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Projects & Hospitality | Spring Summer 2022



Main Contractor: Cardinal Construction
Interior design: Axis Mundi/John Beckmann
with Hannah LaSota
Furnishings: Avery Boardman, B&B Italia, Cassina,
Flexform, Hudson Furniture, Living Divani, Mattaliano,
Moooi, Poliform, Poltrona Frau, Roll & Hill;
Paul Dupré-Lafon, Charlotte Perriand
Lighting: Bocci, DelightFull, KLUS Lighting,
Henge, Serge Mouille
Wallcoverings: Flavorpaper
Carpets: Joseph Carini Rugs, The Rug Company
Fabrics: Christopher Hyland Fabrics,
Frette, Maya Romanoff
Ceramics: John Born, courtesy of Collection 20C

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Author: Francesca Gugliotta
Photo credits: Durston Saylor

Touching the sky of New York

On the 94th floor of **432 Park Avenue** in New York City, Axis Mundi designed the residence for a private client with a family of four, with the most breathtaking views in Manhattan

Conceived by architect Rafael Viñoly, 432 Park Avenue in New York is the tallest residential skyscraper in the Western Hemisphere, 426 meters high. In this stunning building, Axis Mundi designed the residence for a private client with a family of four, a luxury apartment with the most breathtaking views in Manhattan: “The apartment is about 4000 square feet on the 94th floor with

views facing west, south, and east”, says John Beckmann, founder and creative director of Axis Mundi. “432 Park is one of several residences that the client owns, primarily they use this apartment for just a few weeks out of the year. The client’s two teenage daughters found us to begin with, which I considered quite a compliment, the girls liked our work the best, after seeing a variety of other designers’ work”.





Inside, luxurious fabrics and a finest selection of Italian furniture brands, such as Flexform, B&B Italia, Cassina, Poltrona Frau, Poliform, Living Divani, just to name a few: “I call what we do glamorous minimalism, we mix bold patterns and colors with luxurious materials like bronze, it’s then all set off against a minimalist architectural background. Traditionally color and pattern are not associated with minimalism, yet I punctuate my work with unexpected juxtapositions”. Talking about his furniture choices, John Beckmann says: “I love Italian design, Carlo Mollino and Gio Ponti are my favorite designers. Of course, we used many pieces from Poltrona Frau and Flexform, Henge has been developing new lighting fixtures that I also love. Typically we will design a few custom pieces for each job, but due to time constraints, we were unable to for this project”. The spaces are full of natural light, with the amazing views towards the breathtaking panorama: “The apartment’s biggest asset is its fantastic views. We made sure there were window seats under almost every window in the apartment, they are lovely





places to perch and read a book while the light changes through the day". The interiors are fluid, dynamic and with bold touches: "The most counter-intuitive room turned out to be the long hallway, we treated the walls with black Venetian plaster, no one would do that, but it just worked, the hall became elegant and mysterious, it was a fabulous way to showcase the client's art collection, it really popped. I also love the Master Bedroom, which is very grand, we mixed the Dream headboard system by Marcel Wanders in leather and velvet panels from Poliform with a custom pure silk rug in gold by Joseph Carini. I've always wanted to use some furniture designed by Paul Dupré-Lafon, his work is extraordinary".

The apartment has an impressive art collection, including the likes of Cy Twombly, Gerhard Richter, Susan Frecon, Vik Muniz and Lisette Schumacher: "The owner's collection is primarily contemporary art, including an impressive collection of Chinese art, some of which is in the project. I love working with art collectors, discovering how to live with art is a fascinating challenge". John Beckmann reveals that his favorite room is the library media room: "I think it's a very iconic space, it has received a lot of media attention, it is unexpected and shocking, I love the use of red, the sofa, the rug, the bookshelves. It's also not a very large room, but it looks big, it's bold and fun, it has a rock star swagger to it".

