

STAR CHAMBER

IN HIS APARTMENT NEAR MANHATTAN'S HIGH LINE,
THOM FILICIA LETS LOOSE WITH HIS CREATIVITY.

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Thom Filicia in the living room of his apartment in New York's West Chelsea enclave. The artwork (left) is by Gavin Zeigler. **OPPOSITE:** In the living room, the chair, stool, sofa, and upholstered mirror are all from the Thom Filicia Home Collection for Vanguard Furniture. The side table and sheepskin throw are by Sedgwick & Brattle, and the floor lamp is by Vaughan. The artworks are by Scott Kerr.





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AS AN EMMY AWARD-WINNING TELEVISION PERSONALITY on shows like the original 2003 *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* and 2018's *Get a Room with Carson & Thom*, both on Bravo, Thom Filicia is accustomed to reimagining—and overhauling—spaces for design-challenged folks on extremely tight deadlines. It is a highly calibrated process whose final goal is as much about improving the emotional well-being of the clients in question as it is about aesthetics. When it comes to his personal environs, however, Filicia takes a more casual, free-associative approach that provides ample opportunity for creative brainstorming.

“My home feels more experimental. I have a little more fun, hanging paintings on furniture or using wallcoverings in a way that clients might not want,” says Filicia, who started his eponymous design firm, which does both residential and commercial projects, in 1998 after working for Parish-Hadley and Billhuber & Associates. “I allow myself to have an easy freedom with it. I’m not going to fire myself, so I don’t have to worry about it.”

Eight years ago, Filicia decided to sell the SoHo apartment where he had resided for a decade and move to a neighborhood with a bit more breathing room. The tourist foot traffic in SoHo had increased steadily, and the density had made even walking his two rescue dogs a difficult endeavor. Filicia alighted on the then-emerging West Chelsea area, where the elevated High Line park was drawing people up and away

OPPOSITE: In the living room, a vintage cocktail table is topped with a Ralph Lauren hurricane, and the side table is by Sedgwick & Brattle. The rug is by French Accents, and both the Vanguard Furniture console and the MDC wallcovering are by Thom Filicia. **LEFT, FROM TOP:** The media room's chaise, chair, and bookshelves are all from the Thom Filicia Home Collection for Vanguard, the Turkish pouf and side table are from Sedgwick & Brattle, the floor lamp is by Lorin Marsh, and the rug is by Crosby Street Studios; the artwork (left) is by Barry Lantz. In a hallway, the Emmy that Filicia won in 2004 for *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* sits on a vintage Chinese console; the mirror, vase, and sculptures are from Sedgwick & Brattle, the bench is from the Thom Filicia Home Collection for Vanguard, the wood-veneer wallcovering is by MDC, and the painting on the left is by Filicia.



LEFT: In the dining room, the custom table is made of reclaimed wood, and the chairs and bench are from the Thom Filicia Home Collection for Vanguard. The table lamps are from Sedgwick & Brattle, the picture light is by O'Lampia, and the custom-stained mahogany floors are by State of the Art. The Victorian painting by Henry Nelson O'Neil was custom framed in an acrylic shadow box, and the work on paper to its left is by Elaine de Kooning. **ABOVE, FROM TOP:** The living room's club chair and armchair are from the Thom Filicia Home Collection for Vanguard, the floor lamp is by Roman Thomas, and the curtains are of a Kravet linen; a vintage iron-and-copper sculpture rests on a pedestal affixed with an artwork by Filicia. The kitchen's cabinetry is by Poliform, the range is by Miele, and the counters are of Brazilian quartzite; the bar cart is from the Thom Filicia Home Collection for Vanguard, and the ceiling lights are by Cedar & Moss.



ABOVE: The travertine-clad master bathroom has a Kohler tub, a stool by Sedgwick & Brattle, and artwork from the Thom Filicia Home Collection for Wendover. **ABOVE RIGHT:** A chair in the master bedroom is from the Thom Filicia Home Collection for Vanguard. The marble side table is by Sedgwick & Brattle, the lamp is vintage, and the painting is by Filicia. **OPPOSITE:** The master bed, from the Thom Filicia Home Collection for Vanguard, is topped with pillows and bedding by Filicia for Eastern Accents. The coatrack is by Erich Ginder, the wallcovering is by Filicia for MDC, and the curtains are of a Kravet linen. The custom mobile was inspired by Alexander Calder, and the painting (left) is by Alex Weinstein. For details, see Resources.

from the streets, and where art galleries provided cultural stimulation. A floor-through unit in a modern building designed by the South African architect Lindy Roy caught his eye, thanks to a layout with a strong separation between social and personal spaces.

After spending four months in construction redoing floors, bathrooms, lights, and counters, Filicia set about decorating the 1,800-square-foot, two-bedroom apartment. The rooms include a mix of his own pieces, both from his Thom Filicia Home Collection and his to-the-trade New York showroom Sedgwick & Brattle, along with vintage furnishings and the artwork he has collected over the years. "I'm a single guy, so I wanted it to be timely and timeless, sophisticated yet inviting," he explains, adding that he loves to entertain.

The elevator opens onto an entrance hall, which leads to a light-filled living room, dining area, and kitchen. Views of the High Line abound, and the neutral-toned space boasts textural interest, like walls sheathed in Filicia's own iridescent, steel-gray abalone wallcovering and an acid-washed mirror in an upholstery frame. Above a reclaimed-oak dining table

with a pickled finish hangs an heirloom Victorian painting by Henry Nelson O'Neil that once belonged to Filicia's grandparents and which he modernized by framing it in an acrylic shadow box.

A gallery hall separates the apartment's public and private wings; Filicia treated it like a moody portal, covering the walls and ceiling in a charcoal-gray chevron wood veneer, against which a vintage red Chinese console and white plaster-and-gold bolection mirror pop. Another hallway leads to a media room, where Filicia does all his television watching, and to a nearly 800-square-foot master suite grounded by a four-poster bed that Filicia designed for Vanguard Furniture. An Alexander Calder-inspired mobile hangs above the bed, which faces an oil painting of the sea by Alex Weinstein—the work is so massive that a crane was required to lift it into the apartment.

"Between the artwork and the mobile and the light filtering through the window treatment, it's a very calming space in a city that doesn't always provide that," says Filicia, who also has a country home in the Finger Lakes region of New York. "I love creative problem-solving."

This accessible approach to interiors is, ultimately, the strongest connective thread running through his work. Whether for television—this spring, he will start shooting a new show for the Design Network's streaming platform—or for celebrity clients like Tina Fey and Jennifer Lopez, Filicia strenuously eschews pretense.

"It's about concepts and ideas as opposed to the cost of things or how hard they are to find," says Filicia of his philosophy. "Design should enhance the world around us without being intimidating." ■

