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Best Multi-Disciplinary Design Boutique - New York & Most Innovative NY Apartment Design: Murray Hill Studio Combination



Lilian H Weinreich Architects (LHWA) is a boutique architecture and interior design firm based in New York City with roots in Australia. We profile this innovative practice to find out more.

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ed by Lilian Weinreich, AIA, RAA, LEED AP(BD+C), NCARB, the practice aims to transform ordinary spaces into spectacular and unique environments in the most straightforward, practical, precise, and functional way.

Formal simplicity requires intellectual rigor and aesthetic restraint, which is immediately apparent in each of the firm's projects from the recently completed, award-winning Murray Hill Studio Combination to a range of high-end apartment building, duplex, and townhouse renovations, as well as institutional work. Every Weinreich project is opulent in the clarity of its spatial and functional resolution.

The firm's pure sensibility evolves not from a predetermined architectural style, but rather from the intent to design clean, intelligent, and functional space that operates as a background to what is contained within them. Working with space and light as sculptural materials, Weinreich constructs architecture dramatic in its purity of means. "My aesthetic is entrenched in the modern, using prevailing technology to create leading-edge environments that are simple yet intelligent and sophisticated", Lilian states. "My goal is always to aim for the essence of timelessness and the paramount in design as well as in execution."

Weinreich's symbiotic exchange of ideas with clients results in responsive solutions original to each situation and informed by collaboration throughout the design process. When beginning a new project, LHWA's approach to design is defined by a specific set of criteria: the unique needs of the individual clients and their space; the development of an unequivocal, clean, simple, seamless, and sophisticated background for the programmatic requirements; and the creation of an aesthetically unencumbered environment. The firm's latest project, the Murray Hill Studio Combination, illustrates the inventive ideas that emerge from creative synergy with a client and from the space demands that come from living in New York City, where real estate is at a premium.

In combining two small 450 square foot studio apartments, Weinreich created a smart, flexible, efficient space that can easily adapt to numerous living, entertaining, and working scenarios. Purchasing twenty square foot of public hallway enabled an easy, free-flowing circulation. Despite its modest budget and small scale, the project exhibits a new level of refinement in minimalist spatial resolution using flexible planning principles to create dramatic results.

Sliding translucent panels feature prominently as both partition and connection, offering a variety of interior volumetric possibilities and enabling the passage of light throughout the space. The open loft-like kitchen and island counter is the heart of the space around which the other spaces adjust and converge. The entertainment, living and study areas can transform into three separate bedrooms with two full bathrooms and a laundry closet or a variety of other combinations. Strategically located soffits house recessed panel tracks, while hidden light coves that add volumetric drama.

The entire apartment is designed without swing doors in order to not obstruct the flow nor the openness of space. The sliding doors to the master bathroom enable an otherwise non-compliant bathroom to be handicapped accessible by accommodating the required 5-foot turning radius in the adjacent bedroom space. All closet doors throughout have a dual function as room divider and closet door.

Natural materials, including solid white ash flooring and veined Venetian solid surface material wrap around countertops in the kitchen and master bath, provide touches of neutrals that contrast the apartment's minimal color palette of whites. Large grey porcelain tiles ground the master and guest baths. Cool tones and carefully calibrated light elevate the fully flexible spaces to a crisp, elegant, and urbane home.

Currently, Weinreich is working on several new projects, including two large apartment renovations, one on Park Avenue and the other on Central Park



South; a building in Gramercy Park with duplex units; and a house in Avon, Connecticut. The firm is also exploring new markets, including the design of private jet interiors and commercial projects, where Weinreich's considered design aesthetic and innovative use of sustainable materials can be applied in new and challenging ways.