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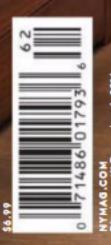


Inspiration.
Information.
Transformation.
By Wendy
Goodman





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"WE DID A TOTAL DEMOLITION," Brian Sawyer of Sawyer Berson says of the work that went into renovating this Village townhouse. The excavation underneath went so deep that it reached a primeval forest stream. To keep the basement dry, "we had to build a massive concrete bathtub to hold the foundation." So then, naturally, they promptly filled part of it up with water again.

The swimming pool you see here looks out on the house's lower-level garden. It's not on the lowest level; downstairs is yet another floor containing a study (with windows that look into the pool itself), a gym, a bar, and a wine room. This house is as self-sufficient as a medieval castle, and when you are taking a dip or resting at poolside, it would be easy to convince yourself that you are in a *riad* in the medina of a Moroccan city instead of doing your laps in the general direction of Union Square.

DD Allen, founding partner of Pierce Allen, decorated the house, including this over-the-top-yet-relaxed interior with mosaic-tiled walls and carved-wood screens covering windows that overlook a cozy banquette. The lighting was important, she says: "It had to be sexy and exotic. I wanted to create a place you want to settle in to." Even come high water.

W.G.

The swimming pool, six and a half feet by 36, is used by the family yearround. When you're in the study below this floor, windows into the sides of the pool allow you to come face-toface with anyone who's swimming.

