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Ishino Schechter Loft

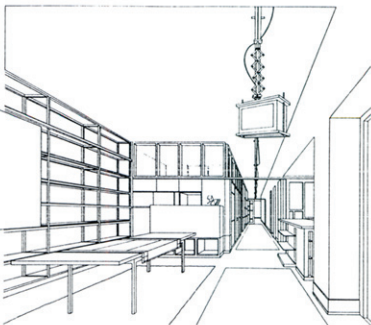
Resolution: 4 Architecture

Located on 23rd Street in New York City, this 5th floor loft renovation is for a graphic artist of Japanese descent and her husband who is an independent TV producer. His recent work has focused on the events in South Africa, while she works for the *Machwelt*, *Lehrer Newshour*. The couple has one daughter.

After years of working in the entertainment and news media industries, they have amassed a sizable collection of memorabilia, which includes thousands of LPs, cassettes, CDs and books. Their collection also includes a number of South African and Japanese masks.

Conceptually, the design of the loft represents a landscape that reconciles aspects of two different value systems, namely Japanese minimalism and the vibrancy of South African colors and patterns.

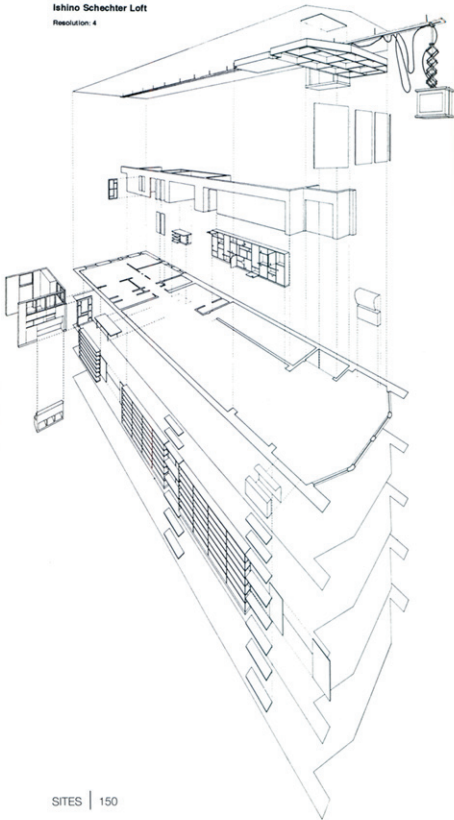
The loft, which is a long, narrow, column-free space, has a north/south orientation. Since it is one floor higher than the roof of the adjoining buildings, the space receives northern, southern, and western light. To take advantage of this luminous attribute and to address the client's sheer quantity of stuff, a design strategy of "packing" the perimeter is employed. Our intervention is a continuous storage element that visually connects all of the public spaces, entry, living, and dining. This element is comprised of industrial components—bolted together steel channels and medium density fiberboard. Integrated with this system is a series of sliding colored plywood panels that modulate the shelving and on which the masks can be displayed. The entrance area is defined by a plywood meditation/storage platform. The center panel of the platform contains a cushion which allows the user to sit turning his/her back to the activity of the street below. The insertion of a new dressing element at the end of the dining space, constructed of metal studs, medium density fiberboard, and glass, along with the incorporation of translucent sliding panels, enhances the sense of layering from entrance to the private domain. Finally, the incorporation of a mobile hearth, the overhead TV track, acts as another spatial connector.



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