

project by
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A Spatial embrace



In Midtown Manhattan, the exclusivity of a Plaza Residence conveys a thrilling fusion of culture, art and architecture, East and West, tradition and modernity



Views of the living area, a space of neutral, immaculate tones with flooring in white Sivec marble. Note the dialogue with the works of art, including one of the three Jali screens in white Agra marble.

carved by hand in India, shipped to New York and assembled on site. At the center, the marble sculpture *Carlota's World* by Jaume Plensa, 2017; on the right, *Samurai Tree* by Gabriel Orozco; left, *The Four*

Seasons "Spring" by Raqib Shaw (2018-19). Lotus side table in mother-of-pearl and silver by Viya Home. On the facing page, *Untitled (Krishna and Cow)* by Manjit Bawa.



Among the works of art, from left, *Gazing Ball (Veronese The Wedding at Cana)* by Jeff Koons, 2015-2021, the bronze sculpture *Woman on a Horse* by Fernando Botero, 2016, *Untitled* by Takashi Murakami, 2019, and *Butterflies* by Damien Hirst, 2009-09. Below, view of the walk in closet area, custom-designed by the architects, which stands out for the figurative abstraction of minimal forms, looking towards the master bathroom.

oms display masterpieces by world-famous artists like Damien Hirst, Jeff Koons, Anish Kapoor, Takashi Murakami, Jaume Plensa and Fernando Botero, among others. In this rarefied and atmospheric space-environment resem-bling that of a private gallery, the works are never presen-ted as merely decorative elements, but become the pillars of an expansive visual narrative. This is particularly clear in the living and dining area, where three magnificent Jali screens, traditionally carved by hand and crafted in white Agra marble, become illuminated totems, thanks to their extraordinary craftsmanship. On a symbolic level, they gracefully evoke the Taj Mahal and beloved Agra, the birthplace of Ila Paliwal. The fine hand-carved inlay work filters the sunlight of New York, arriving through the many window-belvederes, creating a play of shadows that change across the hours of the day. The ambient, soft lighting by Cooley Monato Studio, also plays an essential role to add character to the spaces: it brings out every presence, from the artworks on view to the tiniest refractions of the rich material surfaces, acting as a constant invitation to engage in aesthetic contemplation and a deeper dimension of awareness. “The objective was to create a private residence that acts as a spatial embrace custom-tailored to the Paliwals’ personalities, where every detail of this tranquil sanctuary is designed to enrich the sensory experience and elevate the daily activities of life,” says Michael Gabellini. A work of architecture that is simultaneously a tribute to the Indian roots of the owners and their cosmopolitan vision. A space of life that acts as a bridge between East and West, transcending geographical and temporal boundaries.

“EVERY GREAT WORK OF ART HAS TWO FACES, one toward its own time and one toward the future, toward eternity,” says the famous pianist and conductor Daniel Barenboim. The Plaza Hotel is a building that is a symbol of New York, on the corner of 58th Street and Central Park South, just to the west of Fifth Avenue. Opened in 1907 and listed as a National Historic Landmark in 1986, over time the Plaza has welcomed many celebrities, and its opulent architecture of marble and inlaid wood, in the style of a French Renaissance chateau, designed by Henry J. Hardenbergh, has ‘witnessed’ unforgettable events, elegant balls and remarkable films. Thanks to a recent historic renovation in 2008, one part of the hotel has been set aside for 181 exclusive private flats, the Plaza Residences. On these pages we present one of those units, created by combining three apartments located in the northwestern corner of the building, assembled in a unified, effective syn-

thesis. The architectural design by the studio Gabellini Sheppard Associates has orchestrated the legacy and metamorphosis of the site with great mastery, giving rise to a thrilling space that seems to be suspended in time. Michael Gabellini and Kimberly Sheppard are renowned for their essential, minimalist sensibility, always matched by a passionate attention to detail and the sensorial impact of an elevated palette of materials and tones. The owners of the residence, Dinesh and Ila Paliwal, are outstanding figures in their respective fields: Ila is a classically-trained Indian vocalist, producer and songwriter, while Dinesh is a visionary corporate executive. Their dwelling is a reflection of this versatility: a stage where the spiritual temperament of Indian culture establishes a dialogue in a continuum of American modernism. In the frenetic rhythm of the Big Apple, a tranquil spatial encounter between two worlds. The compositional update has transformed the spaces into

Above, another view of the living area. In the background, the dining zone, with the custom suspension lamps and the table designed by Gabellini Sheppard, is bordered by Jali screens in white Indian marble that allow light and air to enter, producing fascinating shadows. Custom tables produced in Bali, curved sofa by Vladimir Kagan and Freeman Taylor seating system by Rodolfo Dordoni for Minotti.

a harmonious sequence of rooms, which without sacrificing privacy have been organized so as not to lose the spectacle of the views of Central Park and the Manhattan skyline, or the perception of a fluid, light continuity, permeating throughout the environment. From the entrance lobby to the daytime zone, from the family lounge to the room featuring a grand piano, the central service area is set aside for a kitchen, a pantry and a wine cellar, and the night zone containing four bedrooms, each with its own bathroom and wardrobe, a range of carefully selected materials – white Agra marble, fine wood varieties and remarkable fabrics – develop a palette of neutral tones and warmer nuances, enhancing the rigorous forms and pale luminosity of the spaces. The rest relies on art, the true protagonist of the house, inserted in the domestic landscape like a connecting tissue, discreetly reflecting the evocative and emotional dialogue between design, culture and space. The ro-

