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How Neri&Hu Brought Refined Domesticity to the Manhattan Skyline

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Text by Katherine Ring



Neri&Hu translates Midtown East's Art Deco legacy into a sanctuary of 'refined domesticity', distilling the residential apartment to its essence

At the core of Neri&Hu's interior architecture for Monogram New York is a rigorous engagement with the building's specific physical and historical context. In a written statement provided to *Design Anthology* the designers explain, 'Midtown East sits at the intersection of nature and artifice, where the city grid overlays organic landforms.' They note that while the exterior by Ismael Leyva Architects draws heavily from the surrounding Beaux Arts and Art Deco landmarks such as the Chrysler Building, their interior scheme 'narrates this layered architectural legacy'.

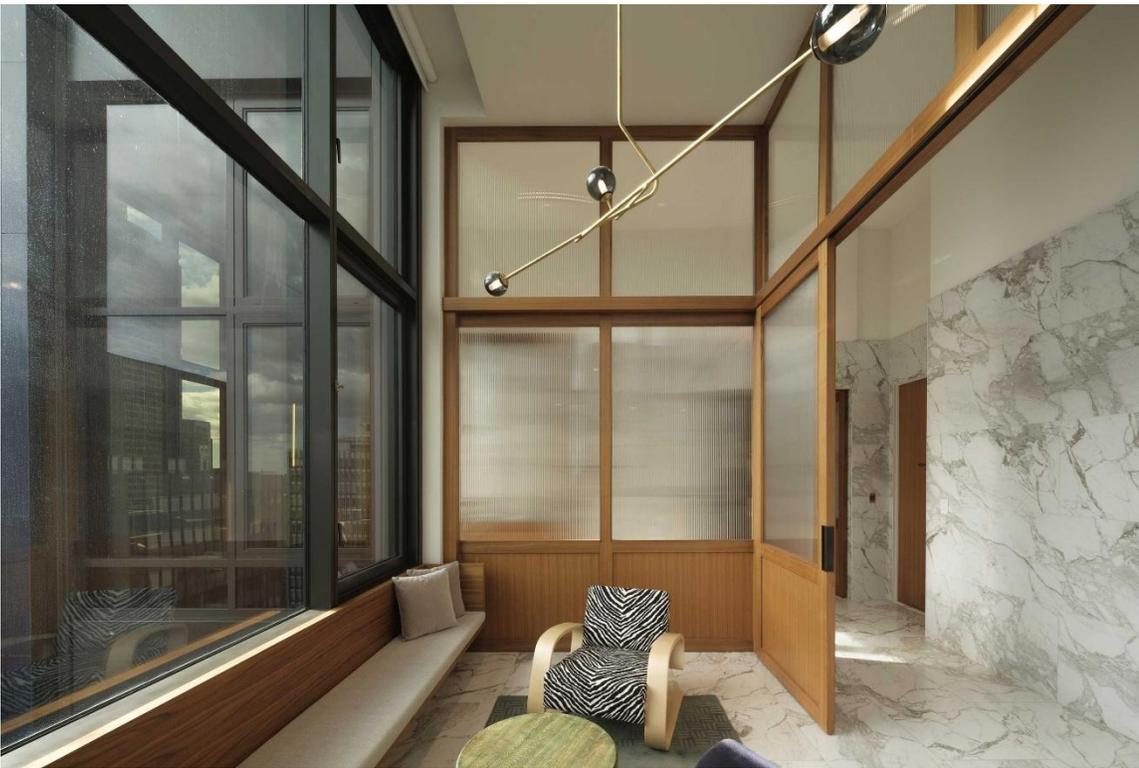




When undertaking the project, the framework of pre-existing unit layouts dictated a highly focused design strategy. 'With a limited ability to reconfigure the floorplans, we concentrated our interventions on the <https://design-anthology.com/story/neri-hu-monogram-new-york>

bathroom design and kitchen millwork,' say the designers. This 'refined domesticity', focused on tailored details and curated materiality, was then applied throughout the communal spaces, transforming the building into an 'extended collective home'. But rather than creating a curated showpiece, the intention was to establish a grounded, neutral backdrop for the residents. 'It's about distilling the residential apartment down to its essence by prioritising calm and material integrity over excess.'





To bridge the neighbourhood's historical architectural language with modern domestic needs, the designers developed a consistent material vocabulary. A defining motif is the fluted Art Deco pattern, which has been delicately translated across stone, glass, wood and bronze.

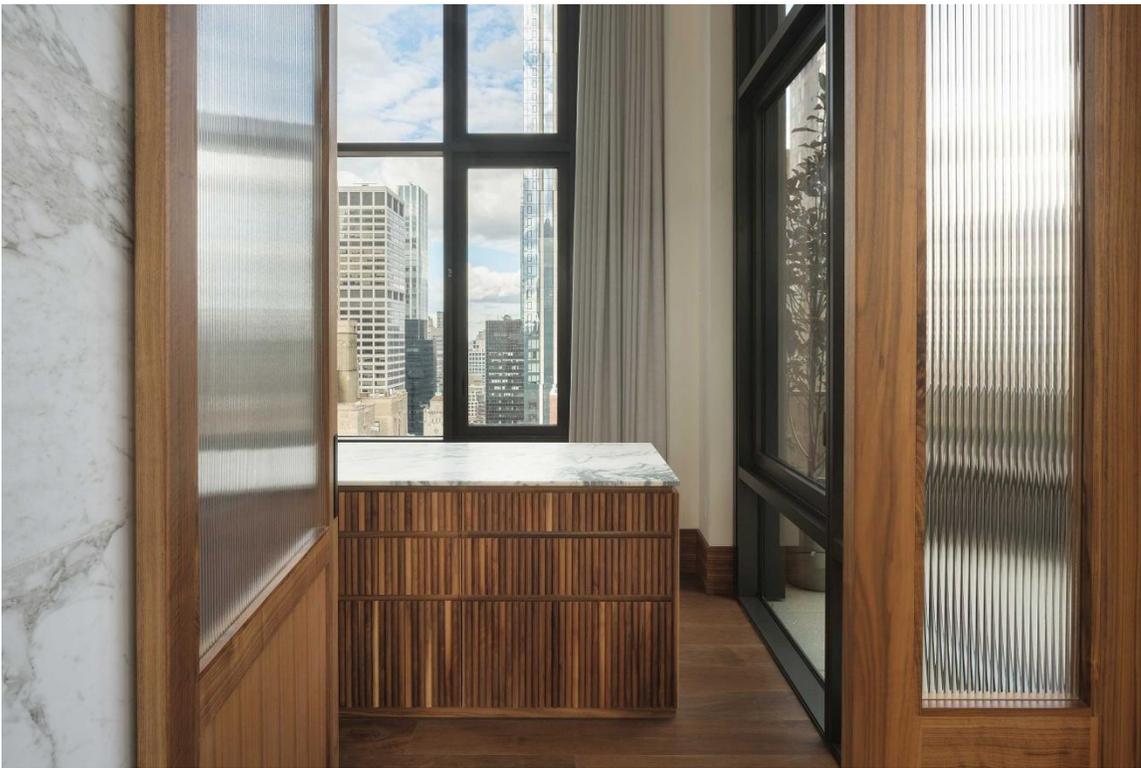
This application, however, was conceptual rather than replicative. 'Rather than directly reinterpreting Art Deco motifs, our work was inspired by the spirit of experimentation that defined the era,' say the designers. 'The Deco period was about embracing new materials and forms. In that vein, we used the fluted pattern not as a literal historical reference, but as a textural tool to add depth at a human scale.'

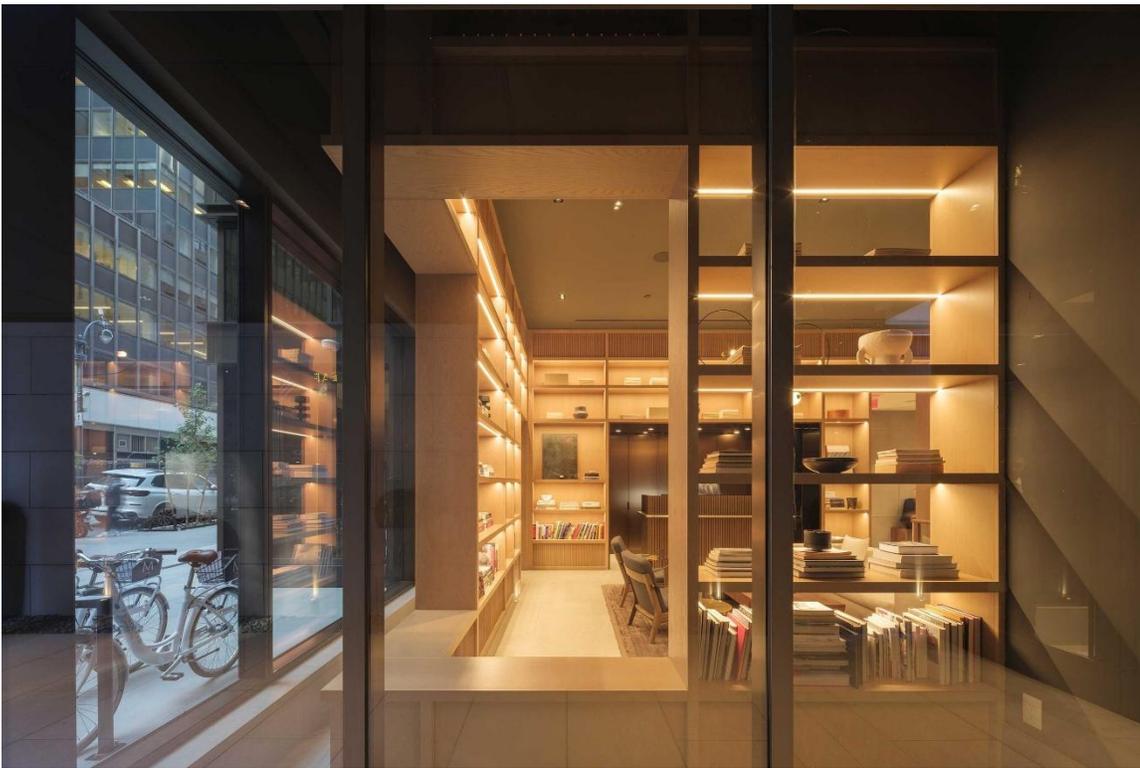


This careful manipulation of texture and material allows functional areas to transcend their basic utility. By strategically employing tactility and nuanced detailing, the studio has orchestrated a compelling dialogue between the dense urban environment and the quiet sanctuary of the private residence.

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Images courtesy of Neri&Hu





New York