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THE REPORT

Annabelle Selldorf's Latest NYC Building Blends Historic and Contemporary Design



Inside Annabelle Selldorf's 42 Crosby residences in SoHo.

Tim Waltman

On a quiet cobblestone street in New York's SoHo neighborhood, a sleek glass and-iron building might seem surprising. But architect Annabelle Selldorf sees this standing out as, respectfully, fitting in. This seven-story residential building, located at 42 Crosby Street, is her latest vision—and proof (as if we needed more) that paying homage to a neighborhood's architectural history doesn't have

to mean more of the same. With uniformity, industrial materials, and column details used in Selldorf's design, 42 Crosby is certainly elevated, but with a distinctly downtown-cool vibe.

Selldorf showed AD around the light-filled SoHo space.



A view of the cast-iron exterior of 42 Crosby. Residents of a north unit can utilize decks that overlook an inner courtyard.

Tim Waltman

To Selldorf, each architectural project presents an opportunity to honor a particular neighborhood and, at the same time, introduce something new. "We very much believe that architecture should be specific to its location, context, and program, and in this case, 42 Crosby Street could only exist in SoHo. It offers a contemporary interpretation of the neighborhood's cast iron architecture; articulating traditional characteristics such as uniform composition, column and spandrel vocabulary, and prefabricated construction in a highly modern tone with a façade comprised of stainless steel, brushed aluminum, and glass," Selldorf says.



In a bath, floor-to-ceiling windows slide open for a breath of fresh air.

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The bright and airy interiors bring a welcome contrast to the building's industrial exterior. Selldorf explains that this was intentional, and the floor-to-ceiling glass windows even open up, bringing more of the outside in. "The project has an overarching quality of openness and lightness. Designing the façade with glass doors with a Juliet balcony, rather than windows, allows them to open fully and extends and enhances the feeling of openness in the apartments," she says.



A kitchen in a north-facing unit is a gathering spot for cocktails, canapés, or an intimate dinner.

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"There are essentially two plan variations in the building," Selldorf explains. "The north units have a separate kitchen and overlook the courtyard, while the south units have kitchens which are directly connected to the open living and dining area. We imagine that all of the units having a flexibility to accommodate a range of lifestyles for families and individuals who appreciate the specialness of living in SoHo." For an intimate meal in one of the north units, a group of three or four can perch on barstools while another cooks across the kitchen island. The open floor plan of the south units features a kitchen open to the dining space and living area, ideal for hosting larger soirees.



The living and dining area provides a bright, open space for entertaining.

Tim Waltman

Selldorf is especially excited about the presence of greenery in 42 Crosby. Artist Paula Hayes created large-scale terrarium gardens and sculptures, which sit in the building's lobby and bring an organic energy to the clean, modern building. "I think the terrariums are very special and will be a wonderful thing to see every day as you enter and leave the building," Selldorf notes "It's great to have a work of contemporary art that connects to the history of artists living and working in SoHo."