

MAGNIFISSANCE



Timeless Beauty and Wisdom

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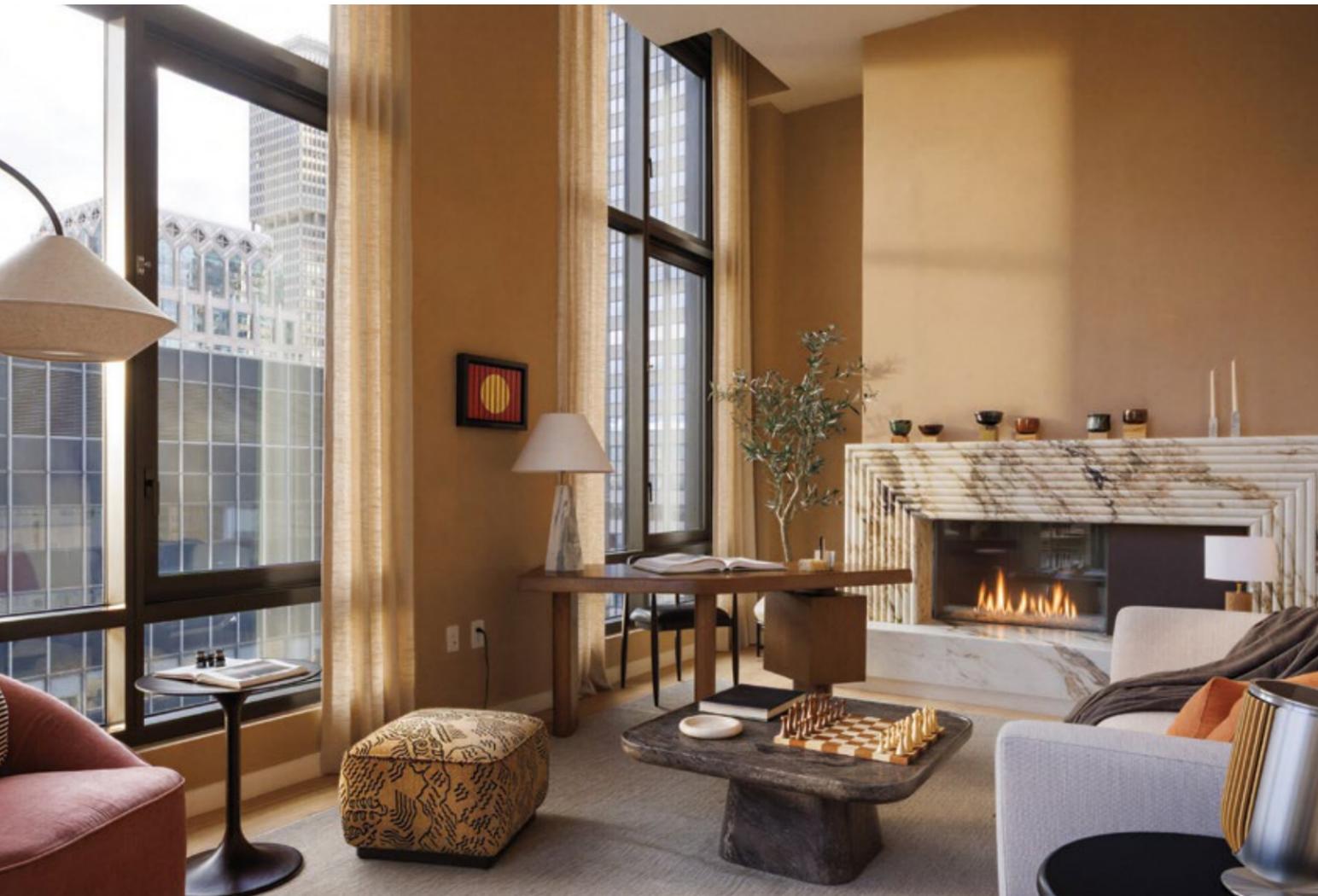
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THE SKYWARD SANCTUARY

Step inside the Monogram Penthouse,
where the frantic pulse of the city is cured by
the quiet rigor of a curated void



Chinese text by Zhao Wen
English text by Kate Missine
Photos by Colin Miller

High above the percussive hum of Midtown Manhattan, the Monogram Penthouse stands as a rebuttal to the “more is more” philosophy of urban luxury. A collaboration between the San Francisco-based frenchCALIFORNIA and New York’s Onishi Gallery, the residence eschews the bravura gestures typical of the penthouse. Instead, it unfolds as a lived-in exhibition, where the city’s restless rush gives way to the measured cadence of a private gallery.

“From the beginning, the idea was restraint,” says Guillaume Coutheillas, founder of frenchCALIFORNIA. For Coutheillas, the penthouse was conceived as a necessary counterbalance to the city’s relentless sensory input. In a neighbourhood perpetually calibrated to overstimulation, he has carved out a quietist manifesto in limestone and oak.

The palette is a meditation on organic texture, layering linen, wool, and natural woods to create a soft, tactile landscape. Yet the design extends beyond the visual to the atmospheric. Bang & Olufsen sound objects are integrated with architectural precision, treating acoustics as an essential design material that shapes the air before a single guest speaks.

At the heart of the residence lies an organic partnership with Onishi Gallery, an institution devoted to the preservation of Japanese craft. “Onishi understands art not as ornament, but as atmosphere and architecture,” Coutheillas notes. “There’s a quiet rigor to their pieces that resonates deeply with our approach to interiors.”

Departing from the tradition of art as embellishment, Coutheillas selected works that actively shape each room’s energy. Fractured gold-leaf paintings by David Stanley Hewett anchor the walls, catching the shifting Manhattan light with the inevitability of an architectural gesture. In counterpoint, hand-formed, mineral-glazed ceramic vessels by Ohi Toshio Chozaemon XI introduce a grounded presence rooted in the centuries-old ritual of the Japanese tea ceremony. Together, the works form a dialogue between East and West, contemporary art and ancestral craft.

While the architecture remains tethered to the rigid geometry of Manhattan modernism, the interior gives way to the beauty of the void. As Coutheillas puts it, the true metric of success here is neither zip code nor square footage, but the heart rate of the person standing at its center. In a neighbourhood that never sleeps, this penthouse achieves something far more radical: it knows how to be still.

東 西 方 對 話
演 繹 出 一 場 寧 靜 的

靜謐藝展

一 座 曼 哈 頓 頂 層 公 寓

座落於曼哈頓中城的雲端之上，「Monogram頂層公寓」由舊金山設計事務所frenchCALIFORNIA與紐約Onishi畫廊聯手打造。它跳脫出都市樣品屋的陳規，轉而以一種「生活化展覽空間」的形式打開：藝術引領著空間的走向，城市的喧囂則悄然退居為背景。

「從一開始，核心理念就是『克制』。」設計師兼french-CALIFORNIA創始人Guillaume Coutheillas說道，這座公寓旨在隔絕曼哈頓強烈的都市節奏，成為平靜的避風港，並不追求視覺驚奇與奢華。「在紐約，我們在視覺、聽覺與精神上不斷受到刺激。我希望這個家能成為一個喘息之所。我幾乎把它想像成一座雲端聖殿。」

空間中每一種元素的選擇都延續一種永恆且具沉思特質的氛圍：石灰岩、橡木、亞麻與羊毛等天然材質，與建築結構及家具展開了有意識的層次交織。甚至連聲音也被編織進空間語言中，透過嵌入式的Bang&Olufsen音響設備，塑造整體環境氛圍與感官體驗。

設計的核心靈魂在於藝術：Onishi畫廊通過精心挑選的作品，與設計師之間建立了緊密的合作。「Onishi畫廊將藝術視為氛圍與建築的一部分，而非僅僅是裝飾。」Guillaume指出，長期以來，他一直傾慕該畫廊對保護日本藝術家工藝的堅持，「特別是在這個項目中，我不想用藝術來『裝修』，而是尋找一位真正的策展夥伴。他們展示的作品中透著一種沉靜的嚴謹，這與我們對室內空間的思考深度共鳴。」

穩定空間氣場的是David Stanley Hewett的金箔畫作，其中《EN 6》(2023)與《Resolute》(2024)尤為引人矚目。在這些作品中，破碎的金箔色塊與書法線條創造出特殊的光影變幻，化作了一種建築細節。與之形成比例平衡的，是日本知名陶藝家——大樋燒第十一代傳人Ohi Toshio Chozaemon XI創作的手作礦物釉陶瓷器皿。這些扎根於百年日本茶道傳統的作品，為空間注入了溫潤與敦厚的存在感。兩者的結合形成了東、西方的對話，在概念藝術與傳世工藝之間搭起橋樑。

「西方室內設計往往優先考慮形式與構圖。」Guillaume從哲學角度而非單純美學觀點來看待這種文化交會，「日本設計的傳統強調克制、留白以及不完美之美。我們將這種理念引入項目中，成為對工藝的尊重、對自然材質的追求，以及對不對稱與寧靜的推崇。」

由於設計的每個面向都兼顧了感官、表現力與視覺特質，Guillaume將這座頂層公寓描述為一片「情感景觀」。「如果有人走進來，感到更加平靜、專注且能活在當下，那麼我們就成功了。」

