

CONTEMPORARY home design

THE MILAN FURNITURE FAIR

THOM MAYNE - PRITZKER PRIZEWINNER 2005
SCULPTING THE LANDSCAPE WITH LIGHTING
BASIX SUSTAINABILITY INDEX



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ISSN 1448 - 501X  9 771448 501008

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ARCHITECTS IN PROFILE JOHN MAINWARING CAROLINE PIDCOCK DALE JONES-EVANS

INTERNATIONAL HOUSES



ceilingscapes

A fractured landscape lines the ceiling plane of Peter Eisenman's Manhattan apartment while outside, the panorama extends over West Village rooftops toward Wall Street and the Hudson River





ON THE UPPER FLOOR of a post-war building in New York, the apartment of renowned architectural theorist Peter Eisenman gazes down over lower Manhattan. The home is an intriguing, lofty space which Peter shares with his wife and their two sons, that brings striking architectural form into a comfortable family environment.

The space was originally three adjacent units and has been converted into one 185sqm space by Joseph Tanney of Resolution: 4 Architecture. Tanney has constructed the bones of the home's interior around a series of three points of reference that create three distinct ceiling heights. At its maximum height of 2.4m, the ceiling above individual rooms is a void of open space which falls to 2.2m around the perimeter. At 2.1m, the lowest ceiling height marks out circulation space and hides mechanical systems. This variance modulates the apartment's interior volumes, threading movement through low spaces and allowing the perimeter to explode towards the spectacular urban scene which spreads from its windows.

To balance this unique form, furniture from the owners' own collection focuses on the simple and familiar shapes of white leather Barcelona chairs, Rietveld and Thonet chairs and Chesterfield sofas. Within the apartment, rooms are organised in an overlapping configuration of public and private zones, each L-shaped in plan. Spaces are unified by continuous maple flooring and white painted walls.

From the entry, the home opens laterally to a study on one side and a living area on the other. Beyond these rooms are a guest closet and bathroom and, at the link between public and private zones, an eat-in kitchen where white lacquer cabinetry and peira cardosa granite benchtops have been installed. A rolling breakfast table allows easy access to a built-in bench as well as rolling into the living area to extend the library table for dinner parties. Beyond the kitchen is the private zone containing three bedrooms. The master bedroom faces north and is lined with books and a collection of miniature buildings on shelving above the built-in bed.

Mimicking the bookshelves that stand in the bedroom, which were built by Eisenman several years ago, Tanney designed new shelves for the study, employing the same dimensions and proportional system to arrive at an assembly of generous cubes and slender horizontal slots.

Artwork and books become as much a part of the home as its furniture and design, with the architects briefed to provide plenty of space for the couple's extensive and varied collection. Among these pieces architectural drawings by Le Corbusier, Aldo Rossi, John Hejduk, Rem Koolhaas and Michael Graves line the home's walls like a carefully conceived jigsaw. That the home is almost a backdrop to these pieces highlights the essential simplicity of its architectural design. —CHD—







PROJECT DETAILS
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