Designer John Beckmann creates highly charged and nuanced contemporary interiors.

For a Greenwich Village townhouse, Axis Mundi designed a custom bronze divide that was fabricated by Urban Archaeology from mirror and salvaged Gio Ponti glass.

Axis Mundi
Luxe modern
There is a secret to the success of Axis Mundi, according to the firm’s founder, John Beckmann. “Nothing is over-designed.” That’s been true since 2000, when the multi-disciplinary firm Axis Mundi was launched. With Beckmann as the director of design and Richard Rosenblloom as architect-in-charge, the company has earned acclaim for its nuanced and well-executed work, whether it be in architecture, interiors, or furniture design. The New York Times, Metropolitan Home and Men’s Vogue are just three of the publications that have recently taken notice of the firm’s sleek innovations and stunning interiors.

Beckmann and Rosenblloom stress the importance of working with a consistent coterie of artisans and tradespeople. After a few projects together, “they know what we’re looking for, and that streamlines the design process.” For instance, their contractor of choice is Taconic Builders, whose dedication to the construction process shows in the final results. Likewise, vendors such as Christopher Hyland and CariniLang work with the firm because they tend to share a similar aesthetic.

At the firm’s website, clients can browse through a range of projects and see how the firm creates unique works that evolve from a close reading of context. From an urban townhouse in Greenwich Village to a rural retreat in upstate New York, Axis Mundi demonstrates their ability to connect with cultural roots while the consistency in the designs reflects their mantra of restraint. Beckmann often likes to quote Coco Chanel, who reportedly said “One gimmick per dress.”

“I think there’s a lot of work that’s very cutting edge, but it dates quickly,” Beckmann explains. “There’s a luxurious aspect to our work that you don’t see in really stripped-down ‘minimalist’ projects, and yet a very hip feeling that you don’t find in over-decorated spaces. I think it’s important that we live in our own time, but make it timeless.”

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Beckmann’s choices for the master bathroom include the sleek Boffi Monoblock bathtub, and custom designed marble mosaics fabricated by Urban Archeology.

Conceptual proposal for a Vertical House, or a townhouse in the country

Contractor: Taconic Builders; 212.929.7811
Lighting consultant: Steve Katz, Lighting+Controls Solutions, 212.645.7700
Electronics: Custom Integrated Systems, 212.255.7991
Fireplaces: Chesney’s, 646.840.0609
Bronze Screen and entry chandelier: Axis Mundi, manufactured by Urban Archeology, 212.431.4646
Custom silk carpets: Carini Lang, 646.631.0497
Wing chairs: Poltrona Frau USA
DR Chandelier: Dominique Perrault by Sawaya Moroni, through moderni, 877.455.6350
DR Table: Armani Casa, 212.334.1271
Dining chairs: Versace, 212.317.0224
Coffee table: Salvador Dali, through Karkula, 212.645.2216
Armchairs: Poltrona Frau USA, 212.777.7592
Sofa: Ralph Pucci, 212.631.0452
Sofa upholstery: Christopher Hyland, Inc., 212.688.6321
Cabinets, countertops, backsplash, hood: Boffi
Custom Marble Tiles: Urban Archeology
Tub and tub filler: Boffi, 212.431.8282