

Embracing the Basement



Elizabeth Yanev and her son, Oscar, in their below-grade duplex apartment in Midtown East. A gut renovation created more light and volume in what was a dark space in disrepair.

Stefano Ukmar for The New York Times



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The apartment begins on the lobby level of this Midtown East co-op, a few steps below the sidewalk.

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LED sconces in the living room create soft lighting throughout the space. Glass doors lead out to a private terrace and garden area. The Yanevs painted a nearby wall white to reflect the light.

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The master bedroom, on the lower level, opens..to a private patio. Mrs. Yanev said they were..surprised by how much sunlight the space gets— so much that they just bought blackout..curtains.

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The apartment has two wood-burning fireplaces,..including one in the master bedroom.

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The couple added picture-frame moldings in..a downstairs guest room.

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