

# FAMILY RETREAT

Juicy Couture bigwig **Michelle Sanders** spends her days on visual overdrive. Products! Photo shoots! The loft she comes home to at night is the antidote: a pale, serene yet still high-style respite from the fashion fray.



PHOTOGRAPHY: JACQUES DIRAND; STYLING: LISA AND; HAIR: ANNE MURPHY; MAKEUP: JESSICA WILSON

Working in the fashion and design worlds is fast-paced and full of stimulation. "My office has pink lacquer on the walls, blaring rock music and shine everywhere!" says Michelle Sanders, vice president and fashion director for label Juicy Couture. That's precisely why she and her husband, Derek, an architect behind many of New York's choicest nightspots, found getting away from it all to be essential. "We have so much product, so much stuff in our daily lives, that we need to come home and have our eyes do no work," Michelle says.

So five years ago, when they moved into this downtown Manhattan loft, formerly a sweatshop, they set out to create the tranquil, neutral hideaway they craved for themselves and, later, their 2-year-old son, Vaughn. The couple chose a scheme of silvery whites and creams, grounded by rich browns and warm beiges and illuminated by metallic moments.

Not only is their home an oasis from the rat race, but it also mirrors Michelle's personal fashion sense. Juicy may be famed for the brilliant, girly colors of its upscale velour trackuits, but Michelle never wears anything bright or flashy. "Texture is my way of doing color," she says. Just as she loves to mix high-end and street fashion, so she and Derek have layered pieces of varying pedigree at home, all pulled together through the spare palette.

photographs by JACQUES DIRAND text by TIM GEARY produced by LISA AND

Coffee table "Houtart" \$750  
Nelson (212) 234-4338  
Armchairs (similar to those shown)  
Dorset from \$495 each, Century  
Modern (214) 655-8000  
Small yellow Cow Nap and  
bean \$120 each, Nicole Park  
(920) 235-8891 For information  
on yellow Entertainment \$105  
each, and  
Small \$140 Century Home  
(212) 925-4200

## LIVING AREA

In setting up a home suited to family life, Michelle and Derek wanted a large, well-proportioned common space that felt calm. They created two distinct but connected zones, a casual library at left (a wall of bookshelves is opposite) and a serene area to the right. "Furniture piled in the middle of the room is great for kids to climb on, as well as for being sociable," Derek explains. For the centerpiece, Derek designed a sofa in homage to an Edward Winslow classic, then dressed it in a Ralph Lauren chocolate hide. "Once we like something, we keep adding things around it, making sure the pieces work together," Michelle says, referring to her approach to fashion as well. The Knoll sofa, one segment of which sits by the majestic windows, was re-covered in brown herringbone wool (also from Ralph Lauren) to complement the earth tones. An Hermès throw, a cow-skin rug and assorted pillows further enrich the space, while hanging glow lamps epitomize the high-low blend the couple favors.

The matching poufs cleverly connect the two areas and have that texture Michelle loves.

Rug: Brown cowhide \$200 and white goatskin \$2,200 (Shaggy sheepskin sofa for stairs: Floor Long (similar to: Artery Design) and marble \$200 ottomans: Thero's Side and custom "Bouquet" stool: \$1,700 marble ottomans: \$450 for stairs: Poppy Coatings \$300 and \$2,200 and Silver Soapstone \$20 each, Calypso Home 2700 920-6200; Portland Longsleeve Floor Stool: each, longslighting.com for stairs.



Shiny silver accents lend sparkle to the earth tones.



Derek, Michelle and laugh-rises on the soft chaise of the oversize mid-century chair in the master bedroom.

#### DINING AREA

Michelle is inspired by fashion designers who start with classic simplicity, then add layers of fun. That principle applies at home too, where there's an artful play between rustic, modern and glitzy. The dining table surrounded by plastic Danish dining chairs reinforces the loft's palette and speaks to the couple's stylish yet grounded nature, with the sleek lines of the chairs offsetting the rough wood of the table. A silver vase on the dining table and a chrome filing cabinet in the casual work space hit the glam notes. (Perhaps not surprising for someone who oversees the design of jewelry and accessories, Michelle has a taste for the sheen of silver.) Everything in the apartment comes from local stores, including the 1990s French light fixture. "After lunch and a nice bottle of wine, we'll go shopping in the neighborhood," Derek says.

**Desk** (similar to above) "New" table \$69.99 low.com  
**File** chrome "Spin" \$449 Target (201) 876-1100

**Chair** Chrome-look "Type F" \$600 The Corner Shop (866) 715-9076

**Lighting** Sergio Puffini "Aurora" series photograph \$1,200 (Sara-Cloak Gallery) (212) 234-8786

#### Michelle says:

**Table** Custom wood pine about \$2,000 West & Son (918) 471-8239

**Chair** Chrome-embossed vintage \$169 Target

(212) 534-4335

**Plates** Peranakan "Gold" \$25 and \$30 Calton Klein

(212) 260-9000

STYLING: JANE ROSS; PHOTOGRAPHY: JEFFREY MAYER

