



A splash of colour

Deep shades, thoughtful accessories and innovative design distinguish these two sibling apartments

Located at the coveted address of Stark Downtown (residential spaces by Philippe Starck), opposite the New York Stock Exchange in Manhattan, these spaces ooze exclusivity from all corners.

Designed by John Beckmann of Axis Mundi, these two apartments, situated in two distinct floors, are shared by a brother and sister duo. With space at a premium, designers Beckmann and Richard Rosenbloom have deftly carved these private quarters distinct from each other, not just in space but also in style. 1200 sq ft space has been allotted for the brother's house whereas

the sister occupies 600 sq ft.

"We're known for our glamorous minimalism, which fits right into what our clients desired. Both clients are single people, so they wanted spaces where they could entertain, yet which would be relatively easy to maintain. They wanted sexy spaces," says Beckmann.

For the designers, creating spaces with multiple functions was a challenge. For example, both the apartments had to have combined dining and living areas. The sister's apartment was made as a studio and the living space had to share floor with the bedroom.

Above: Designed for a brother-sister duo, architect John Beckmann of Axis Mundi has combined two apartments to create personalised spaces for both. Colours play a vital role in this house. Where dark tones define the sister's space, splashes of red and black complete the brother's side.



Above right and right: The sister's space is dominated by pastels. The living room and dining are contemporary. Glass doors separate the bedroom from the living and dining. The sofa in the living room is Poltrana Frau and the circular light fixture is from Mooodi.

"We created a 'Pandora's box' here, a glass cube with sliding doors that are lined with gold-coloured silk curtains to create a bedroom," says Beckmann. High on the style quotient, both the Dezza armchair (Gio Ponti) and the black leather Kennedee sofa are by Poltrona Frau. The brother's apartment is a much more flamboyant space, resplendent in red. Adding to the glamour is his personal art collection by the Japanese artist Takashi Murakami. The works hung salon-style are the main focus of the space. Another highlight, also a personal favourite

Above: Due to the space constraints, the kitchen has been kept compact. Designed by Axis Mundi, the wood flooring finish has been replicated on the cabinet shutters as well. The casual dining is also created by Axis Mundi.





Preceding pages and above: A stark contrast to the sister's apartment, the brother's space is in vibrant shades of red. The sofa along with the silk rug customised by Axis Mundi gives the area a very positive feel. Takashi Murakami artwork on the walls add a fun element to the room. The chandeliers above the dining are from Droog.

of Beckmann, is the 20 metre long red silk velvet covered banquette, which he calls the "the Elvis banquette".

Lighting fixtures have been sourced from Droog, gun lamps are by Starck and furniture by Moooi.

He adds, "It's a James Bond inspired space. I may be a minimalist spatially but I'm more interested in expanding the minimalist palette by using more evocative materials and colours. The clients' willingness to take chances with patterns and colours helped to elevate the project's design quotient."



Architect/designer: John Beckmann, Richard Rosenbloom; Axis Mundi

Cabinets: Axis Mundi, Bennett Cabinetry

Furniture: Kennedee Sofa, Poltrona Frau, Fiam, Moooi

Living area: Custom-made banquette in red French velvet by Fabric Christopher Hyland, fabricated by Avery Boardman, hide covered bench, designed by Axis Mundi, custom-made walnut dining table by Anthony Bronza, hammered brass tables by Odegard

Dining: Axis Mundi

Carpets: Rug Company, Carinilang

Bedroom: Custom headboard wall panels and nightstand in bamboo by Bennett Cabinetry

Lighting: Droog, Flos

Story by Preeti Singh

Photography by Mikiko Kikuyama

Above: The lounge area also acts as the office for the brother. It can be separated from the rest of the house through the glass door. The leather patchwork carpet syncs well with the furniture.

Left: The bedroom is situated on an elevated platform and is done in all-white.



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