

# Time Out

## New York

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### Home design

**PROBLEM:**  
Sound-leaking  
ceilings



**SOLUTION:**

Sitting at the dinner table just got better—aurally and visually, at least—for interior designer Eileen Kathryn Boyd ([ekbinteriors.com](http://ekbinteriors.com)). “I didn’t want to hear the people above me stomping around, and I didn’t want a boring ceiling,” she says. The solution? To Sheetrock and then wallpaper the dining-room ceiling of her new Upper East Side apartment. Michael Muller, vice president of City Soundproofing (360 W 34th St at Ninth Ave, suite 14G; 212-402-3668) explains that the sound-reducing process is affordable (Sheetrock is \$10 for a 4’ x 8’ piece at Home Depot) but involved. “You’ll need to spread a sound-wave-reducing damping compound (\$1.75 at City Soundproofing) over the surface with a caulking gun (\$20 at [acehardware.com](http://acehardware.com)) before affixing it to the ceiling, using a screw or nail every 12 inches,” he says. (You might want to ask your landlord if he’ll help.) While removing the panels is easy—you can just yank them down—you’ll have to patch up the ceiling, so it’s not a mess-free project. A neater but pricier option is to put up something called carpet underlayment (\$10 per square foot at City Soundproofing), a combination of foam and vinyl that absorbs sounds from above and pulls right off when you’re moving out. “It’s worth noting, says Muller, “that no temporary fix will soundproof your space; these options just reduce sound.”

Once her ears were satisfied, Boyd made her ceiling easy on the eyes by attaching Wolf Gordon wallpaper (smooth patent wallcovering in metallic bronze, \$40 per yard at Wolf Gordon, 979 Third Ave between 58th and 59th Sts, suite 413; 212-319-6800, [wolf-gordon.com](http://wolf-gordon.com)) using the nonpermanent adhesive 3M Spray Mount (\$14, at New York Central Art Supply, 62 Third Ave between 10th and 11th Sts; 212-473-7705). She picked out a complementary ribbon (about \$2 per yard at MJ Trimming, 1008 Sixth Ave between 37th and 38th Sts; 212-204-9595) to create a border and pinned it up with upholstery tacks. “If you want to be dramatic, pick a funky print or sophisticated damask; if

