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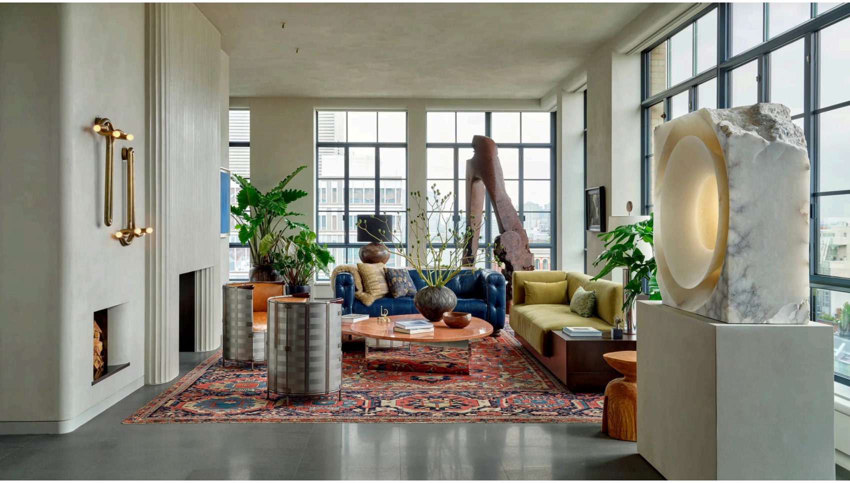

Final Selects of project in Tribeca, New York City. Interior Design - ABD Studios / Architecture - Frances Mildred. Styling on Set - Austin Whittle Art: JB Blunk

WEB-EXCLUSIVE HOME TOUR

Explore a Tribeca Aerie Where Major Art and Views Share Center Stage

Design firm ABD Studio and Frances Mildred architects teamed up to render a sophisticated NYC space with megawatt artwork and first-rate decor

By Troy J. McMullen
Photography by Trevor Tondro
Styled by Austin Whittle

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The commanding Anish Kapoor sculpture inside the living room of this Tribeca apartment is more than decorative. Carved from alabaster in a spherical shape, the striking artwork also signals to visitors of this nearly 3,900-square-foot home the integral role that contemporary art played in shaping its interior design. “Everything revolved around the art,” says Brittany Giannone, owner and principal at ABD Studio. “The collection informs the interior design, but we didn’t want it to overwhelm it.”

The San Francisco–based interior design firm collaborated with New York architectural studio Frances Mildred on a project where a diverse roster of artworks dot virtually every corner of the sun-filled space. Dan Flavin, Helen Frankenthaler, Donald Judd, and other art world heavyweights create an understated elegance in a spacious plan with a penchant for midcentury design. The result is a tactile and sophisticated residence that successfully balances fine art and design in a space blessed with spectacular New York City views.

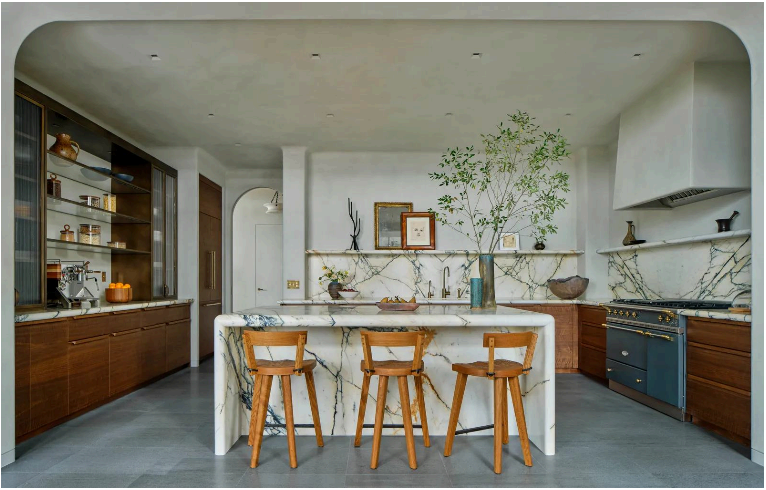
A large abstract painting, *Traveling,* by the LA-based artist Mary Weatherford, hovers above a vintage Josef Frank table in the dining room. It's surrounded on one side by Joaquim Tenreiro chairs in jacaranda rosewood and a bench with Anni fabric in a camel color on the other. The hall to the primary suite, meanwhile, includes a fluorescent-light sculpture by the American minimalist Dan Flavin that glows across the wall. The sleek and commanding artwork shares the narrow space with a vintage Serab runner rug from Iran and a vintage Italian lounge chair upholstered in an Etro textile.

A set of 10 framed images by Donald Judd hangs in the home's entryway. The artwork is joined by Alboni ceiling lights designed by French architect and interior designer Joseph Dirand. Spanish designer Nacho Carbonell created the Tin Compact Green Bubble Lamp 2. The ICB Freeform Mirror is from Steven Haulenbeek Studio. The plaster wall treatment here, as with the rest of the residence, is by Kamp Studios. "The walls and ceilings were plastered and at times feel almost indistinguishable from the sky," MacCuaig of Frances Mildred says. Art: Donald Judd Art © 2024 Judd Foundation / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York. © Anish Kapoor. All Rights Reserved, DACS, London/ ARS, NY 2024.

While one end of the living room houses the Anish Kapoor sculpture *Disc 2010,* the other is anchored by *Wishbone,* an enthralling 11-foot-tall redwood sculpture by artist JB Blunk. A wall of casement windows frames one side of the arched artwork as it peers down on an upholstered chair and a walnut wood desk. A custom lamp made from a vintage African ceramic with a silk custom lampshade sits atop the desk.

"The artwork set the tone from the beginning and Brittany understood how to balance that with the furnishings," says the home's owner, a longtime arts patron and philanthropist. She and her husband live full-time on the West Coast and are repeat clients of ABD Studio, having worked together on four prior projects. "We never wanted the art to overpower the interiors, but that's a real challenge with some of the larger pieces in this collection," she adds.

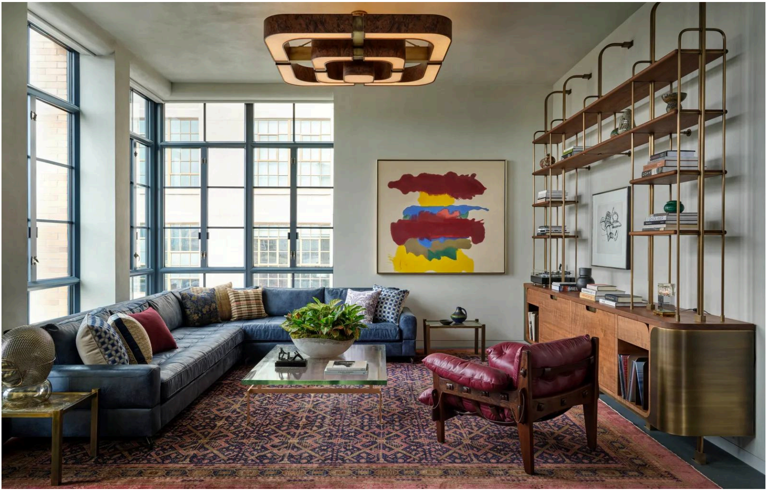
The goal of the interior architectural design was to employ minimal architectural detailing to allow natural, organic materials to shine along with the art, says Lauren MacCuaig, a director at Frances Mildred. MacCuaig and her studio partner, Brian Papa, sought to counter the austere atmosphere of a space laced with hard lines by adding softer touches, including curved details at the window sills, exaggerated soft edges on the countertops, and an array of layered textures.



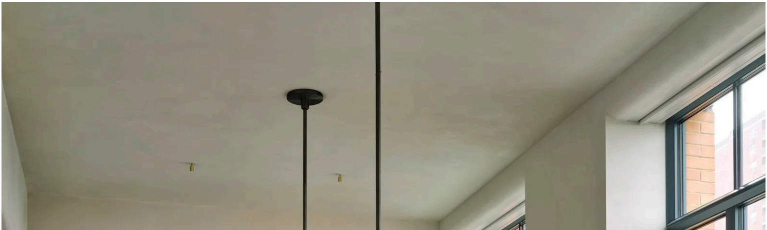
The counter stools in the kitchen are by Furniture Marolles. The cabinets are made from figured walnut, antiqued brass, and cast glass and were built by Ivory Build and Evan Crane. The range is from Lacanche.

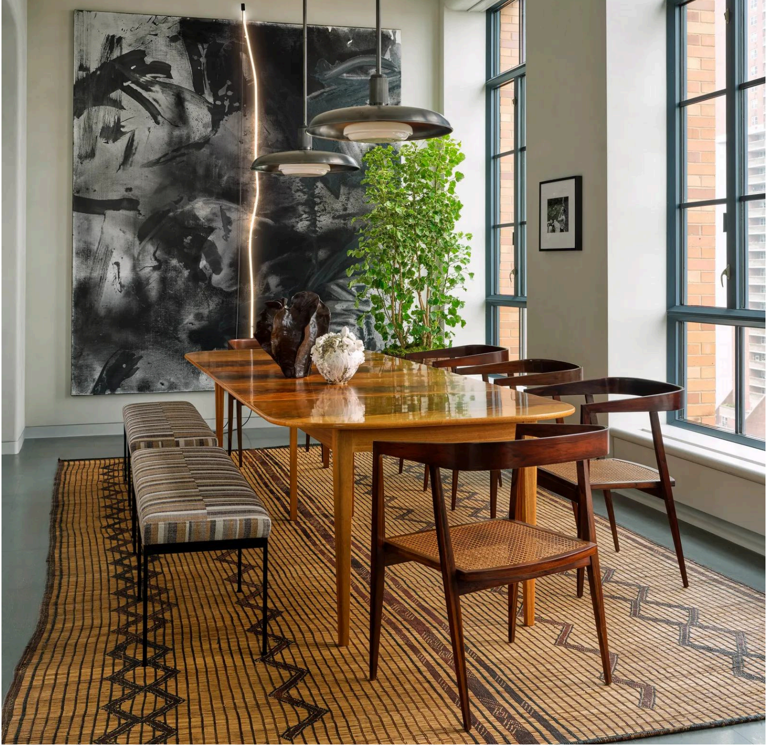
“We stripped surfaces, softened edges, and minimized transitions to create a continuation of spaces and blur the lines between interior and exterior,” MacCuaig adds. “The existing apartment came with spectacular views and ceiling heights but its dark, cold materials detracted from these assets.”

Arguably the home’s most prized asset, the art collection is collectively meant to pay homage to New York City, the homeowner says. “Many of these artists were either living and working in New York or inspired by their time in the city,” she says, referring to a collection that also includes works by Richard Diebenkorn, Thomas Struth, and Raymond Pettibon. “I wanted the interiors to reflect that.”

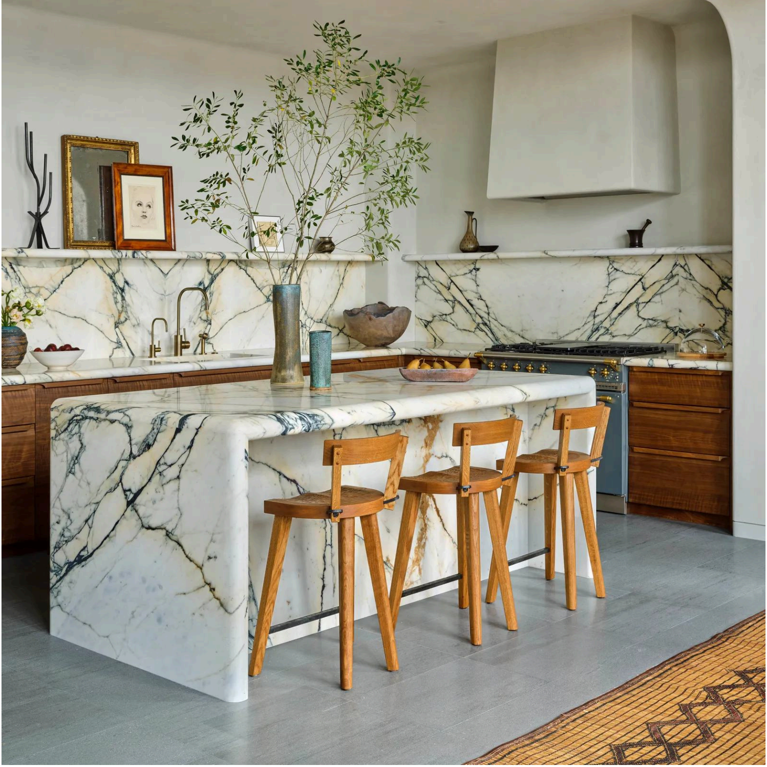


“It’s a very diverse art collection but we never wanted the artwork to overpower the interiors,” Giannone of ABD Studio says. *Weather Change,* a 1963 acrylic-on-canvas painting by Helen Frankenthaler, hangs in a salon that includes a custom sofa fabricated by Hardesty Dwyer & Co. The Duran coffee table with a borosilicate glass is from KGBL. The Moleco armchair is by Sergio Rodrigues Atelier and is upholstered in a cranberry-colored Holland & Sherry leather. The pendant light is a custom fixture designed by Frances Mildred and ABD Studio, fabricated locally by Ivory Build and Billy Lee Designs. The rug is a vintage Bakshaish from Iran and sourced from Pak Oriental Rugs. Gae Aulenti for Artemide designed the 1975 Patroclo lamp on the side table. The millwork in the room is custom by Frances Mildred and fabricated locally by Ivory Build and Evan Crane. Art: © 2024 Helen Frankenthaler Foundation, Inc. / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

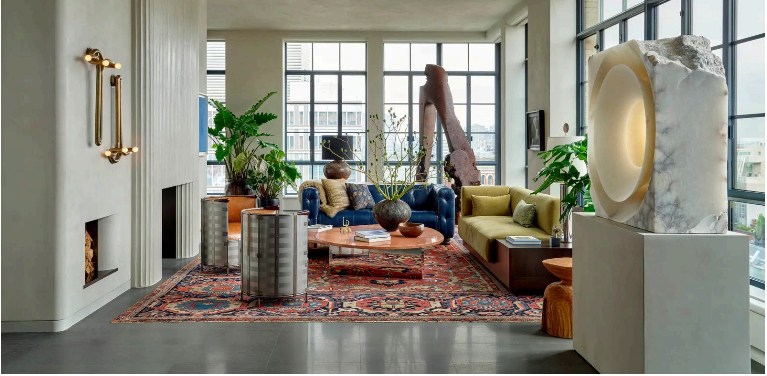




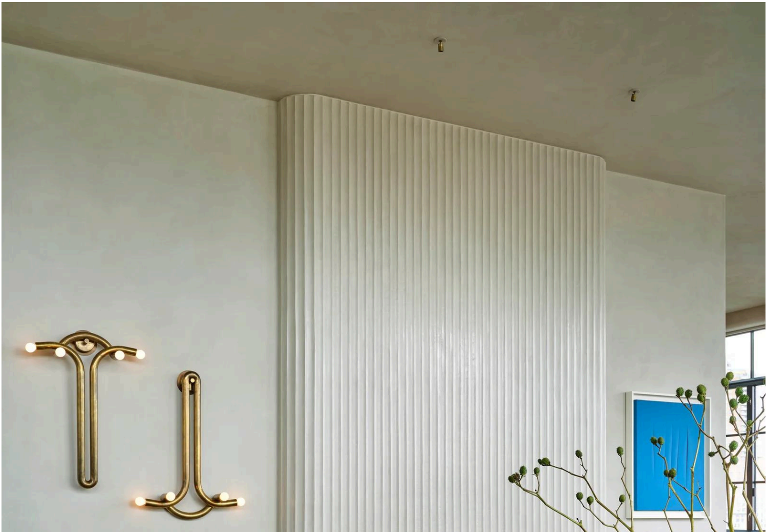
The plan finds harmony in balancing a wide-ranging art collection with understated colors and organic textures. An abstract painting titled *Traveling* by LA-based artist Mary Weatherford hangs in a dining room that includes a circa-1950 Josef Frank dining table sourced from Lief Gallery. The table is surrounded by Joaquim Tenreiro chairs in jacaranda rosewood and cane sourced from R & Company on one side and a Lawson-Fenning Paul bench with Anni fabric from Cowtan & Tout on the other. The Tuareg Mat rug was sourced from Breuckelen Berber. The RW Guild Oscar pendant light is in blackened brass. Art: © Mary Weatherford

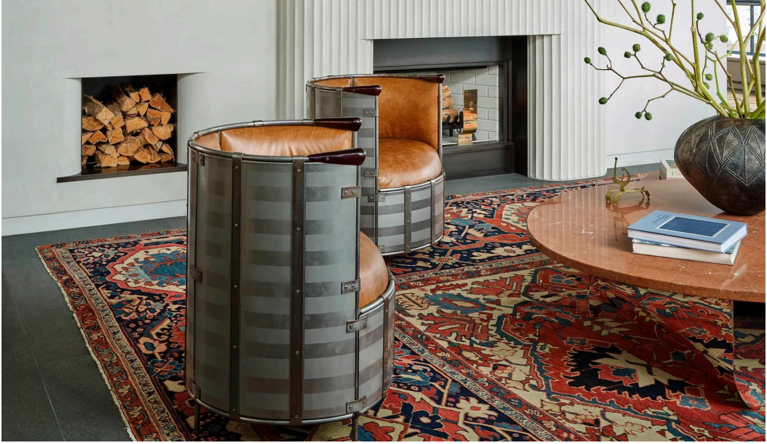


The kitchen millwork was designed by Frances Mildred in collaboration with ABD Studio. The Paonazzo stone was custom quarried by BAS Stone. Art: Francis Picabia © 2024 Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York



Artworks permeate the living room, including *Disc 2010,* a large sculpture in alabaster by Anish Kapoor (foreground at right), and *Wishbone,* a sculpture made from redwood burl by JB Blunk (rear at right). “The client’s artwork drove the process,” says interior designer Brittany Giannone of ABD Studio, the San Francisco–based firm that collaborated with New York architectural design studio Frances Mildred and Scordio Construction on the project. The custom sofas in the living room were designed by ABD Studio and fabricated by Hardesty Dwyer & Co. Art: JB Blunk



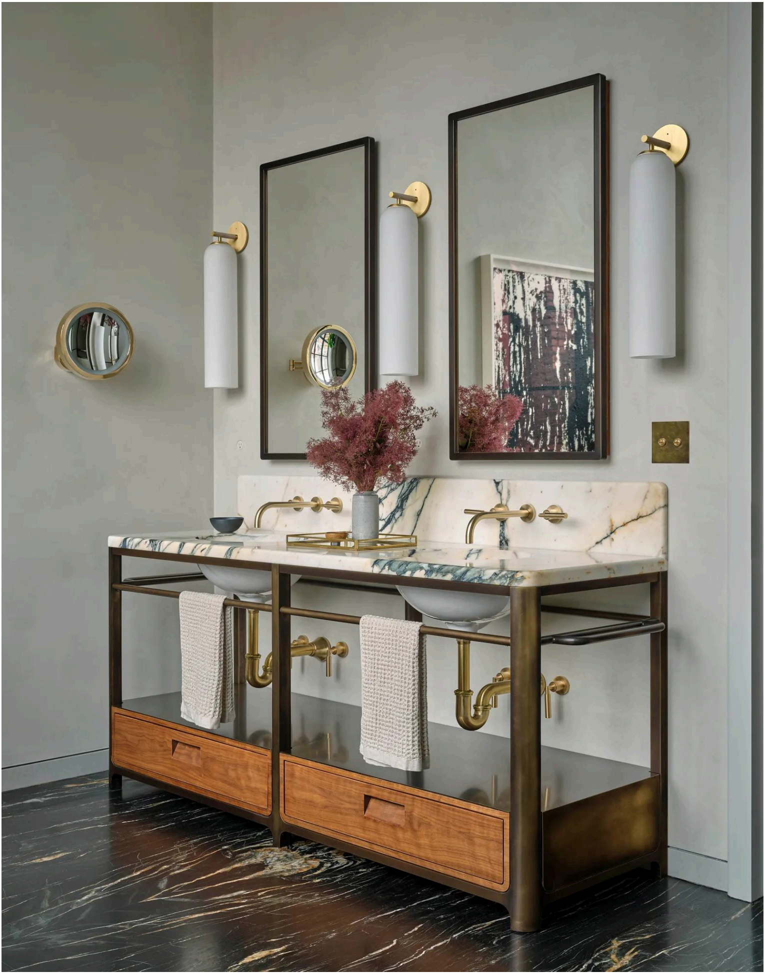


The Barrel chairs in the living room in patinated iron and leather were designed in 1991 by Mats Theselius. The God & Goddess brass sconces are by Paul Matter. The antique Serapi rug is from Pak Oriental Rugs. The Isla coffee table is by Egg Collective. Art: Lucio Fontana © 2024 Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York / SIAE, Rome

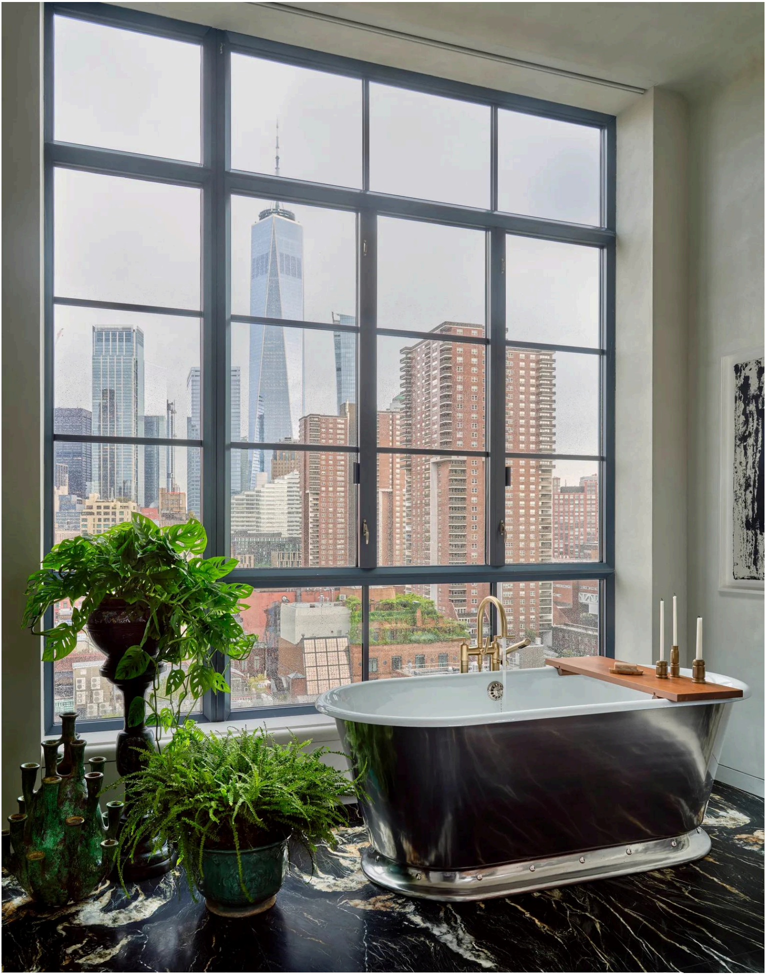
The vanity in the powder room is custom using material sourced from BAS Stone. The vanity is fabricated by Marble, Onyx, Granite & Terrazzo Corp. The sconces are vintage Italian, designed by Stilnovo circa-1960s. The faucet is Piet Boon by Cocoon, and the mirror is custom, fabricated by Max Austerweil Studio.

Artwork dots virtually every corner of the home, which is blessed with stunning views of New York City's skyline. The hall to the primary suite includes a 1987 fluorescent light sculpture by artist Dan Flavin. It shares the narrow space with a vintage Serab rug from Iran sourced from Pak Oriental Rugs. The lounge chair is an Italian vintage piece upholstered in a 1950s Etro fabric. "Flavin, Frankenthaler, and Judd were all impacted by living in New York," says the homeowner. "The collection draws on that inspiration." Art: © 2024 Stephen Flavin / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

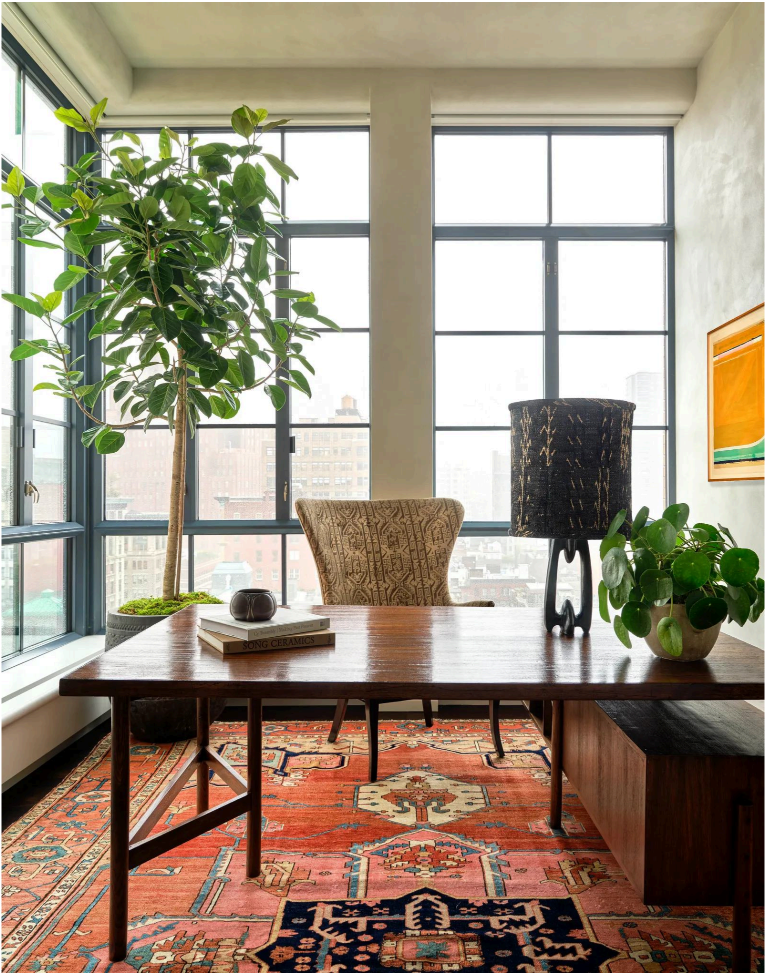
"We wanted to find subtle ways to soften things and break up all the harsh edges in the interiors," says Brian Papa, director at Frances Mildred. A Raymond Pettibon painting in the bedroom hangs above a custom bed and nightstands designed by Frances Mildred and ABD Studio and fabricated by Pumas Upholstery Corp. The blackened-brass-and-black-leather reading sconces are from Apparatus Studio. The Sling lounge chair in taupe sheepskin and walnut is by Coup Studio. The side table at the lounge chair is by Francesco Balzano in Quatre Saisons Printemps marble. The circa-1960 brass floor lamp is from Sweden, while the vintage Bakshaish rug is from Iran and sourced from Pak Oriental Rugs. "The design emphasizes natural materials throughout," Lauren MacCuaig of Frances Mildred adds. Art: Raymond Pettibon/ © David Zwirner



Belvedere quartzite flooring from ABC Stone lines the primary bathroom. The Float Hover wall sconces in brass, leather, and frosted glass are by Articolo Studios, and the vanity and medicine cabinets were designed by Frances Mildred and fabricated by Evan Crane and Ivory Build. The Tara faucets are from Dornbracht and the makeup mirror in brass is from Waterworks.

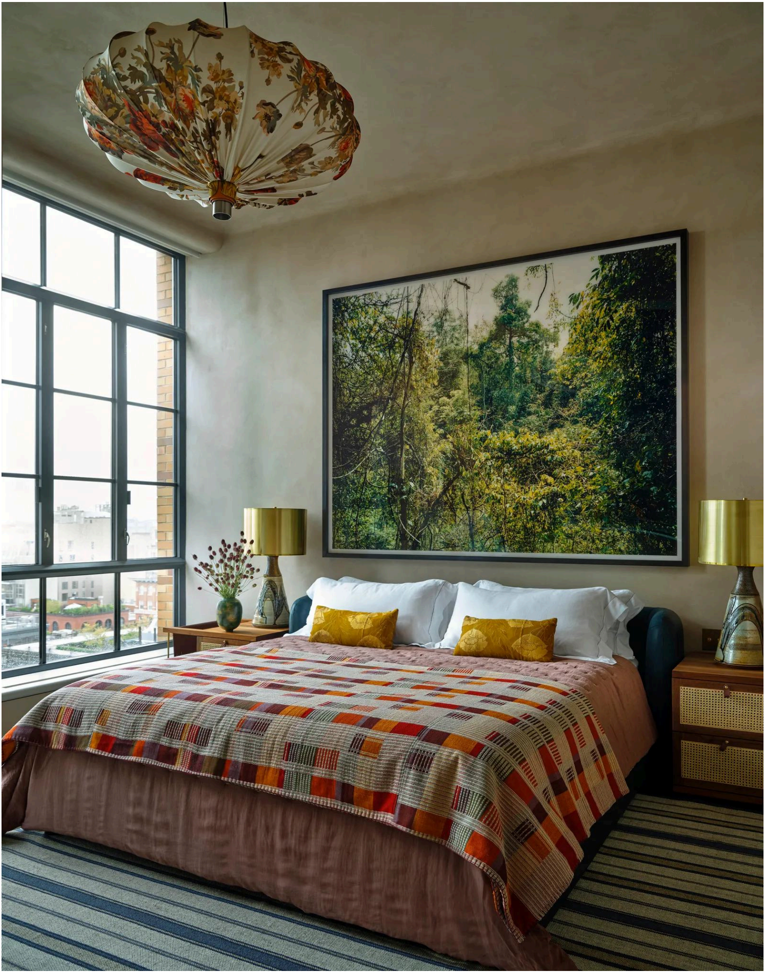


The tub in the primary bathroom is from Drummonds; it rests on Belvedere quartzite flooring from ABC Stone.



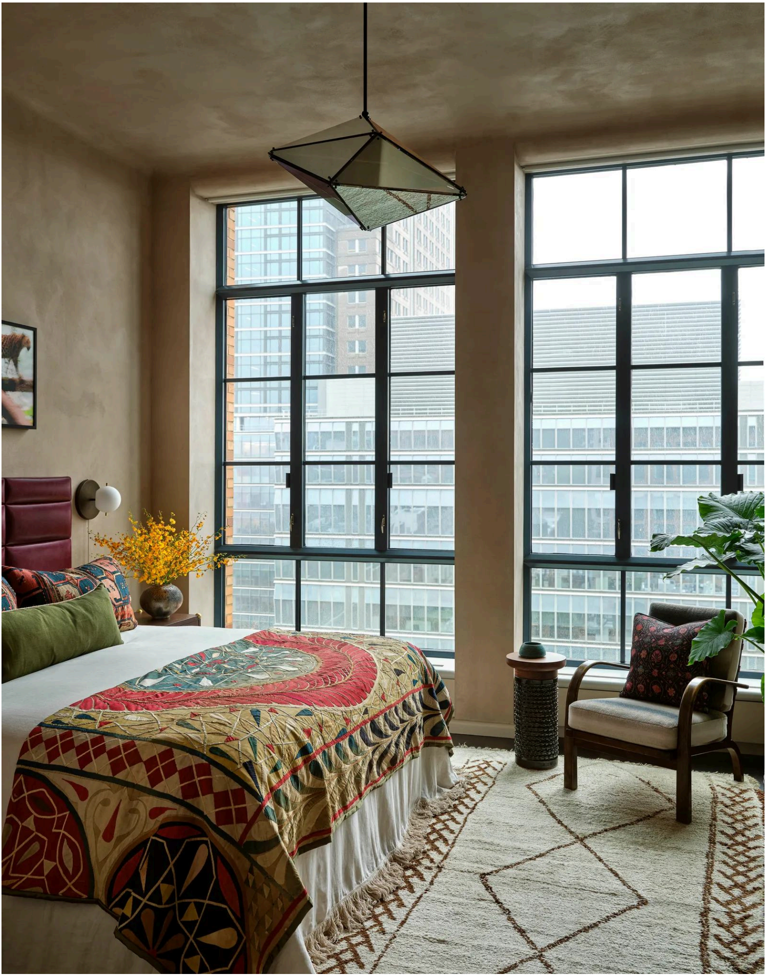
The desk in the office is Pierre Jeanneret circa 1957. The rug is vintage Serapi, and the vintage desk lamp has a ceramic base from the Netherlands and a custom lampshade in a Pat McGann fabric.

Art: © 2024 Richard Diebenkorn Foundation / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York)



The vintage bedside lamps in one guest bedroom are abstract glazed stoneware circa-1974 with custom brass lampshades. The bedside tables are custom by ABD Studio, fabricated by SinCa. The rug is from TibeTano, while the silk-and-cotton handwoven coverlet is from Pat McGann. The pendant light in the primary bedroom is from Dimore Studio.

TREVOR TONDRO. Art: © Thomas Struth/Marian Goodman Gallery.



The lounge chair in another guest bedroom is a circa-1930s design by Ernst Heilmann-Sevaldsen. The side table at the chair is by Stahl + Band. The bed was designed by ABD Studio and fabricated by Andrew Woodside Carter. The bed covering is a vintage Moroccan Suzani textile. The pendant light is Roll & Hill's Maxhedron. The bronze bedside sconces are from Workstead. The rug, meanwhile, is vintage Moroccan.

Troy McMullen has been a contributor to *AD* covering trends in architecture, interior design, and real estate since 2020. A former staff reporter for the *Wall Street Journal* in Berlin and New York, his work regularly appears in the *Washington Post*, *Financial Times*, and *Connecticut Magazine*. He's an Emmy Award–winning … Read More