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Monoky, Anne. "A Fashionable Life," Harper's Bazaar, November 2011.

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Harper's

A FASHIONABLE LIFE

*Parisian-born interior designer
DELPHINE KRAKOFF opens the doors
to her art-filled New York townhouse*
By Anne Monoky



In the living room, Alexander Calder's 1971 mobile *Two Black Discs* and *Six Others* floats above a Jean Arp sculpture, André Dubreuil candelabras, and a Guy de Rougemont coffee table. Reed Krakoff dress, \$1,900, and sandals, \$650. 877-733-3525. Hervé van der Straeten cuff, \$510. nelmanmarcus.com. Rings throughout, Delphine's own. Fashion editor: Joanna Hillman

Photographs by Douglas Friedman

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If one wanted to judge a book by its cover, it would be hard to peg the darling and endearing Delphine Krakoff at first glance. Which is to say that while she is French, demure, and lovely to a T, there's also a dauntlessness that indicates

she's not to be messed with. It's the kind of Mrs. Smith duality that allows her to run multiple marathons and climb scaffolding in her job at the helm of an interior-design company and yet play perfect wife and mother every night, whipping up dinner for her husband, Reed Krakoff, the creative honcho at Coach and designer of his own eponymous label, and their children. "Like most modern working women, my day goes in many different directions," Delphine says. "It's usually chaotic, but now it starts early because I am training for the marathon—I've run three already—so I'm usually in Central Park by 5:30 in the mornings."

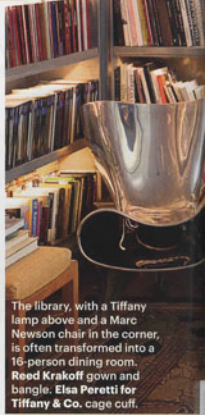
All of that would be impressive on its own—but then there is the house that leaves even seen-it-all fashion folk agog. The Krakoffs inhabit a seven-floor Upper East Side townhouse that was formerly 12 separate apartments. Refinished in 2008 in tandem with architect Mark Ferguson, it's now filled with a fine-tuned assemblage of art and furniture. There are pieces from Louise Nevelson, Robert Motherwell, and Joseph Beuys, names usually tossed about in museums, not homes. "We only buy things that to us are extraordinary," Delphine says. Overhead, an Alexander Calder mobile gently flutters in the breeze, while sunlight glints off of a silver Marc Newson chair. Each piece is a carefully considered mission she's carried out with her husband.

Prior to establishing Pamplemousse Design in 2000, Delphine worked as an accessories designer. Her first jobs were in Paris at Louis Vuitton and Dior. She eventually relocated to New York for ►



A corner of the airy living room features a screen by Serge Roche

Delphine leans on a 1930s Serge Roche table. In the background is Frank Stella's 1974 painting *Concentric Squares* and sconces by Maria Pergay. **Reed Krakoff** jacket, pants, and sandals. **Petit Bateau** shirt. **Giles & Brother** necklace.



The library, with a Tiffany lamp above and a Marc Newson chair in the corner, is often transformed into a 16-person dining room. **Reed Krakoff** gown and bangle. **Elsa Peretti** for **Tiffany & Co.** cage cuff.



In the sitting room, the walls are decorated with Allan McCollum's abstract installation *Plaster Surrogates*. **Joris Laarman**'s silver *Bone* chair sits in the foreground.

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In the master bedroom are an **Emile-Jacques Ruhlmann** vanity, a 1930s-era bed by **Jean-Michel Frank**, a table by **Marc Newson**, and **Claude Lalanne's La Pomme Bouche** apples (on the mantel). **Reed Krakoff** sweater, skirt, bangles, and sandals.

The upstairs sitting room features a mirrored mantel by **Serge Roche**, circa 1930, which he made for his own private residence. **Emilio Pucci** pillows offer a spot of color.



a job at Coach, where she met her future spouse, and then landed at Polo Ralph Lauren. While there, she turned an interior-design hobby into a career. "My first paid client said, 'You know, I'm going to give you a chance, and if you do well, you will have a career, and if you do a crappy job, nobody will hear about it.' That was true!"

It was a gamble that paid off. Delphine curates all of the couple's homes, which include a former Bouvier estate in East Hampton and a modern manse in Palm Beach, as well as those of a few carefully selected Pamplemousse clients. "I'm serious about what I do, and when you work on a big townhouse for a family, they're part of your life pretty heavily for two years," she says. "If you don't like them, that's not good!"

Fellow tastemaker Simon Doonan, of Barney's New York, a regular dinner guest chez Krakoff, testifies to her fully realized aesthetic. "It is always such a treat to go to the Krakoffs' because, apart from Delphine being very stylish herself, she is also an amazing decorator," he says.

Delphine's appreciation for design can be attributed to her father, a politician, and her mother, who was a curator for the city of Paris. The fifth child in a family of eight, she and her siblings frequented the Louvre and the Centre Pompidou. "My parents were entertaining a lot, my mother was this great cook, and they always had dinners once a week with the craziest mix of politicians and artists. That's what I grew up around."

In her free time, Delphine shares her family's impressive culinary skill set with her children while stylishly embodying a look of understated French chic. It is a vision realized by her husband's label. "He really speaks to a working mom, and it just works with my lifestyle," she says. "What's funny is that I was never much of a shopper myself, and Reed would actually shop for me. He would find things I would never have picked, and they would be perfect. He was sort of my personal shopper." ■

Delphine in front of Al Held's painting *Black and White VII* and Marc Newson's 1986 Lockheed Lounge chaise. **Chanel Cruise** Antibes vest, skirt, and cuff. **Christian Louboutin** pumps.

Reed Krakoff RK Limited Edition fragrance, \$695

Armor Lux shirt, \$99. 212-219-1020.



Fresh Coriander Lavender soap, \$12



White peonies from Miho Kosuda, New York



Ladurée macarons, \$20 for six

DELPHINE'S LIST

1 FAVORITE FLOWER "Anything white, depending on the season."

2 SIGNATURE SCENT "Reed Krakoff fragrance."

3 SWEET TREAT "Salted caramel macarons from Ladurée in Paris...and now New York."

4 GO-TO GARMENT "A classic navy-and-white long-sleeved striped shirt from Armor Lux—the real deal."

5 TIME KEEPER "I am crazy about watches, but my favorite is the Ani-Digi from Reed Krakoff, and it has nothing to do with the fact my husband designed it. It is the coolest watch ever. I wear it every day in different colors."

6 MOST-ADMIRED ARTIST "Picasso."

7 HAUTE HANDBAG "Reed Krakoff *Atlantique* bag in metallic python."

8 TEA TIME "Thé Sur le Nil from Mariage Frères."

9 IN THE POWDER ROOM "I love Fresh products. Coriander Lavender is my favorite bar soap, and Soy is a great shampoo."

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