



**Right:** The centerpiece of this North Haven home by architect Blaze Makoid is a steel helical staircase, fabricated by Ferra Designs. To up the drama another notch, interior designer David Scott brought in a vintage Mazzega eight-tier smoked-Murano glass chandelier from John Salibello.

**Opposite:** Interior designer Lisa Frazar chose to encompass the master bathroom of this Upper East Side town house in marble as a nod to the home's history. The walls and tub from Urban Archaeology are softened by the glow of brushed-nickel wall sconces by Waterworks.



CLOCKWISE  
FROM TOP LEFT:  
Glenn Pushelberg,  
Stuart Disston,  
Blaze Makoid,  
Timothy Brown

## BUILDING BLOCKS

True luxury means using best of the best, and materials are integral to this. Be it wood, stone, textiles or surfaces, each material determines how a home is lived in. High-tech surfaces in a kitchen provide easy functionality, while rich woods create a sense of warmth and luscious textiles add glamour. These experts share how thoughtful materials define a home.

**Glenn Pushelberg:** We are not into making grand design statements in our own homes but rather creating spaces for discovery. The walls of our Amagansett lounge (shown) are covered in rift-cut ash with a white-wash oil finish. On the far wall, the fireplace is clad in honed matchstick stone slabs. Custom vertical-grain western red cedar louvres can be slid over massive floor-to ceiling sliding windows, which can completely open up one side of the house.

**Stuart Disston:** I've worked with a few interesting materials recently. We just restored a midcentury modern house and used solid-form PVC for the whole exterior, which makes it basically bulletproof. There's another material in which stone is veneered into honeycomb aluminum panels. They can be 1/8- to 1/4-inch-thick, which makes them quite light, but they can bond the panels together so you can't tell how thin they are.

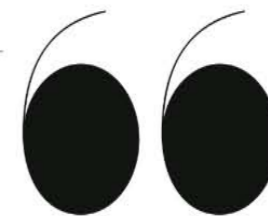
**Blaze Makoid:** The skills required to execute a contemporary home are much more demanding than what we would call a "traditional" home today. In a modern house, there is nowhere to hide. The work of virtually every trade is visible and is key to pulling off the entire package. We've been experimenting with the surface area of our poured-concrete walls, mostly using wood boards of various sizes and grain textures to cast into the foundation walls so the "memory" of wood remains in the surface of the walls.

**Timothy Brown:** I have experienced an increased interest in wider wood-plank floors. My clients are also definitely more open to trying new materials they may not have thought to before. We have been using a lot of Rubio Monocoat, which is a hard-wax floor finish. It is plant-based, nontoxic and made from all-natural ingredients.

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# gOLD LIST 2017

LUXE INTERIORS + DESIGN WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME YOU TO OUR 2017 GOLD LIST: A LOOK BACK AT THE PAST YEAR IN DESIGN WITH THE PROLIFIC TALENTS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INSPIRING AND ASPIRATIONAL HOMES FEATURED IN THE PAGES OF OUR MAGAZINE—FROM ARCHITECTS AND INTERIOR DESIGNERS TO HOME BUILDERS AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY THAT ARE LEADING THE INDUSTRY IN FRESH AND EXCITING WAYS.



## ARCHITECTS



**Blaze Makoid**  
Principal

7 Tradesman Path, Suite 8  
Bridgehampton, New York  
631.537.7277

[info@blazemakoid-architecture.com](mailto:info@blazemakoid-architecture.com)  
[blazemakoid-architecture.com](http://blazemakoid-architecture.com)

## BLAZE MAKOID ARCHITECTURE

At the heart of Blaze Makoid Architecture is a commitment to modern exploration of the opportunities presented. Founded in 2000 by Blaze Makoid—who had identified his passion for architecture by fourth grade—the firm has continually grown and today boasts 12 exceptional team members. Alongside them, Makoid has built a reputation for expertly executing a modern aesthetic that conveys a strong sense of place. Inspired by a variety of topographies and climates, he relishes the challenge of perfecting any project, from a beach house in the Hamptons to a ski home out West. Asked to describe his favorite styles in which to work, Makoid says, “We try to avoid the idea of style. We approach each new project within its own context and allow the individual client and site to inform our investigations. I think it is more a matter of sequence of layering. Do we layer our ideas on top of the project or is it the other way around?” Collaborating with the clients at every stage, the Blaze Makoid team understands such projects can be a leap of faith and aims to exceed every expectation while crafting a meaningful design. “Great design lifts the spirit in a way that creates peace,” Makoid says. “I love structures that exude serenity. We need more of that in this world. We strive to create something worthwhile.”

### Ask the Expert

#### What are the key influences in your work today?

I am inspired every day by my staff and their incredible breadth of interests and opinions. Also, right now, the re-emergence of Brutalism and its tough solitude.

#### What do you like most about your job?

The breakthrough. Particularly when we are struggling to get something interesting together. We are bashing our heads against the wall, frustration is starting to bubble up and then something just clicks.

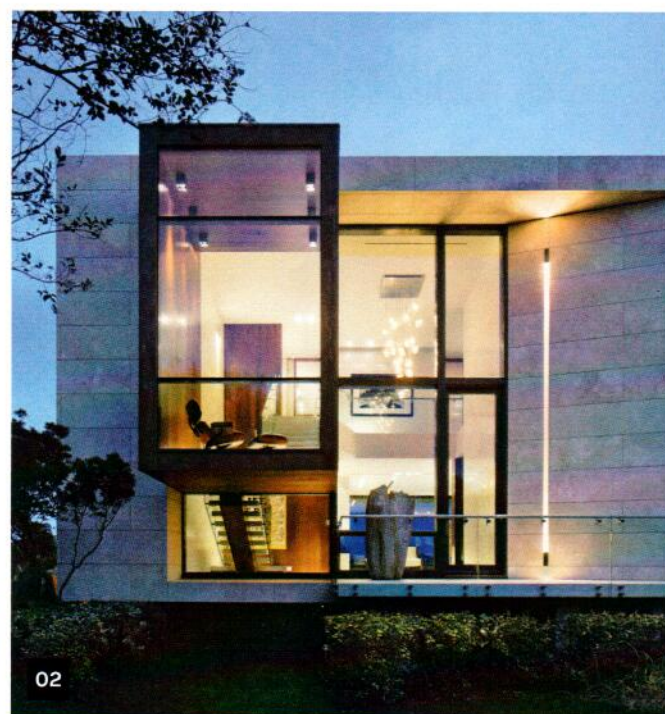
#### How do you define luxury?

Time. No question. Time to really think. Since I started my business, I have never had to count vacation days. On the other hand, I have never since been completely away.

**01.** Shown is the entry façade of a North Haven, New York, project. **02.** The front entry of this project in the Village of Sagaponack was carefully detailed.



01



02