BEAUTY & BODY ISSUE 125

CHIC SWIMSUITS
AQUA PRINTS
SEASHELL INSPIRATIONS
HOT PINKS

99
PLUS!

THE NEWEST FROM McQUEEN & HERMÉS!

CORVETTE ZR1
THE 755-HP FANTASY

WHERE EAST MEETS WEST
A GUIDE TO ISTANBUL

SKY-HIGH LIVING
AT 1 GRAND ARMY PLAZA

ANDREW BIRD LANDS AT KINGS THEATRE

MARGOT ROBBIE
THE AUSTRALIAN OSCAR NOMINEE DESCRIBES HOW SHE APPROACHED THE ROLE OF THE LATE ACTRESS SHARON TATE IN QUENTIN TARANTINO’S ONCE UPON A TIME IN HOLLYWOOD

SUMMER STYLES

COSMETIC CURES
FITNESS TECH PICKS
AT-HOME WORKOUTS
ANTI-AGING ELIXIRS
STANDOUT MDs
CHIC ACTIVEWEAR

BEAUTY & BODY ISSUE 125

COSMETIC CURES
FITNESS TECH PICKS
AT-HOME WORKOUTS
ANTI-AGING ELIXIRS
STANDOUT MDs
CHIC ACTIVEWEAR

ANDREW BIRD LANDS AT KINGS THEATRE

SKY-HIGH LIVING
AT 1 GRAND ARMY PLAZA

MARGOT ROBBIE
THE AUSTRALIAN OSCAR NOMINEE DESCRIBES HOW SHE APPROACHED THE ROLE OF THE LATE ACTRESS SHARON TATE IN QUENTIN TARANTINO’S ONCE UPON A TIME IN HOLLYWOOD
A BIG APPLE VIEW OF THE WORLD

MANHATTAN'S AXIS MUNDI CREATES A JEWEL BOX WITH A VIEW FOR MILES ATOP 1 GRAND ARMY PLAZA
BY DAVID PORTER

F

ated for its 1992 dedication to the public observation deck, the private observation deck until the early 2000s) and Bailey Fountain, Grand Army Plaza was envisioned to honor the site of the Battle of Long Island (aka the Battle of Brooklyn Heights), the first major land engagement of the Revolutionary War. Built by the landscape architect team of Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux to provide a wide and picturesque approach to Prospect Park, the plaza was designated an official city landmark in 1975.

This fresh, modern home, just beyond the last of the public space's concentric rings, is atop 1 Grand Army Plaza, a glass-studded building designed by the legendary Richard Meier. The youngest architect to receive the Pritzker Architecture Prize, which he won in 1984 for the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, Meier would go on to design The Getty Center, a Los Angeles art complex funded by the J. Paul Getty Trust, and many other iconic structures.

In a 2007 New York Times article about the near completion of 1 Grand Army Plaza, construction exec Mario Prudis opined that "Meier's glass boxes would once day evoke comparisons to such Modernist masterpieces as Ludwig Mies van der Rohe's Lake Shore Drive Apartments in Chicago," with article author Andrew Rice offering that "you get the impression that being in an apartment designed by Richard Meier was a little like residing inside a very spacious, expressively appointed iPod." Meier's firm, in a project description, explains that "The architecture is intended to enhance the urban space of the block, while establishing new relationships to the main roadways and subway arteries...[It] respects the existing scale and diversity of the immediate context and completes the city block, while the lower levels landmark stature to the building within the overall urban setting. The building's striking sculpted glass form promotes maximum transparency while reflecting the variety of the surrounding area."

Architect and interior designer John Bockmann has gathered a few essentials about grandeur and scale in his more than 20 years of work. He’s known as something of a provocateur for conceptual projects such as the Whitney Downtown Museum in New York and the Lockheed Martin X Lab in Palo Alto, and was thrilled,
he said, take on this interior at 3 Grand Army Plaza.

The apartment’s all-white scheme and low-lying Italian furniture complement and underline the incredible views of Brooklyn, the harbor, and Prospect Park, as well as the wonderful architect of the space. It has a massive footprint for the neighborhood—three bedrooms, two bathrooms (one shared), a powder room, an eat-in kitchen and full dining room, all swimming in natural light, even on an overcast afternoon.

“Designing an apartment in any building by a well-known architect is an honor,” said Beckmann. “I wanted to keep the design in line with Meier’s aesthetic, which is simple, yet bold, and used as iconic pieces. This was an important opportunity for us, but we weren’t intimidated, as I think our work at Axis Mundri (a Manhattan-based firm founded by Beckmann in 2004) aligns perfectly with what Meier achieved. We have a low-keying style and a glamorous approach to design.”

The professional kitchen includes a 52-inch stainless steel range hood with a sink (for prep and space for informal meals for two. A formal dining room, for more elaborate meals and accommodating up to eight, is a few steps beyond. The chandelier above the dining table is a Vistosi Gogali Pendant Light by Angelo Mangiarotti.

“This particular building has angular floor plans,” Beckmann explained, “which, of course, demand unusual approaches in terms of furniture selection and layout.” The living room, which fills the only oblique angle in the apartment, features a Poltrona Frau sofa and a Poliform coffee table atop a Joseph Chiari Como Drums carpet—its chocolate-brown rectangles floating on a vanilla field and creating a playful harmony with the brick buildings and steel towers across the river. The only acute angle in the space faces the bed in the master bedroom.

If the owner is working from home, a glass-enclosed office space opens onto a southern terrace with another view of Prospect Park (Unsustained and Vau’s masterpiece, along with Central Park, the kitchen, dining room, living room, and master bedroom also enjoy jaw-dropping views of the 526-acre exposure. At 3 Grand Army Plaza, in the words of author and scholar Mircea Eliade, “the sky shows itself as it really be infinitive, transcendent.”

The residence, with its original paintings, sculpture, and vintage photographs, feels like a gallery.

“The clients wanted to keep it light and airy,” said Beckmann, “and I agreed that this made the most sense. I tried to be respectful of context, for the most part, but not beholden to it.”

Axis Mundri | New York
35 W 35th Street, Manhattan / 212.643.2089 / axismundri.com