

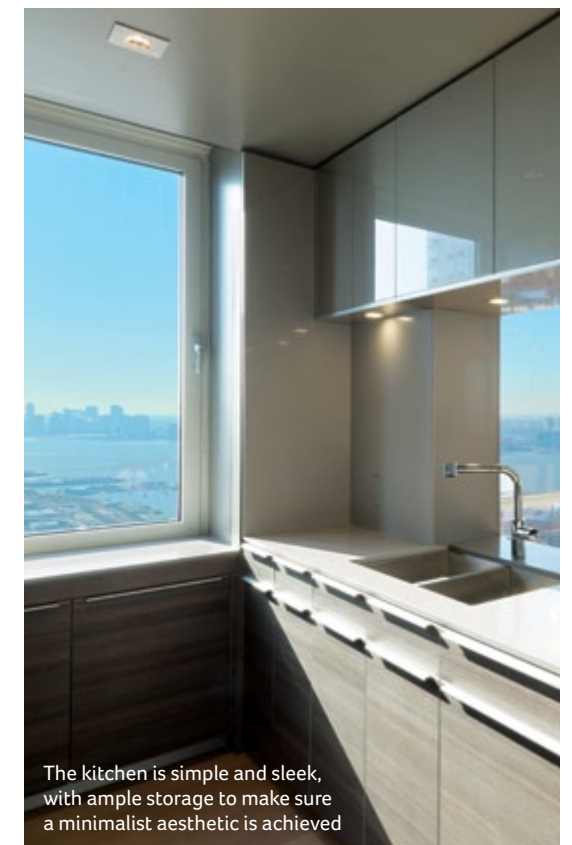
# SEEKING SERENITY IN NYC

With unrestricted views of New York City, three drab apartments have been transformed into a spectacularly spacious family home

Words Karsha Green Photography Jeffrey Kilmer



By choosing a muted and organic colour and material palette, the designer has made the space feel bigger and brighter, also allowing the picturesque views to be the home's centrepiece



The kitchen is simple and sleek, with ample storage to make sure a minimalist aesthetic is achieved

**“SPACE IS A LUXURY IN NEW YORK. HAVING AN EXCESS OF IT AND BEING ABLE TO HAVE VISTAS IN EVERY DIRECTION IS AN EVEN GREATER LUXURY”**  
– Andrew Mikhael

In one of the world's busiest cities, where space is a luxury and a respite from sirens and car horns is unheard of, where can one go to find stillness and serenity? To the sky, of course. While converting three drab high-rise apartments into one was not an easy task, the result is something truly spectacular.

Atop a city tower in mid-town Manhattan, Andrew Mikhael's client had “three basic, rent-grade apartments that were outfitted with stock fixtures and fittings”, says Andrew. The client, his wife and young child were moving to the United States from Europe and wanted a “showcase home for entertaining”. The project would involve Andrew and his team converting two two-bedroom/two-bathroom and one three-bedroom/two-bathroom apartments into one spacious five-bedroom, five-bathroom home.

“Combining three apartments and a 20ft stretch of hallway into one unit was a challenge,” recalls Andrew. “We found that the floor and ceilings did not align and needed levelling. Our water wall design (at the home's heart) had very little room for error. We had a small space where we could locate it to connect to the building plumbing risers, which were also on an angle.”

Stepping through the front door of this NYC apartment,



Upon stepping through the front door of this Manhattan high rise, a long corridor guides you to this impressive custom water wall, which invites owners and guests to relax and embrace the tranquility

**we love**  
THE CUSTOM  
BLUWORLD  
WATER WALL

ANDREW HAS USED MUTED  
TONES TO CREATE A HOME  
THAT GOES WAY BEYOND  
AN APARTMENT IN A CITY  
TOWER. RATHER, IT'S A  
SANCTUARY IN THE SKY



By turning three apartments into one, Andrew Mikhael emphasised space with an open-plan concept and plenty of natural light

"I CREATE THE LARGEST OPEN SPACE POSSIBLE WHILE MAXIMISING THE BEDROOM COUNT AND GIVING EACH ROOM A GENEROUS FEEL"  
– Andrew Mikhael



Andrew specifically placed the sauna in a space with uninterrupted views of the Statue of Liberty in order to give the owners a relaxing space to enjoy their new city

you very quickly forget where you are. A long, horizontal foyer that leads to a wall of running water creates serenity and calm. After you manage to peel your eyes from the trickling streams, you notice the abundance of natural light and the beauty of an inaudible city that envelops the home's interior. As the sky, sun and land are such a big part of this residence, Andrew wanted to highlight these natural elements through complementary interior fixtures and fittings. "Greys, muted timbers, high-gloss doors, weighty door handles and plumbing fixtures create the calm, masculine elegance the client was looking for," says Andrew. Key design elements creating this interior atmosphere included the custom matt-finish, rift-cut, white oak flooring; Bluworld custom water wall; Poggenpohl cabinetry; Dornbracht Elio kitchen faucet and Ecosmart ethanol burner surrounded by silver travertine stone from Artistic Tile.

"Space is a luxury in New York. Having an excess of it and being able to have vistas in every direction is an even greater luxury," says Andrew. "I create the largest open space possible while maximising the bedroom count and giving each room a generous feel."



The clients' brief was to create an interior that exuded calm, masculine elegance. The stone tiling and timber accents of this bathroom perfectly represent this style



## ed's fave

THE BATHTUB  
WITH AMAZING  
CITY VIEWS

While there are many spectacular features about this high-rise home, Andrew specifically chose the placement and orientation of one rather unusual apartment accessory. "I love the sauna. I placed it facing south towards the Statue of Liberty. I imagined the feeling of enjoying a well-earned respite, sitting in the sauna as

the sun sets and staring out at the Statue of Liberty," he says.

By dramatically transforming three standard NYC apartments into one spacious five-bedroom, five-bathroom home, Andrew Mikhael Architects has created an ideal city lifestyle for a newly relocated European family. Inspired by

the surrounding elements of sun, sky and land, Andrew has used muted tones, raw materials and incorporated natural earthly features such as fire and water to create a home that goes way beyond an apartment in a city tower. Rather, it's a sanctuary in the sky. **HD**  
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