

Lofty Ambitions

INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE — WORKSHOP/APD
INTERIOR DESIGN — STUDIO TODD RAYMOND
PHOTOGRAPHY — ADRIAN GAUT

Sitting above SoHo in Manhattan's beating heart is an impeccable loft, born from the creative collaboration of its owner, an interior designer, and the team at renowned studio Workshop/ APD.

In the vibrant heart of Manhattan's SoHo neighbourhood, a fateful collaboration has unfolded, resulting in a remarkable residence that seamlessly blends contemporary luxury with historical allure. The result of a creative partnership between interior designer Todd Raymond and architecture and design firm Workshop/ APD, this jaw-dropping loft is the personal home of the former, along with his lawyer husband, and is full of architectural surprises and opulent aesthetics, born from the shared passions of the creatives who conceived its unique spaces.

Housed within a captivating Beaux Arts building, the loft's undeniable charm lies in its grand windows and intricate wrought-iron facade, inviting that life-giving energy that has long drawn people to the Big Apple to permeate every part of the interior. Chosen by Raymond and his husband for its square layout, and the appealing creative challenge that it presented, the loft boasts generous windows down only one side of its structure, which meant that Raymond, in collaboration with the visionaries at Workshop/ APD had to reimagine the floorplan to figure out how best to maximise this incredible feature. The solution? Relocate the entry down the hall, and invite guests towards the back of the box-like space.

Ultimately, this loft has been designed as an entertainer's dream, where the living areas take precedence, artfully organised to receive the lion's share of natural light. The kitchen is a chameleon-like space that has been cleverly designed to transform depending on whether guests are over or not, where its practical accoutrements are able to be neatly hidden behind bi-fold doors and timber structures. Furthermore, its elegant island can be turned into a sleek bar, providing the perfect centrepiece for cocktail evenings or dinner parties.

The living area features the **Arrow pendant** by Apparatus Studio (ecc.co.nz), **Marble and Brass table** by LA Studio Interiorismo, **Vintage leather chairs** by Luigi Saccardo and the **artwork** is by Damien Gernay.





The living area features the **Crown chair** by Chris Martin for Massproductions (simonjames.co.nz).



Elsewhere, the more private spaces, like bedrooms, are discreetly tucked away at the back of the residence, where the idea of discretion is intertwined with a series of surprising touches. The door of the master bedroom, for example, is mirrored on one side so that when closed, it almost disappears entirely, pulling focus back to the living space off which the room sits. (A clever delineation of public and private spaces.) Inside the main bedroom, a custom headboard conceals storage, lighting and charging stations behind fluted oak panelling, reflecting the couple's meticulous approach to design. Even their beloved Norfolk terrier, Chester, has his own closet for toys and doggy accessories, which is as beautifully-finished and well-organised as the rest of the home.

Throughout the loft, colour and texture take centre stage, offering a deviation from the neutral palette that Raymond uses in many of his clients' homes. Instead, warm neutrals like moss, cinnamon and stone imbue the loft with

drama and depth. Collaborating with Workshop/ APD gave Raymond's vision a fresh perspective, resulting in a new richness and elegance being brought to the project. These ideas are perhaps best exemplified in the eye-catching, two-part table that connects the dining area and living room, rendered in volcanic red and earthy brown marbles that are complemented by plaid alpaca wool armchairs and a sumptuous silk-and-wool carpet. A perfect tableau.

In this impeccable loft, Workshop/ APD's architectural ingenuity sings. Here, the team successfully reimaged the existing structure to suit the needs of their residents, creating a series of interconnected spaces that would unfold effortlessly from the front entrance. From its artistic furnishings to its uplifting use of natural light to its subtle homage to the building's history, this loft is a triumphant example of how to execute luxury design for the discerning city-dweller, and proved the power of collaboration when two entities are on the same creative page.