE FAIR

COOL IN THE CITY
The amazing
New York apartment

DESIGN MAESTROS
Tommy Lynn Murcutt
Zaha Hadid
Christopher Sottsass

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Ship joinery principles – that everything must have multiple purposes to save space – were applied throughout. Low, double-sided storage units filled with books become room dividers separating the bedroom/bathroom and kitchen/living areas. The Kaufmans also have a separate library in the apartment. “We read everything – fiction, nonfiction, design and photography books, art books,” says Harriet.

The high quality of finishes is evident: walls and ceiling, even the laundry, are Venetian plastered; kitchen benchtops are polished concrete poured on site; joinery is walnut; floorboards are 30-millimetre-thick American oak in varying widths. Scott went to great lengths to find the floorboards, even though a building regulation requires 80 per cent of the area of a timber floor to be covered with rugs – a good thing as a few musicians live in the 12-storey building.

Scott and Harriet share a love of fine things and the no-expense-spared furnishings and artwork testify to this. Scott’s desk is by the late George Nakashima, master woodworker/designer of “flamboyant free-edge creations” in the words of *The New York Times*’ Roberta Smith. Paintings are by Larry Zox, Willem de Kooning, Salvador Dali. Art glass is mainly Italian from the ‘40s and ‘50s – Barovier & Toso, Seguso, Venini, and Barbini.

“We work with a few dealers in the US and we buy at auction and find pieces on our travels,” says Harriet. “We’re not shy about packing things up and taking them back with us,” adds Scott, referring to the vintage lamps and desks from Sydney dealer Tyrone Dearing, and the New Guinea tribal art purchased over the years. Pieces from their collection that didn’t fit the apartment have gone to other houses, such as their weekend getaway, a shingled cottage on Long Island. They are also building a new house in Garzón in Uruguay, which is sure to be just as stylish. **15**