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Vanilla Sky

The master-bedroom suite, which is on the fifth floor of the townhouse, includes a private balcony and a sitting room. A chair and ottoman, a parchment console, and a pair of custom-made stingray-upholstered cabinets inspired by Chinese wardrobes provide a neutral but rich backdrop for watching the flat-screen TV that is mounted above the antique marble mantel.

"We like to sit here with the children and read with them," the husband says. The family-friendly setting features a palette of tranquil colors that are in line with the room's primary function as a sanctuary. "Every room I design has its own flavor," Chan says. "This one feels very vanilla."

The entire master suite faces the Frick Collection building and offers a refreshing view of Manhattan. The wife often takes advantage of the unique setting by inviting her friends over for a casual lunch on the balcony. "It's a versatile space," says the husband. "Sometimes she and I sit out there in the evening, share a bottle of wine, and look out at Central Park. It's so nice, I almost can't believe I'm in the middle of the city." ■

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