







Soft colours, tactile timbers and small pieces of furniture. At the top of a TriBeCa skyscraper, a penthouse opens to the unique Manhattan skyline

by Helle Walsted — photos by W+B Photography — words by Francesca Benedetto









Natural materials and soothing colours combine with small furniture to give a full view of the skyline and create an emotional and immersive experience



The banquette featuring leather cushions in terracotta is a perfect spot for breakfast or informal gatherings. Bespoke River table created by the artist Daisuke Kiyomiya, and Iso Swing Arm Sconce by Ladies and Gentlemen Studio. Opposite page, the original kitchen that like all kitchens at 56 Leonard was created by Molteni&C. / Dada Contract Division, has been customised with oak doors by the Zung studio. On the marblecovered island, Chandelier Aperture by Allied Maker.

The outline, recalling the game of stacked wooden blocks, has earnt the nickname 'Jenga Tower'; yet in just a few years the skyscraper at 56 Leonard, designed by the Swiss architectural firm Herzog & de Meuron, has turned into a Manhattan landmark. This might be due to artist Anish Kapoor's site-specific work installed at the base of the building, which resembles a squashed balloon that prompts tourists and passers-by to take selfies before its shiny surface. The surprises continue inside the prestigious condominium at the heart of TriBeCa: the double-height public lobby recalls an elegant, metropolitan living room featuring iconic designer furnishings, while a 25-metre pool covered in polished stainless steel penny tiles, lies in the middle of the Spa, like a jewel. But what truly steals the show in this exclusive review of the penthouse, is undoubtedly the 360-degree view of the metropolitan skyline. An urban landscape that changes with the light of day and the passing seasons, and which has inspired Studio Zung's interior design. The multidisciplinary team of architects, designers and creatives based in New York approached the 350sqm residence as "a synthetic and respectful integration of architecture, interior design and the art of living", says Tommy Zung. "Inspired by a holistic lifestyle as well as sensory and conscientious design, which are the distinctive features of our work, we sought to create a kind of urban sanctuary in tune with the surroundings". The current spaces, which besides the large open plan living area include four bedrooms and four bathrooms, a gym and a study area, are pervaded by a sensual and relaxing atmosphere achieved by carefully matching delicate hues, organic shapes and natural, tactile timbers. "Our approach is immersive: we believe that every project must arise from an intelligent idea, a vision to be translated into a beautiful, lasting and liveable space", says the designer. "This project could only take its cue from the exceptional personality of the building, an architectural masterpiece. Which is why we carefully considered the arrangement and proportions of the furniture, designing or selecting beds, sofas and daybeds in smaller sizes, to avoid obstructing the extraordinary views that can be enjoyed from the panoramic windows". Such is the case with the oak banquette adjacent to the kitchen, which can turn into an informal work area when needed, and which transforms into an intimate and privileged spot from which to watch the city awaken from above. The space is peppered with designer pieces, site-specific artwork, sculptural lamps and objects that create a harmonious and sensual whole. A collage of functional and decorative elements defined by a mix of "warm minimalism and a sophisticated wabi-sabi aesthetic", says the architect. A meeting point between the relaxing atmosphere typical of Eastern culture, reflecting the landlord's origins, and the energising and creative Western lifestyle of the Big Apple. –









