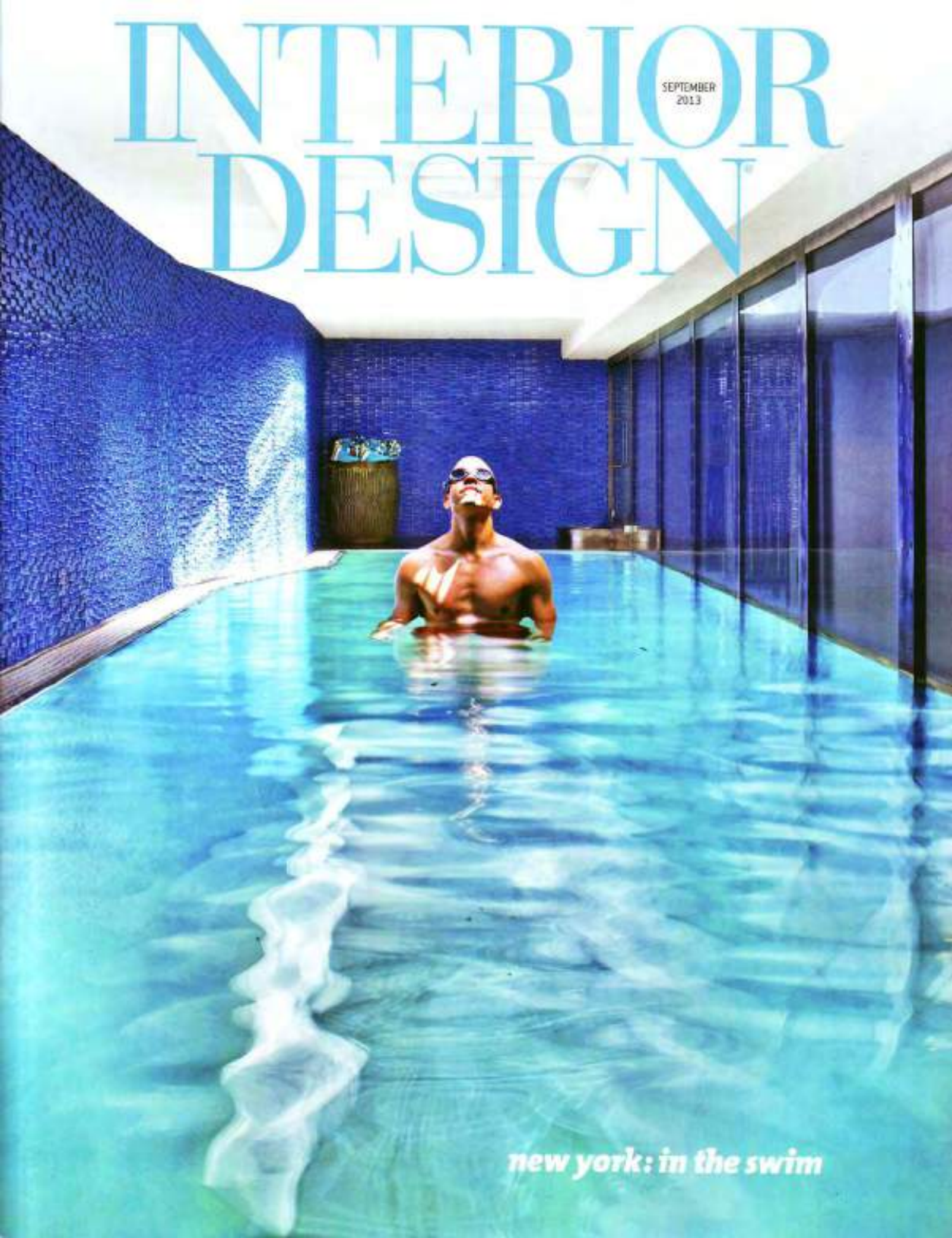


# INTERIOR DESIGN

SEPTEMBER  
2013



*new york: in the swim*





## ARCHITECTURE RESEARCH OFFICE

"Taking It to the Street," page 350

**PRINCIPAL:**  
Kim Yao.

**PRINCIPAL:**  
Stephen Cassell.

**COMPLETED PROJECTS:** Armed Forces Recruiting Station and Union Square pavilion renovation in New York; Princeton University School of Architecture addition in New Jersey; Brown University study center in Providence, Rhode Island.

**CURRENT PROJECTS:** Congregation Beth Simchat Torah and Flea Theater in New York; Brooklyn Botanic Garden entry pavilion; University of Cincinnati football stadium addition; Tulane University dorm in New Orleans.

**HONORS:** National Design Award; American Academy of Arts and Letters Architecture Award; National AIA Honor Awards.

**COMPETITION:** Yao, who's married to LFL Architects principal Paul Lewis, sometimes vies with her husband for jobs.

**COMPETITIONS:** A number of them are sponsored annually by the Van Alen Institute, where Cassell chairs the board of trustees.

170 Varick Street, New York, NY 10013; 212-675-1870; ars.net.

## STEVE E. BLATZ ARCHITECT



"On Top of TriBeCa," page 288

**PRINCIPAL:**  
Steve E. Blatz, AIA.

**COMPLETED PROJECTS:** Tiffany & Co., Tibi and Matthew Williamson boutiques, and apartments, all in New York; Moschino and Oscar de la Renta boutiques worldwide.

**CURRENT PROJECTS:** A town house and an apartment in New York; Tiffany & Co. in Paris.

**HONORS:** Interior Design Future Furniture Design Competition awards; Chicago Athenaeum; Museum of Architecture and Design American Architecture Award.

**OUT OF TOWN:** Blatz lived in Italy, Alaska, and Princeton, just moving to New York.

**OUT OF DOORS:** His loft has a 250-square-foot terrace.

1 Union Square West, Suite 506, New York, NY 10003; 212-647-1399; blatzarc.com.

## DESIGN RESEARCH STUDIO

"It Takes Two To Tango," page 306

**CREATIVE DIRECTOR:**  
Tom Dixon.

**COMPLETED PROJECTS:** Royal Academy of Arts restaurant, Dock Kitchen, Circus London, and Barbecoa, all in London; Tasmania Ballroom nightclub in Hong Kong; Jut Residential Development in Taipei, Taiwan.

**CURRENT PROJECT:** Mondrian London hotel.

**ON THE RISE:** One of Dixon's first jobs was to color cartoons by hand for a firm company.

**ON HIS OWN:** He founded his namesake furnishings company in 2002, five years before his intensive studio.

344 Ledbrooke Grove, London W19 5BJ, U.K.; 44-20-7400-0500; tsmdixon.net.



## GENSLER

"It Takes Two To Tango," page 306

**PRINCIPAL, DESIGN DIRECTOR:**  
Brian Berry, AIA.

**COMPLETED PROJECTS:** Ogilvy & Mather, Young & Rubicam, and Limited Brands, all in New York; Bartle Bogle Hegarty in New York and Toronto.

**CURRENT PROJECTS:** Time Warner and Yahoo in New York.

**HONORS:** IIDA New York Chapter Award.

**UNZIPPED:** As an intern, Berry helped redesign an abandoned Playboy hotel.

**BUTTONED\*UP:** He became a workplace specialist when he arrived at Gensler as a senior designer.

1230 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 1500, New York, NY 10020; 212-492-1400; gensler.com.

## MEYER DAVIS STUDIO

"Blond Ambition," page 342

**PRINCIPAL:**  
Will Meyer.

**PRINCIPAL:**  
Gray Davis.

**COMPLETED PROJECTS:** Nolitan hotel, Paramount Hotel, Locanda Verde restaurant, and residences, all in New York; Dutch restaurant in Miami Beach; Oscar de la Renta boutiques worldwide.

**CURRENT PROJECTS:** A restaurant at the Loews Regency Hotel in New York; 1 Hotel in Miami Beach; Heart Radio theater in Burbank, California.

**FRIEND:** Meyer drinks Gray Davis's tequila, because he knows the woman in charge of making it.

**FRIENDS:** Davis likes to serve Indian food to houseguests, family style.

180 Varick Street, Suite 404, New York, NY 10014; 212-627-5574; meyerdavis.com. ➔



# headliners





## Kushner Studios

**who** Adam Kushner

**what** Two-story town house.

**where** Greenwich Village,  
16 Minetta Lane.

**when** October 12, 10:00 AM to  
5:00 PM.



openhouse



## Steve E. Blatz Architect

**who** Steve E. Blatz

**what** One-bedroom loft.

**where** Garment district, 347 West 39th Street.

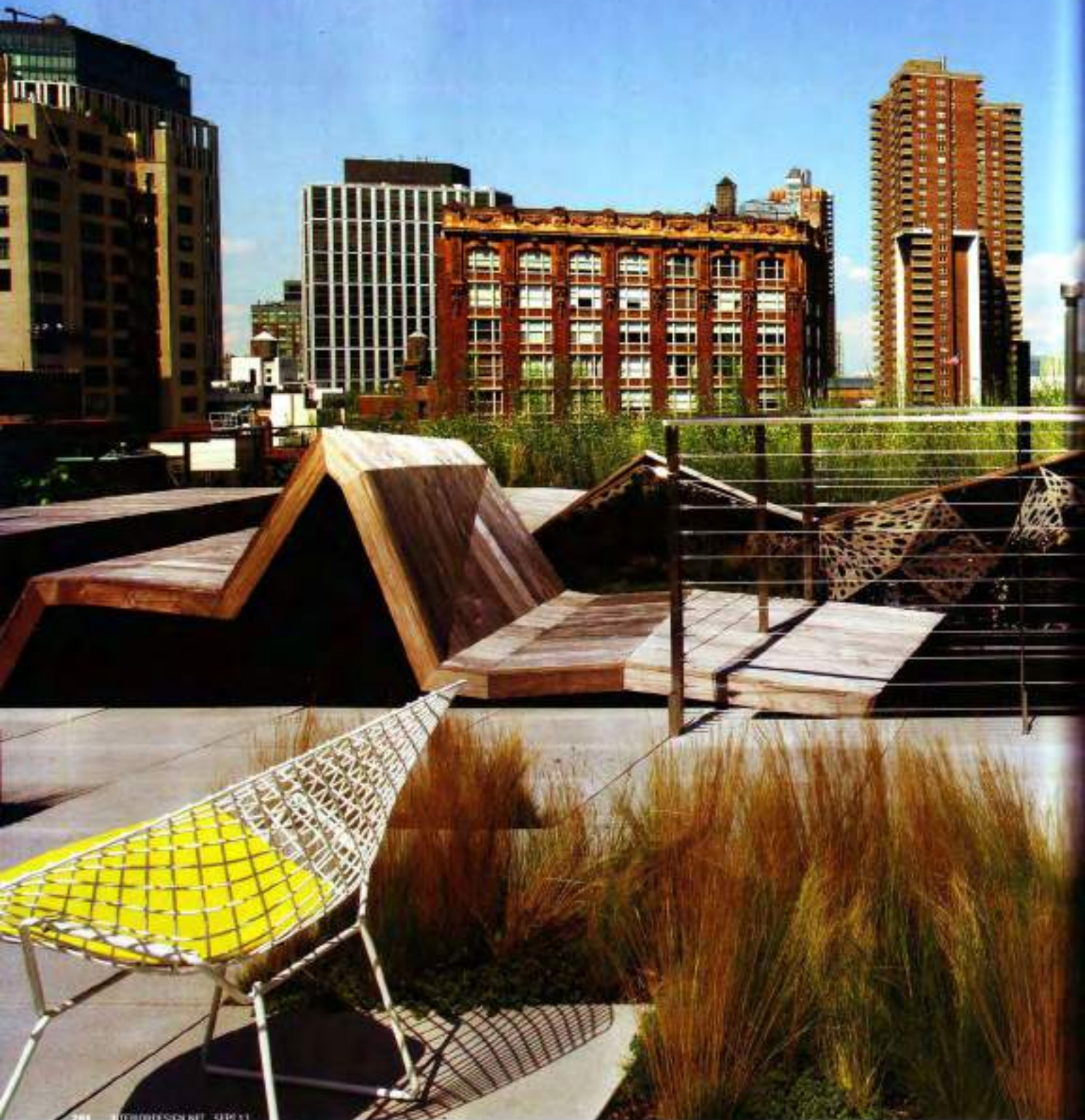
**when** October 13, noon to 6:00 PM. ➔



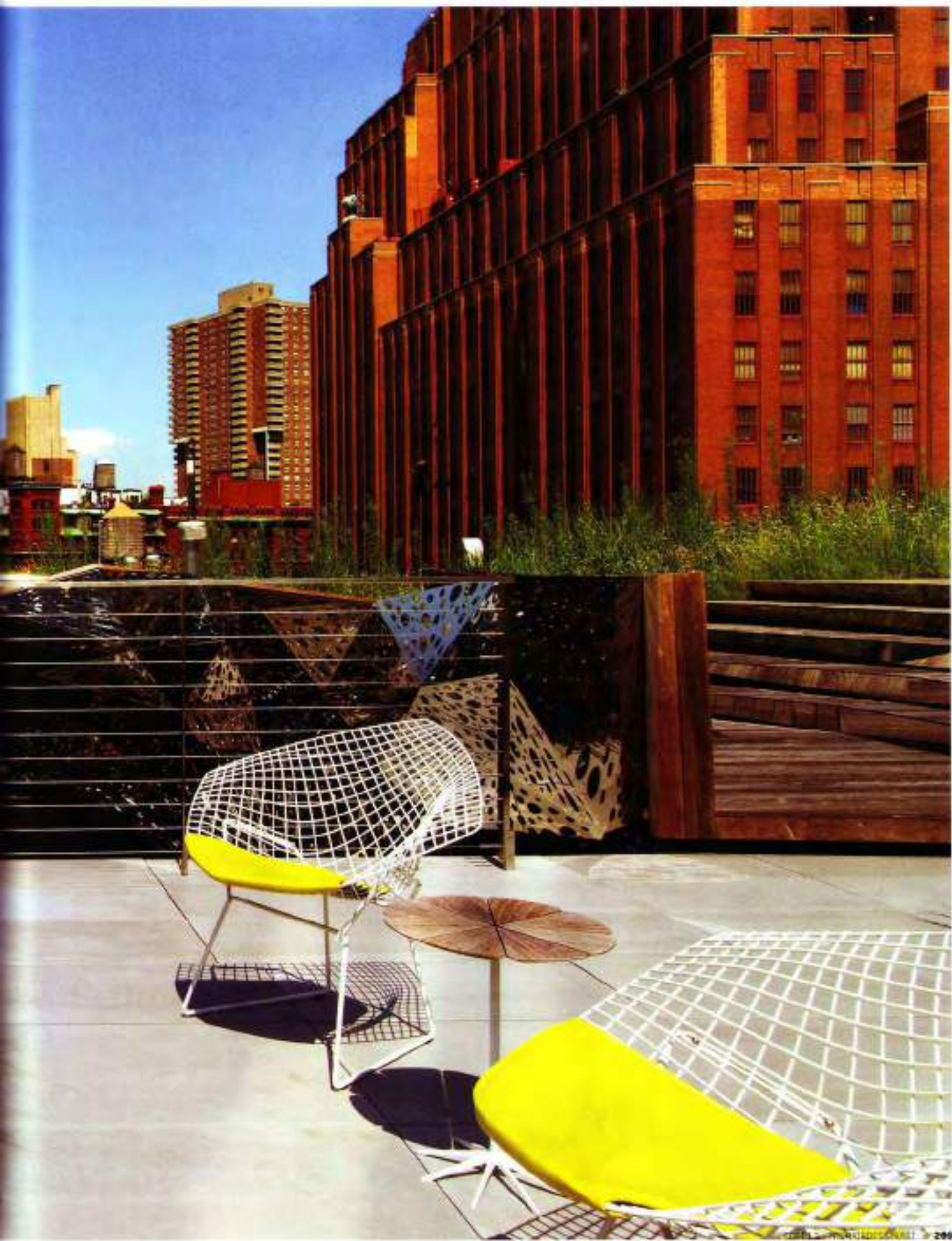
# On Top of TriBeCa

Steve E. Blatz caps a sprawling penthouse with an even larger roof terrace

text: *manica khemsurov* photography: *eric laigne!*















**The manicured lawn**, the hot tub, the indoor-outdoor kitchen. Steve E. Blatz Architect's biggest residential project ever has all the trappings typical of a Los Angeles home. The only difference? This residence is smack in the middle of TriBeCa. Steve E. Blatz spent four years renovating the penthouse, built in 2004 on top of a landmarked low-rise, in order to create a Manhattan rarity: an urban oasis with more square footage outdoors (7,000) than in (5,000). "Contrary to what most people would do," Blatz begins, "we actually reduced the space inside to maximize the outdoors and create a really wonderful relationship between the two."

That balance was exactly what the penthouse's owner, an outdoorsy thirtysomething software entrepreneur, had been looking for when he showed Blatz the penthouse. It had been languishing on the market for years. "Hideous," the architect recalls. "Poorly designed and poorly built, with the primary views barely visible." He drew up plans that involved first gutting the interior. Then he added floor-to-ceiling windows on the north and south elevations while subtracting a total of 400 square feet. It came out of the master bedroom, which gained a tree-lined private terrace, and the living-dining area, which gave way to a glassed-in central courtyard.

Contributing a moment of Zen to the penthouse, the courtyard also contains the main access to the roof terrace: a spiral staircase concealed inside a 16-foot-tall cocoon of laser-cut mirror-polished stainless steel fabricated in Italy. The perforated metal casts



**Previous spread:** Above a penthouse by Steve E. Blatz Architect is a roof terrace with Kelly Bernalis chairs, concrete pavers, and lip decking.

**Top, from left:** In the living area, Rodolfo Dordoni sofas and a Patricia Urquiola ottoman gather beneath a David Weeks chandelier, near a fireplace with a basalt surround.

**Antonio Citterio chairs face away from the courtyard. Bottom, from left:** Fascinated zinc panels wrap a service volume next to the kitchen, in the dining area, Gavetti's chairs surround a custom table topped in walnut and brass. Laser-cut mirror-polished stainless steel encloses the staircase to the roof. The kitchen features a Richard Serra drawing.





dappled light and shadows inside to mimic what it's like standing beneath a canopy of tree branches—an effect underscored by the living area's rug, its spot pattern developed with the same algorithm used for the cocoon. However, the most important function of the cocoon, Blatz says, is “to indicate that there’s something very special upstairs. Ascending is an almost baroque experience.” Especially at night, lit by color-changing LEDs.

Up on the roof, he transformed barren tar and unsightly mechanical equipment into a glorious haven with not only the lush grass specifically requested by the owner but also a wildflower meadow. Stretching along one side is an ipe deck folded into peaks and bleachers envisioned as lounging space for parties—indeed, it came in handy when 50 friends were privy to a private John Legend concert bought at an auction to benefit City Harvest. At one end of the deck, it ramps up to surround a hot tub. The chaise lounges nearby are ideal for admiring the Woolworth Building and 1 World Trade Center.

Views are treated with similar reverence inside. Blatz doubled the effect of the eyeful of terrace seen through the sliding glass doors in the master bedroom by mirroring the opposite wall. The master bathroom looks out to a small rock garden bordered by a privacy-providing thicket of bamboo. In places such as the dining area, horizontal slot windows strategically frame the skyline along with water towers and other charmingly gritty elements on local roofs. “To create a greater sense of being in TriBeCa,” Blatz explains.

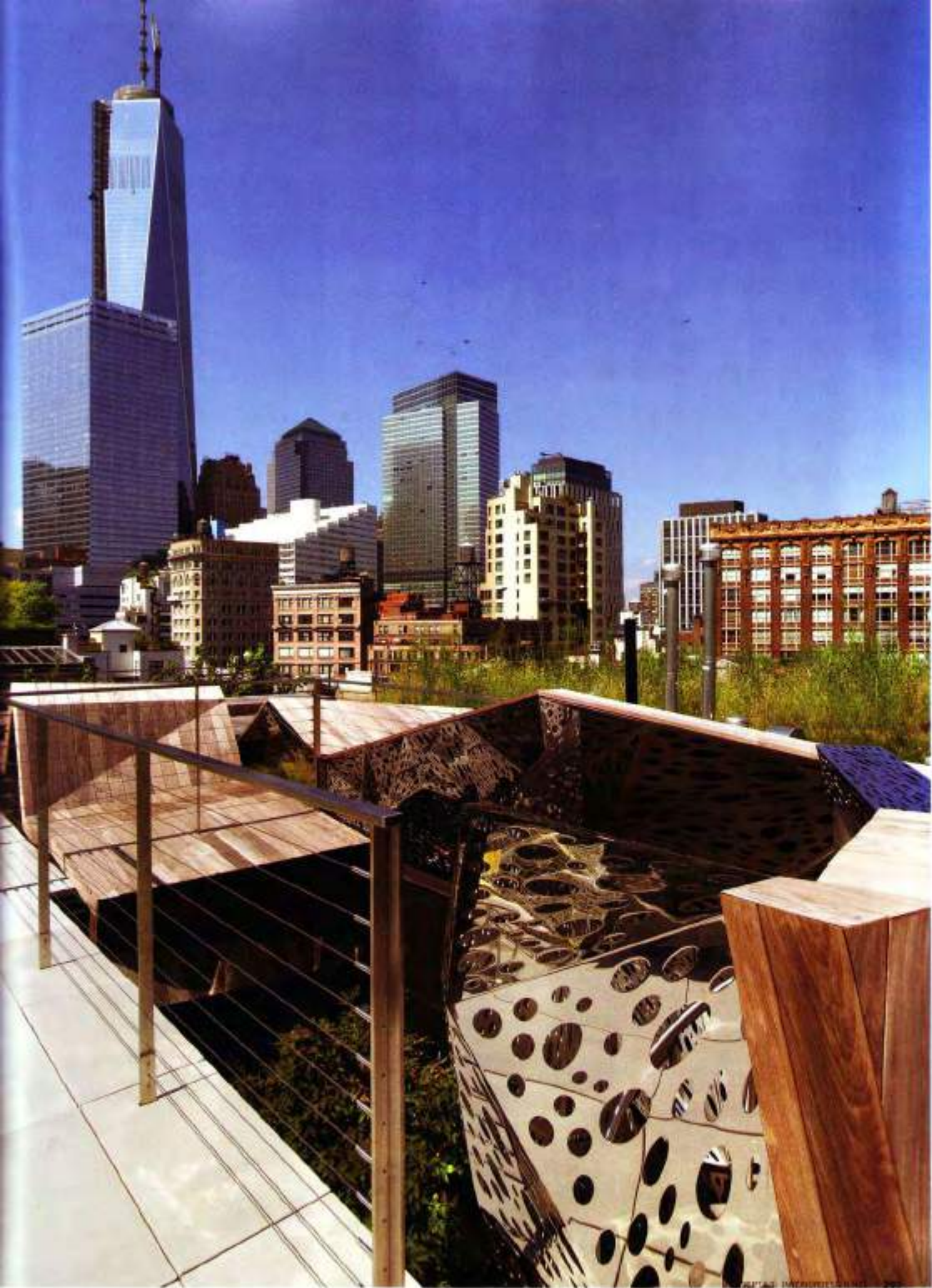
Giving a nod to the neighborhood’s industrial heritage, patinated zinc panels, arranged in a staggered pattern derived from old loft buildings’ doors and elevator shafts, wrap a pair of large independent volumes in the public zone. These volumes are simultaneously evocative, decorative, and functional, housing the pantry, powder rooms, laundry, bicycle storage, and mechanicals—and thereby helping Blatz avoid carving up the apartment. He calls the fluidity “a younger way of dealing with space.”

He outfitted both the public zone and the three bedrooms with an artful mix of vintage, contemporary, and custom pieces that share a streamlined masculine sensibility. Rodolfo Dordoni sofas flank a cocktail table with a jigsaw-puzzle top in the living

**Top:** In the den, a Clizia sofa faces Jeffrey Bennett chairs. **Center:** Richard Schultz seating accompanies the roof's hot tub. **Bottom:** Benedini & Partners designed the bathtub in the master bathroom.

**Opposite:** Skidmore, Owings & Merrill's 1 World Trade Center rises to the southwest







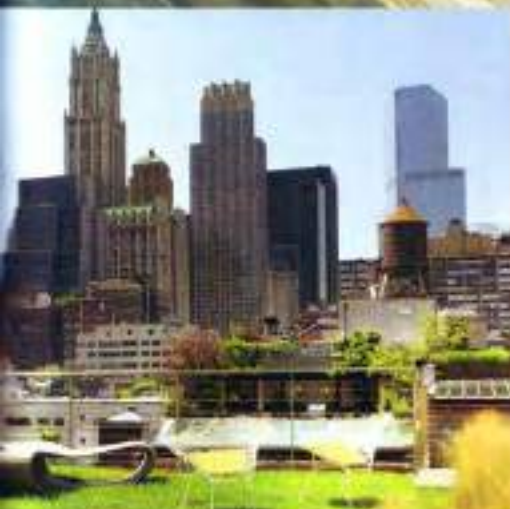






1. ENTRY
2. LIVING
3. DINING AREA
4. KITCHEN AREA
5. SCREENING ROOM
6. MASTER SUITE
7. BATH
8. OFFICE

**Top:** Balustrades around the roof are stainless steel. **Bottom, from left:** Yayoi Kusama's gaucho hangs in the entry. The glazed-ceramic sculpture in the master bedroom is by Merete Rasmussen. A bench on the roof combines powder-coated aluminum with wavy synthetic fiber. Walnut fronts a run of custom closets in the master bathroom.





area. In the den, previously two bedrooms, a Serge Mouille swing-arm lamp extends from the wall to illuminate Jeffrey Bennett tub chairs on swivel bases. Upholstery on a biomorphic Finn Juhl lounge chair and a low-slung sleep sofa provides pops of orange in the office, intentionally darker than the rest of the apartment except, of course, the screening room.

A screening room? Are we back in L.A. all over again? Somehow this one—luxurious with a U-shape banquette covered in silk-mohair, ottomans covered in leather, and wall-to-wall hand-knotted silk carpet—manages to feel so very New York. —

#### PROJECT TEAM

ANTONIO PIZ SARACINO; MICHAEL SMITH; HINA OTMER; FILIPPO TERRARIS; JOEL AGUIZIN; MACIEJ BAKOWSKI; BRIAN LAU; STEVE E. BLAZZ  
 ARCHITECT: VM WHITE SA; LANDSCAPING CONSULTANT: NALDO STUERO; LIGHTING CONSULTANT: DOMINIQUE LÉVY GALLERY; ART CONSULTANT:  
 EXPERIENCE DESIGN GROUP; STRUCTURAL ENGINEER: GUYH INCORPORATED CONSULTING ENGINEERS; MEP: WALTER P. BAUER; ID-32 INDUSTRIES;  
 WOODWORK: AMERICA; MARZORATI BONICETTI; METALWORK: ESK CONTRACTORS; GENERAL CONTRACTOR

#### PRODUCT SOURCES

FROM FRONT: KNOX; CHAIRS, TABLES, CHAIRS, LOVE SEATS (OFFICE); DAVID WEEKS STUDIO; CHANSEUER (LIVING AREA); NODDO; OTTOMAN;  
 BRABBERE; CONSOLE; TAI PING; CUSTOM RUG; MINOTTI  
 SOFAS; PEDESTAL TABLES (LIVING AREA); CHAIRS (DINING  
 AREA); CALVIN FABRICS; CURTAIN FABRIC (LIVING AREA,  
 BATHROOM); BIBO CALAM; CHAIRS (LIVING AREA, DEN),  
 SOFA (DEN); LOUNGE CHAIR (GUEST ROOM); VIKING RANGE;  
 COOKTOP (KITCHEN); HIBBLE; HOOD; BLACK MANUFAC-  
 TURING COMPANY; SINK; BERNBRACHT; SINK FITTINGS  
 (KITCHEN); SHOWER FITTINGS (BATHROOM); STENO LIGHT;  
 PENDANT FIXTURES (DINING AREA); SE; TABLE (DEN); NANCY  
 PHILLIPS; CUSTOM FRILL; DIAMOND SPIN; HOT TUB (POOL)  
 ADAPTE; TUB (BATHROOM); LACANG; TUB FILLER; POSCARINI;  
 LAMP (MASTER BEDROOM); EDWARD FIELD; CARPET  
 MAKERS; CUSTOM RUGS (BEDROOMS); CUSTOM CARPET  
 (SCREENING ROOM); JAMES OTTO; BENCH (POOL); SPY  
 LIGHTING; LINEAR FIXTURE (BATHROOM); KOHLER CO.;  
 SINKS (BATHROOM, POWDER ROOM); VOLA; SINK FITTINGS;  
 DURAVIT; TOILET (POWDER ROOM); CAESARSTONE; SOLID-  
 SURFACE; KARKULA; DESK (OFFICE); THROUGH JEROME  
 LEMPERT; TISK LAMP; SKIE; TABLE; INDOCOLLECTION; CHAIR  
 SOFFLINE; SOFA; THROUGH MONRO CANE; TABLE LAMP;  
 AKARI ASSOCIATES; FLOOR LAMP; KASTHAL; CUSTOM  
 RUG; NETAPHORES; CURTAIN FABRIC; HOLLY HUNT  
 ENTERPRISES; COCKTAIL TABLE (OFFICE); OTTOMAN  
 UPHOLSTERY (SCREENING ROOM); CURTAIN FABRIC (GUEST  
 ROOM); MINOTTI; ARNCHAM; GUEST ROOM); BRENDAN  
 BAYENHILL STUDIO; TISK LAMP; SANTA & COLE; FLOOR  
 LAMP; THROUGHOUT: JURT VERSEN; RECASTED; CEILING  
 FIXTURES; PE-MU FLOOR COVERINGS; FLOORBOARDS;  
 STONE SOURCE; STONE SUPPLIER.



**Top, from left:** Color-changing LEDs illuminate the slat in a powder room's solid-surfacing envelope. In the office, a chair by Finn Juhl meets a desk by John Erik Karkula. **Bottom, from left:** Stained oak is the predominant flooring. The Lisa Yuskavage work in the master bathroom is in gesso and graphite. Leather covers the custom ottomans in the screening room. A guest room features chairs by Naoto Fukasawa or Jens Fager.

Go to [interiordesign.net/steveblatzarchitect](http://interiordesign.net/steveblatzarchitect) for more images of the penthouse and roof terrace.



