

ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST

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ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST VISITS

ROBERT REDFORD

THE FILMMAKER'S
NEW YORK CITY PENTHOUSE

*Interior Design by Clodagh/Text by Judith Thurman
Photography by Daniel Aubry*

This apartment," Robert Redford says of his duplex penthouse overlooking Central Park, "fulfills a very old desire. When I came to New York for the first time, I was in my early twenties, and I'd been studying art in Europe. It was a wonderful, though doomed, moment of innocence for me and the city. The energy of Broadway wasn't jaded, and neither was the literary romance of the Village. But the only way I ever got to see the view from the top, in those days, was to buy a ticket to the observation deck of the Empire State Building.

"I started my acting career and lived my life in the basement, literally and figuratively," he continues. "And I've never forgotten the claustrophobia of those days, which were a time of immense, and immensely motivating, yearning, but also of groveling and exclusion. I was young and determined enough to believe that someday I would live on a high floor, look out

over the rooftops and say, 'I've made it.'"

Redford has not only made it, he has remade himself several times over, and with each revision, as actor, director, activist and partisan of the arts, he has claimed more autonomy for his work and passions. "I'm interested in contradictions," he says. "I couldn't live within the boundaries of one period or style. I would never sacrifice comfort to an intellectual concept of what's 'now' or 'modern.' Just as your art draws on your life, a home should be a distillation of your own memories and experiences. This space is a synthesis of Moorish architectural elements, African artifacts, the rawness of the frontier, Southeast Asian simplicity, with a little Art Déco thrown in to make you feel sophisticated. I suppose it comes down to the fact that I'm still claustrophobic: I hate feeling trapped."

An artist as focused as Redford was obviously going to have strong convictions about an interior designer. He chose to work with the Irish-born,

"It reflects him and the world he lives in by capturing the expansiveness of the American West and the sophistication of New York," designer Clodagh says of Robert Redford's Manhattan penthouse. A Nepalese wheel, from Tucker Robbins, is on the living room mantel. Darius Carpets Sultanabad rug.