



**MAR SOLÍS IN ONE OF THE MOST
IMPORTANT PRIVATE ART
COLLECTIONS IN NEW YORK**

Articles recently published about one of the most important private art collections in New York featuring Mar Solis sculpture

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INTERIORS + INSPIRATION

A New York Penthouse by ODA-Architecture

From Claude Monet to Ai Weiwei, a diverse selection of arresting artworks enlivens a Manhattan duplex by ODA-Architecture—with stunning city views to match

TEXT BY [MICHAEL CANNELL](#) · PHOTOGRAPHY BY [ANTHONY COTSIFAS](#) · Posted November 30, 2013 · [Magazine](#)



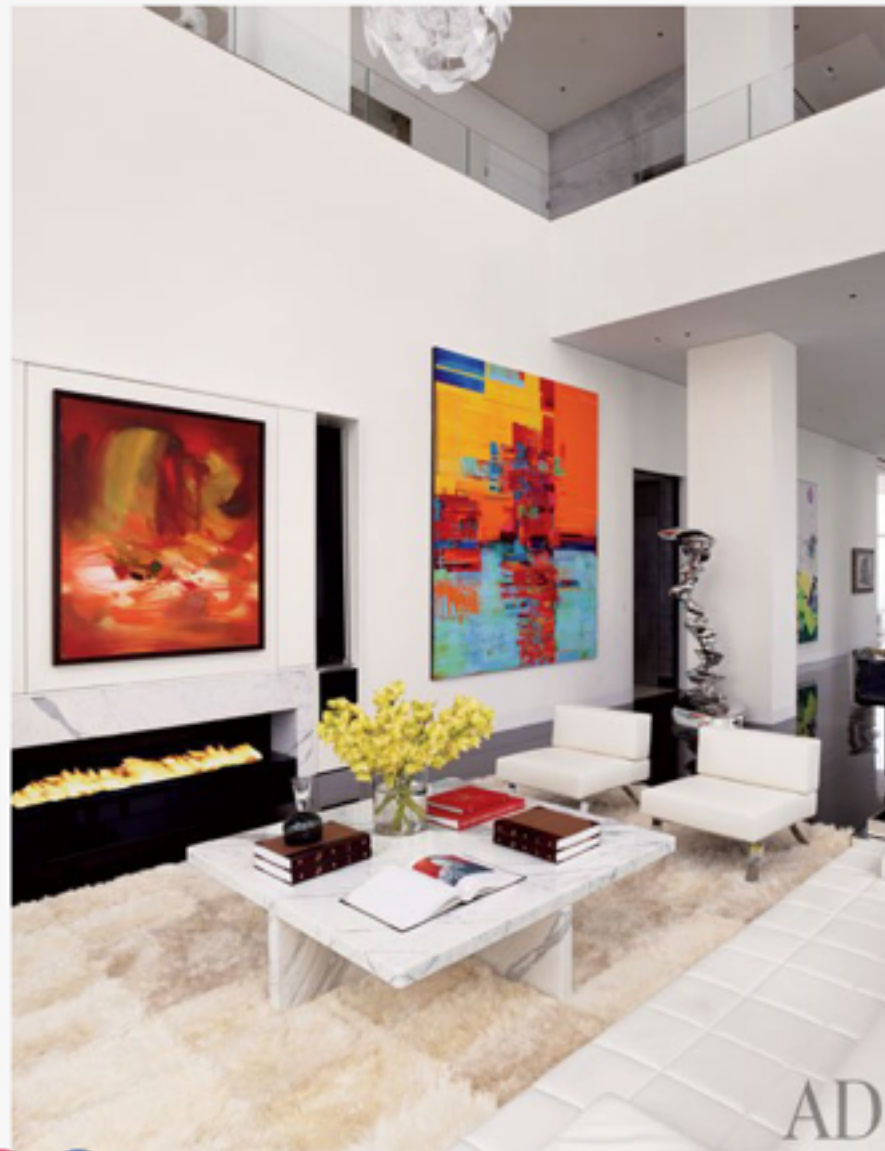
Japanese Teahouse The entrance hall's authentic Japanese teahouse was made by Kohseki Co. in Kyoto; the wall sculpture is by Mar Solis, and the bentwood chair is a Marc Newson design for Cappellini from [DDC](#).

Nothing outshines the view from a New York City penthouse, with stirring scenes of miniaturized landmarks and distant precincts blurring into the horizon. And few vistas are as striking as those offered by this 20,000-square-foot, eight-bedroom duplex perched atop a high-rise. To complement the phenomenal panorama, the owners of the recently renovated apartment installed an eye-catching and wide-ranging art collection, with works by Impressionist masters joining pieces by contemporary talents from across the globe in the crisp, clean-lined setting. The architect charged with gutting and rebuilding the residence, Eran Chen, focused on the connection between the spectacle of the urban landscape and the gallery-like quality of the space. “How both the city and the art were going to be seen and experienced was very important to the rationale of how the home was going to function,” says Chen, who is executive director of the firm [ODA-](#)



Entrance Hall Eran Chen of [ODA-Architecture](#) devised the layout for an expansive family residence in New York City. The entrance hall, conceived as a sculpture garden, features a reflecting pool lined with [Sicis](#) tile and traversed by marble

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Living Room Paintings by Chu Teh-Chun (left) and Nola Zirin animate a living room wall; behind the pair of Cassina lounge chairs is a sculpture by Tony Cragg.

The success of Chen's approach is clear from the start. Just past the apartment's walnut double front doors, the entrance hall is envisioned as a kind of marble-and-limestone garden, where several works by Asian artists—among them a mound of porcelain sunflower seeds by Ai Weiwei, an anthropomorphic bronze statue by Masayuki Nagare, and a Leigh Wen painting of abstracted waves—are stationed like sentries. Nine stepping-stones span a reflecting pool fed by a 32-foot waterfall, a paper-thin sheet of liquid spilling quietly behind a white-onyx stairway lit from within by LEDs. Waiting on the far side of the pool is a full-scale wood-and-rice-paper teahouse constructed in Kyoto and assembled on-site by Japanese craftsmen. "You have to stop whatever you're doing and concentrate on crossing," Chen says. "So unconsciously you have to pause to look at the view, to look at the waterfall, and to understand that there's something ceremonial about entering the living room."

After the hushed procession, the dazzling double-height room comes as a dramatic release. An Italian light fixture of thin polycarbonate panels fills the overhead volume like a twinkling tornado. (The piece lowers for intimate gatherings.) An Angora-goatskin rug appears to float on a dark-stained floor. “Compared to all those polished surfaces, the rug is so soft,” says Ryoko Okada, an ODA principal, “almost like a cloud in the sky.”

The space draws guests around an impressive white marble cocktail table by architect Yutaka Takiura, framed by white Poltrona Frau sofas. The room is also a gathering spot for a number of contemporary artworks, including a vivid, textured painting by Nola Zirin and an undulating mirrored-steel sculpture by Tony Cragg. Overlooking it all from a second-floor mezzanine is a compact lounge area devoted to Salvador Dalí, featuring five of his pieces, ranging from a limited-edition reproduction of a 1937 table design to a 1973 bronze Venus with a giraffe neck.





Library A work by Picasso hangs on the far wall of the library, and to the right stands a bronze by Ju Ming; the sofas are by de Sede.

The apartment's owners hired the Israeli-born Chen after organizing the type of competition one might expect for, say, a major art institution building a new museum. Forty architecture firms pitched proposals to a nine-person selection committee comprising the clients and several family members and friends who work in the fields of art and design. Chen chose not to romance the jurors with depictions of soaring spaces trimmed with fine millwork. Instead he emphasized clear spatial logic: Rooms on the periphery are dominated by the views; interior spaces highlight the artworks. "The idea was to create a fairly open space, modern in its flow, where there would be a constant dialogue or dynamic between the inner house and the perimeter," Chen says.

Completed last year, the penthouse, which the couple share with their children, isn't as simple as Chen makes it sound. For instance, in addition to the teahouse, the design scheme showcases many other subtle Asian references, such as marble walls carved in a delicate bamboo texture and red-lacquer kitchen cabinets. The hallway to the master suite features shoji-style sliding doors, and the wife's bath glimmers with a mother-of-pearl mosaic from Vietnam and a Swarovski blossom chandelier. "It's modern, but with a touch of decorative sweetness," Chen says of the bathroom.

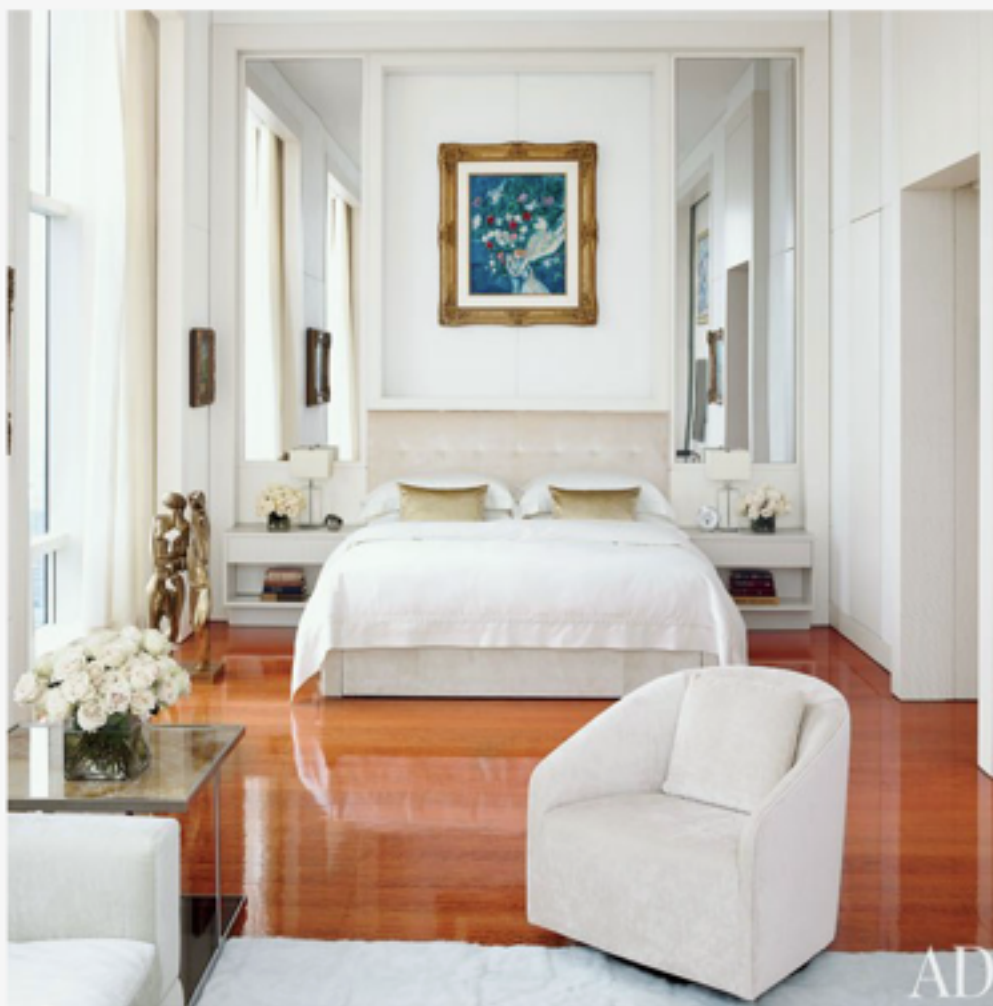
The same could be said of the master bedroom, with its beige linen upholstery offset by the deep amber sheen of movingui-wood flooring finished to a high gloss. The homeowners' most valuable art is confined to these quarters: Hanging over the bed is a Chagall painting of an angel greeting a bride, and a Monet canvas of two fishing boats on a beach graces the sitting area.

By contrast, some of the apartment's spaces offer modern interpretations of British style, as if Mies van der Rohe had redesigned a classic London men's club. The bedrooms cluster around a dark, masculine library with polished-steel ladders that slide along wenge-wood bookshelves. There, the family gathers on the tufted leather chesterfields for homework and television. Like any good club, the residence also contains a cigar den, a private theater, and a well-stocked, barrel-vaulted wine room with a tasting table.

"With the clients, we chose to have different character in different parts of the apartment to express the range of their cultural interests," Chen says. "It's a collection of experiences," he adds. "It's about diversity."



Master Suite A Rodin sculpture presides over a corner of the master suite's sitting area, which also features a painting by Monet and a tabletop bronze by Jean Arp; the sofa, chairs, and tables are by Minotti from DDC.



Master Suite A Chagall painting is mounted above the master suite's bed, which is dressed in [Frette](#) linens; the bronze sculpture at left is by Ossip Zadkine. **



Lounge A billiard table and ceiling lamp, both by [Tresserra Collection](#), anchor the lounge, where a Yigal Ozeri painting (right) hangs against a [Weitzner](#) wall covering; the large canvas is by Oksana Mas, and the small sculpture near the door is

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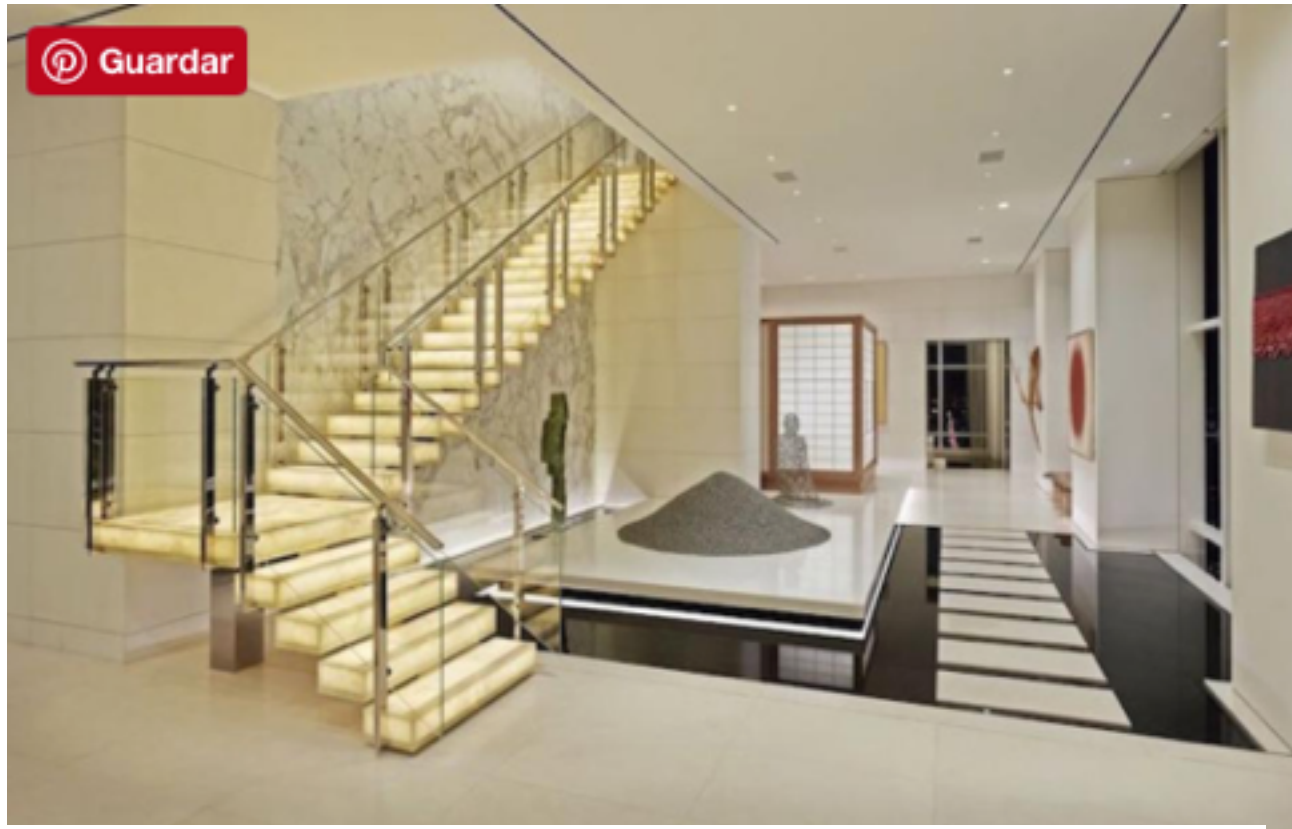
This Billionaire's New York Penthouse Has A 30-Foot Waterfall

By: [Mady Dahlstrom, Porch.com](#)

Rising over Midtown, the Trump World Tower transcends every New York residential skyscraper with 90 stories of gleaming glass looking over protected cityscape views. At the top of this Manhattan high-rise, an [Asian-inspired penthouse](#) boasts six bedrooms and twelve bathrooms at a remarkable 18,000 square feet of open floor area. The architect in charge of renovating the interior of this exceptional residence, Eran Chen, approached this project with modern and minimalist aesthetics in mind. While the residence acts as a gallery for the owner's impressive art collection and a place for entertainment, Chen also harmoniously tailored the home to be warm and livable for the owner and his family. "When you design a private apartment like this, it is all about the people who live here and the tools we have as architects to express who they are," says Chen, the founder and executive director of [ODA New York](#).



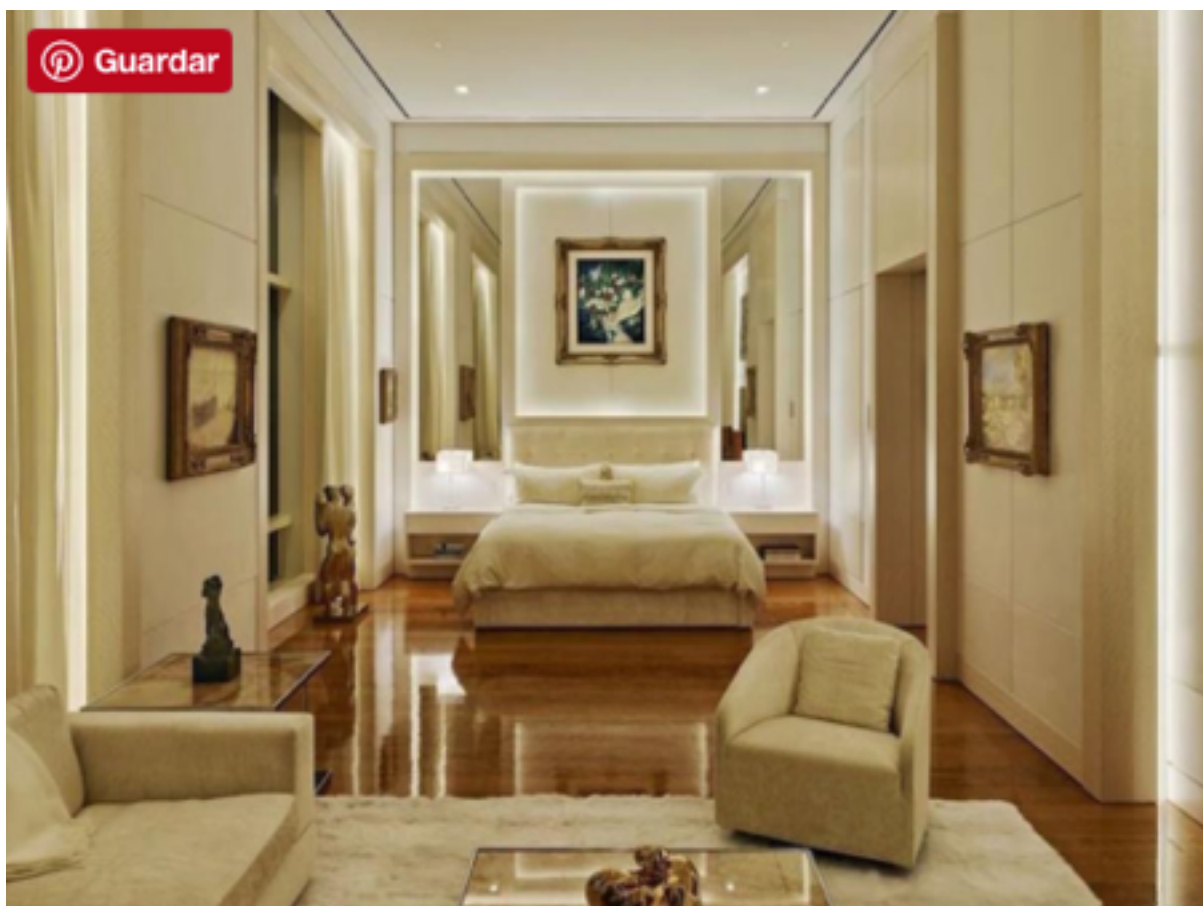
Entering the apartment, guests are greeted with a sculpture garden and views of the East River, Queens, Brooklyn, and the United Nations Headquarters. Chen chose this entrance to reflect what he calls, “a symbol of the gateway, the path this particular family traveled.”



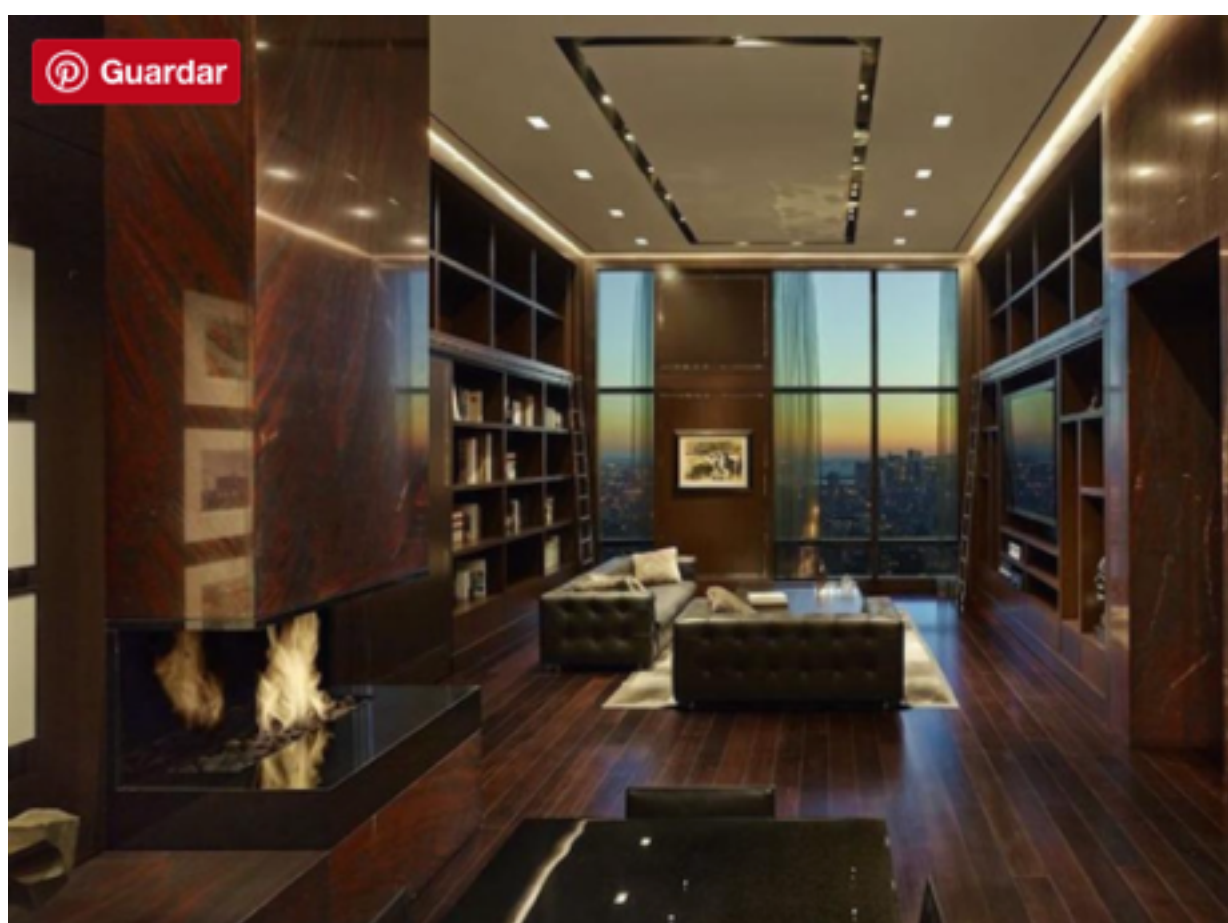
In the living room and lounge, an open design maximizes views and sunlight exposure for a magnificent central seating area. A large goatskin rug complements the wood floors, while a custom designed fireplace made of absolute black granite is paired with a statuary marble mantel surrounding.



The master bedroom is a notable sanctuary, spotlighting comfortable luxury with neutral tones, plush linens, and paintings by Chagall and Monet.



Stepping into the library, a dramatic scene of dark wood and dim lighting is topped off with a red marble fireplace. A massive wine room follows, with storage space of up to 2,000 bottles.



Sprawling views and fine furnishings truly make this deluxe property shine, but the vast collection of artwork integrated into the space is the main ingredient in this home's design. Revolving devices built into the walls allow art pieces to be interchangeable based on the owner's preference.



“The challenge was to express the greatness of the space and the big perspectives that you get, without overwhelming you,” Chen says. From dark woods to crystal chandeliers, the different materials and textures were chosen with precise detail and purpose by Chen and his team. While one side of the apartment is a more private area for the owner and his family, the rest is used for entertaining guests and emphasizing views. “The idea was to create a fairly open space, modern in its flow, where there would be a constant dialogue or dynamic between the inner house and the perimeter,” says Chen.

A BILLIONAIRE'S PENTHOUSE IN NEW YORK BY ODA ARCHITECTURE

By : Dennis Franklin | 7 Jul 2014 6:42 pm | Apartments

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This luxurious penthouse was designed by the ODA Architecture practice to offer the best view possible from the 90th floor of a Manhattan skyscraper overlooking East River through huge double height windows.

The entire penthouse spreads over a surface of 18000 square feet to host all the amenities the inhabitants could wish for in a rich ambiance with large spaces decorated with contemporary paintings and sculptures.

There are six bedrooms, 12 bathrooms, a sculpture garden, a home theater and music room, a small waterfall with a reflecting pool, a teahouse, private spa and gym as well as a wine room with space for 2000 bottles. Access to the penthouse is made through a private elevator to lead into the sculpture garden with floor to ceiling windows and an overview of the United Nations headquarters.

The living area integrates a dining area and an Italian kitchen, each space being carefully detailed and planned to combine minimalism with exquisite materials.



PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RESIDENTIAL
SMALL
/ INTERIORS
COMPLETED

How do we avoid overwhelming when we are tasked to marry an incomparable art collection with 360 degree views of New York City while 72 stories above ground?

We focused the modern and minimalist interior spaces on the artworks, leaving the peripheral rooms to be absorbed by Manhattan views. As one of the largest penthouses in New York, we marry this floating art gallery in the sky with the city's horizon to create an inimitable experience.

Location: Undisclosed

Client: Undisclosed

Size: 18000 SF

Team: Eran Chen, P. Christian Bailey, Ryoko Okada, Yaarit Sharoni, Dongyoung Kim, Kris Levine, Ivan Kam



Manhattan penthouse takes luxury to new heights



KATHERINE CLARKE

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS Thursday, June 12, 2014, 3:53 PM

One wealthy Manhattanite is so rich — and has a penthouse so spacious — that he can even devote a bedroom-sized section to display a pile of dirt.

And the mound — actually an artwork by China's living legend Ai WeiWei — isn't even the most conspicuous of the consumption in the apartment, which was revealed on the website of the architecture firm ODA.

There's a 30-foot waterfall with a reflecting pool, a wine room with more than 2,000 bottles, a private screening room with a Madison Square Garden-esque sound system, a shoe closet that would have made Imelda Marcos pant, and even a spa.

The 90th-floor pad has six bedrooms and 12 bathrooms, captivating city views and a corner living room with a 30-foot ceiling.

Eran Chen of ODA declined to comment on the location of the apartment or identify its owner but it seems likely to be at Trump World Tower, given the view, and it's safe to say this guy is super rich.



This owner is so rich he devotes a whole room to a pile of dirt (ODA)

The pile of dirt — which is comprised of tiny porcelain sunflower seeds designed by WeiWei — sell for \$782,000 a ton, for instance.

The owner auditioned 40 different architects before settling on ODA to design the pad, according to Architectural Digest, which first reported the project.

NEW YORK CITY

How to be a Billionaire, in 14 Easy Decorating Steps

3

BY SPENCER PETERSON | JUN 12, 2014, 1:27PM EDT

Back in November of 2013, *Architectural Digest* treated readers to a tour of the glossy, sterile, 18,000-square-foot Manhattan apartment that **ODA Architecture** had renovated for an unnamed client with an art gallery sensibility and a love for Monets, Dalis, and the like. After careful analysis, Curbed NY came to the conclusion that the palatial penthouse belonged to none other than Blackstone senior managing director **Chinh E. Chu** (estimated net worth: \$1.1B), who in 2007 spent \$33M to acquire the Trump World Tower's 89th floor and half of the 90th. This week, ODA released a batch of photos showing the completely normal, not-at-all insane residence in greater detail. Here now, a photo-heavy guide on how to acquire that art-collecting billionaire look in 14 easy steps, without skimping on the 32-foot interior waterfalls.

1. Put a mound of porcelain sunflower seeds by Ai Weiwei in your entrway.
2. Stage said seed-pile on a platform above a reflecting pool lined with black Murano Glass Mosaic tile and fed by a 32-foot waterfall that flows behind a white-onyx stairway lit by LEDs.
3. Complement your waterfall-Weiwei combo with a kneeling steel figure by Jaume Plensa, a vaguely person-shaped bronze statue by Masayuki Nagare and a Leigh Wen painting of abstracted waves.
4. Affix a boomerang-y wall sculpture by Mar Solis behind it.



49 Photos Inside a Billionaire's Totally Bonkers NYC Penthouse

BY HANA R. ALBERTS | JUN 10, 2014, 3:05PM EDT



[Above, two photos of the double-height living room. Below, 49 photos of the apartment, plus one ginormous floorplan.]

Wow. The more looks we get at it, the more ridiculous this **ODA Architecture-designed 18,000-foot duplex penthouse** on the East Side gets. First there were mere **renderings**, then there was a **12-minute video** with tantalizing pans narrated by ODA's executive director Eran Chan, and now the firm has unleashed 49 photos and a floorplan of the over-the-top residence. The palatial six-bedroom, 12-bathroom pad features, among other things, a **foyer** full-on art gallery and sculpture garden with works by big-name artists, a **30-foot waterfall** and reflecting pool, a zen garden, a teahouse, a game room, a cigar room, a **recording studio**, a screening room, a day spa and gym, and a barrel-vaulted wine cellar that holds **2,000 bottles**.

ODA calls it "**one of the largest apartments in Manhattan...** with 360 degrees views of New York City, housing one of the largest private art collections in the world." The firm hasn't and won't, for privacy reasons name the owner, but a combination of Curbed tipster savvy, prior media reports, and careful analysis of the penthouse's views all point to **Blackstone** Master of the Universe **Chinh E. Chu**, a senior managing director with an **estimated** net worth of \$1.1 billion **who in 2007 spent \$33 million** on the **Trump World Tower's** 89th floor and half of the 90th. A commenter **noted** that he bought out the other half of the 90th floor just to, you know, make it an even two stories. And then ODA was tapped for the renovation, which produced the impressive abode pictured, and video-ed, below.

Step Inside A Billionaire's Incredible Sky-High Manhattan Penthouse



Megan Willett

Dec. 12, 2014, 12:37 PM 556,245

This ultra-luxurious penthouse in Manhattan is the home of an extremely private billionaire.

So private, in fact, we can't even tell you his name.

But we *can* show you inside the 18,000-square-foot apartment, located a whopping 90 stories in the air with 360 degree views of New York City. It was recently redesigned by [ODA Architecture](#), and the pictures are incredible.

The luxurious penthouse contains nearly every amenity you can think of, including a sculpture garden with a 30-foot water wall and reflection pool, a game room, a day spa, and a recording studio, according to ODA.

The penthouse's extensive renovations reportedly took ODA four years to complete.

Jill Comoletti contributed to an earlier version of this post.

[Now step inside this outrageous home »](#)



This place is unreal. ODA Architecture



STEP INSIDE A BILLIONAIRE'S SKY-HIGH MANHATTAN PENTHOUSE

- JILL COMOLETTI
- JUN. 17, 2014, 4:49 PM

SORT BY CATEGORY

- NEW YORK, NY
- WESTCHESTER, NY
- MIAMI, FL

This ultra luxurious penthouse in Manhattan belongs to an extremely private billionaire. The 18,000-square-foot apartment, located a whopping 90 stories high, was recently redesigned by ODA Architecture. It contains nearly every amenity you can think of, including a sculpture garden with a 30-foot water wall and reflection pool, a game room, a day spa, and a recording studio, according to ODA.

The penthouse's extensive renovations reportedly took ODA four years to complete.

[Click here to tour the penthouse »](#)

Read more: <http://www.businessinsider.com/step-inside-a-billionaires-sky-high-manhattan-penthouse-2014-6?op=1#ixzz34zyODfp1>



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Inside a billionaire's luxurious Manhattan penthouse — complete with sculpture garden, spa and theatre

MEGAN WILLET, BUSINESS INSIDER | December 12, 2014 | Last Updated: Jan 24 4:30 PM ET
[More from Business Insider](#)

This ultra-luxurious penthouse in Manhattan is the home of an extremely private billionaire.

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The penthouse's extensive renovations reportedly took ODA four years to complete.



Off of the lobby is a special walled-off meditation room, perfect for yoga or relaxation.

PHOTOS: Have a look inside this billionaire's unbelievable Manhattan penthouse

We'll happily sleep on the pool table.

Dec 20th 2014, 6:30 PM  51,703 Views  70 Comments

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THIS ULTRA-LUXURIOUS penthouse in Manhattan is the home of an extremely private billionaire.

So private, in fact, that we can't even tell you his name.

But we can give you a little tour of the 18,00 square foot apartment, 90 stories up, and with 360-degree views of New York City.

It was recently redesigned by ODA Architecture, and reportedly took them four years to complete.

The luxurious penthouse has almost every amenity you could think of, including a sculpture garden with reflection pool, a game room, a day spa, and a recording studio.



MISC

Take a Tour of a Secretive Billionaire’s Rumored \$440M New York Penthouse [PHOTOS]



By Editorial Staff [Twitter](#) [Email](#)

Posted on December 16, 2014

If you ever wanted to know what it looks like inside the home of a billionaire, now you do.

An incredible penthouse in Manhattan, New York is occupied by a very secretive and private billionaire. [National Post](#), who originally reported the story, can’t even give out his name — but hey, at least we know it’s a “he.”

The 18,000 square-foot apartment is located 90 stories in the air and features full 360-degree views of New York City. ODA Architecture was recently commissioned to redesign the place and took a total of four years to complete the job. As you can see in the pictures below, the finished product is jaw-dropping.

The price of the penthouse isn’t publicly listed, but is rumored to be around \$440 million. At that price, you can bet it has literally every amenity known to man. According to the ODA, the penthouse includes a 30-foot water wall and reflection pool, a game room, a day spa, a recording studio, and a sculpture garden.



Step inside a billionaire's sky-high Manhattan penthouse

Home includes sculpture garden with a 30-foot water wall and reflection pool, game room, spa

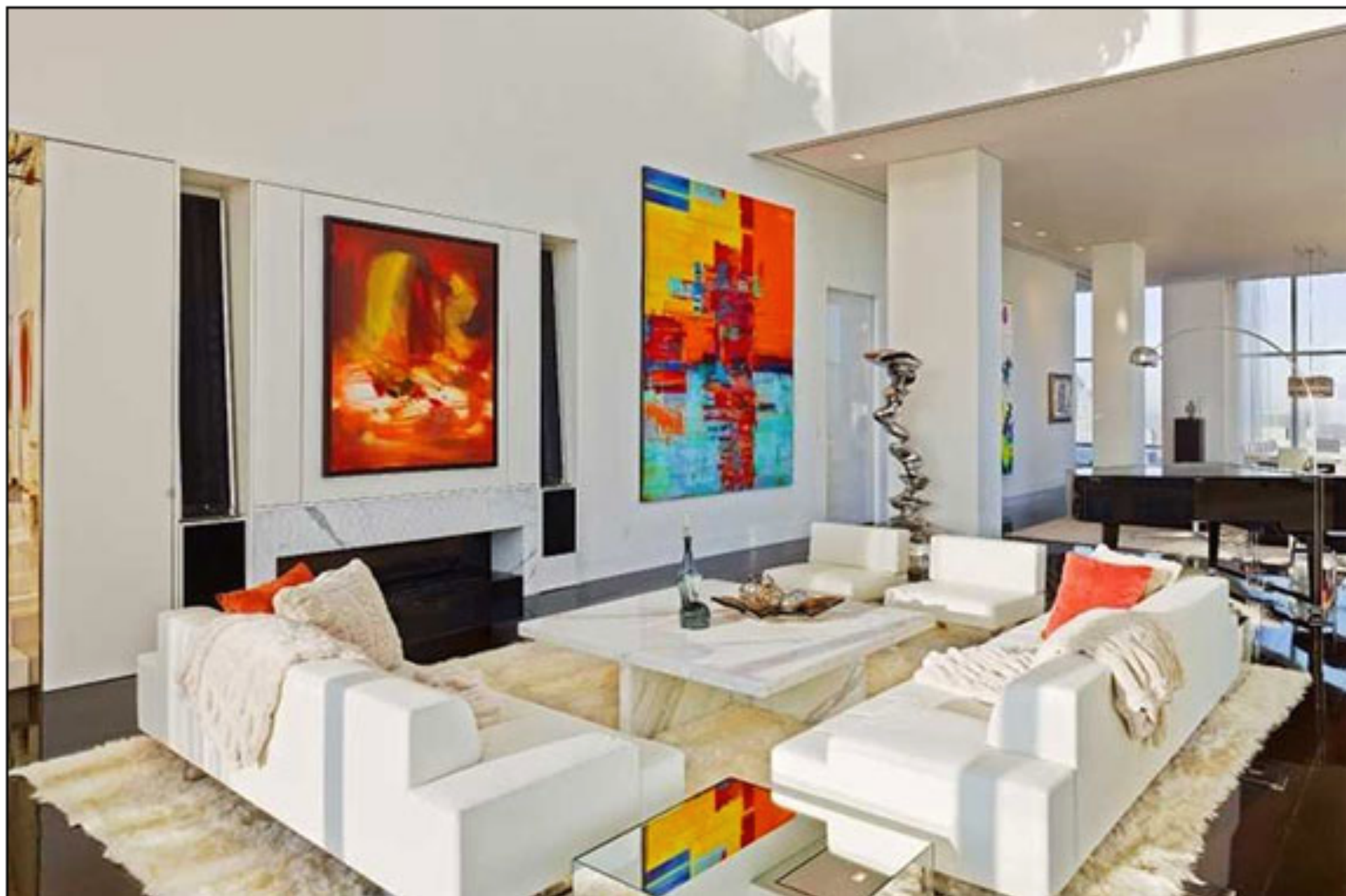
June 17, 2014 06:10PM
By *Business Insider*

This ultra luxurious penthouse in Manhattan belongs to an extremely private billionaire.

The 18,000-square-foot apartment, located a whopping 90 stories high, was recently redesigned by ODA Architecture. It contains nearly every amenity you can think of, including a sculpture garden with a 30-foot water wall and reflection pool, a game room, a day spa, and a recording studio, according to ODA.

The penthouse's extensive renovations reportedly took ODA four years to complete.

[Click here to tour the penthouse »](#)

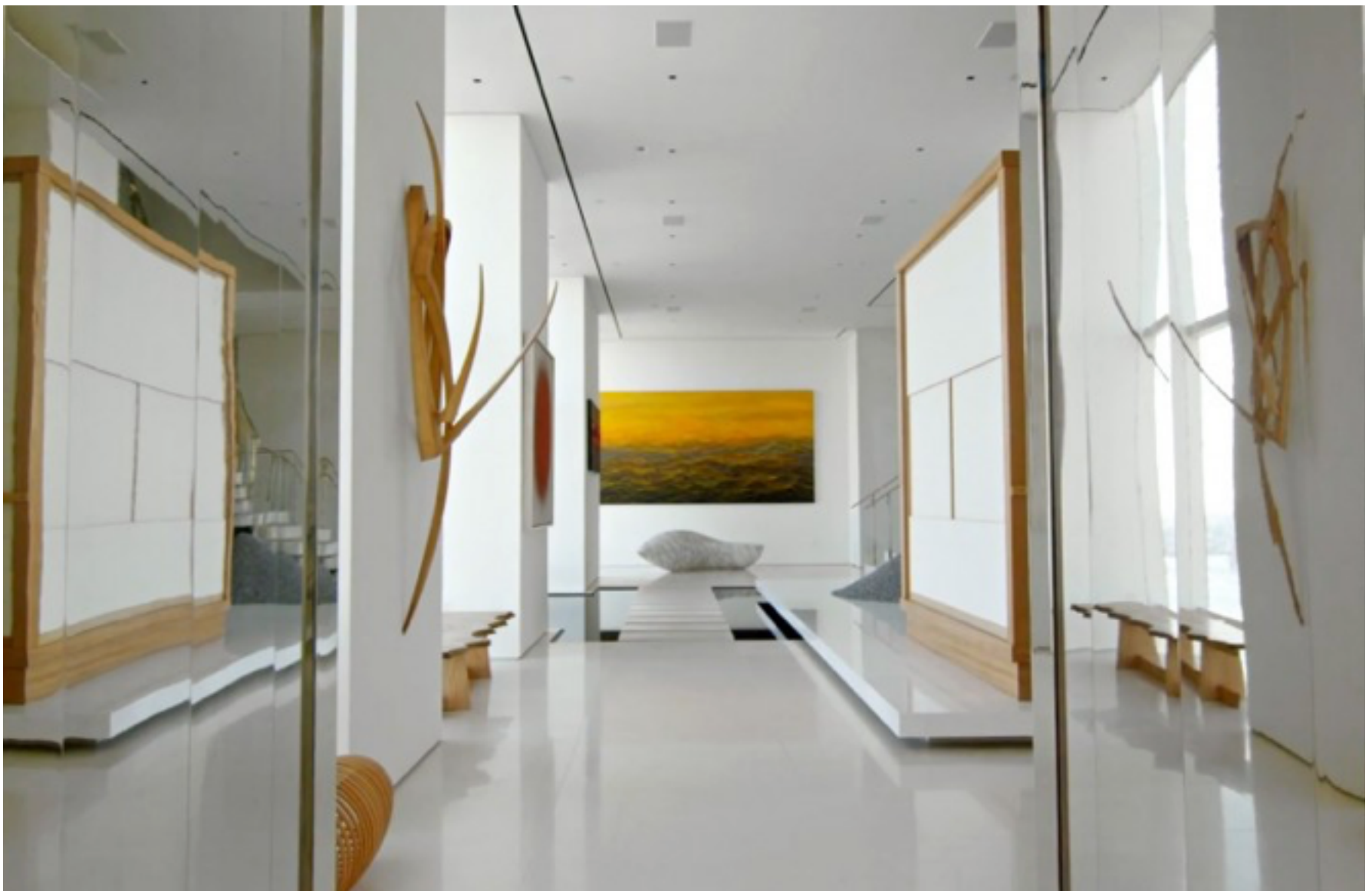


The Penthouse by ODA Architecture

BY ADMIN • JUL 15, 2014 • **SELECTED WORK**

New York City-based studio **ODA Architecture** was selected to create the interior for one of the largest private apartment in the Big Apple.

Located 90 stories above **Manhattan** overlooking the East River, the luxury 6 bedroom, 12 Bathroom condominium boasts 360° views within 18,000 square feet of open floor area!



The Penthouse by ODA Architecture:

"With a perimeter of 16' foot floor- to-ceiling windows, the essence of the apartment is the sculpture garden at its entrance.

The garden features a spectacular 30' water wall and reflecting pool overlooking the famed United Nations headquarters along the East River. This superlative dwelling also features a 75' expanse of living and dining area along with a Italian kitchen, library, game room, day spa, home theater and professional grade listening room with recording studio.

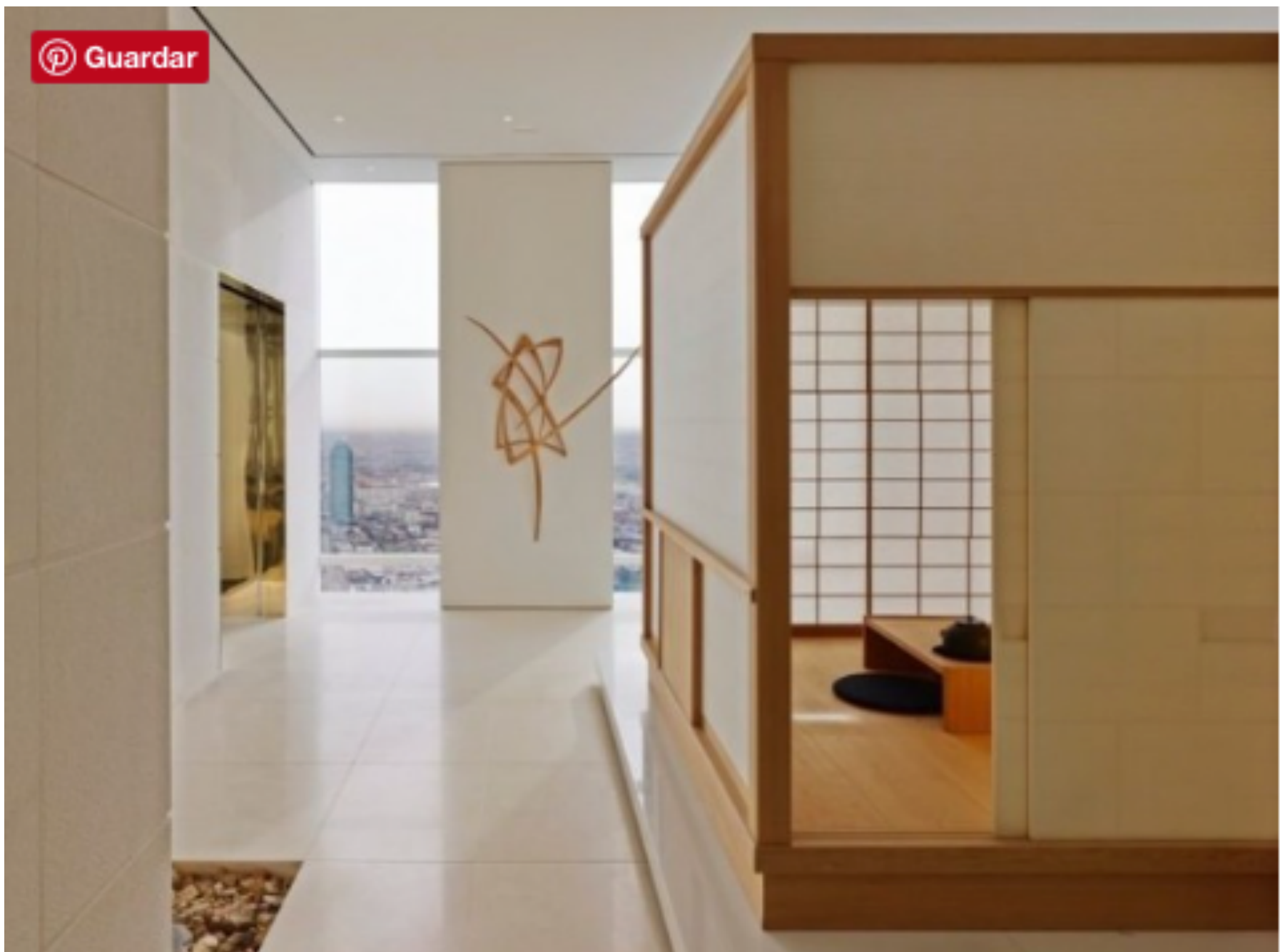
Seemingly without limitation, every feature from the façade to the interior is meticulously planned and detailed with a modern and minimalist approach using only the most pristine of materials creating a unique and exceptional setting to rival."



Ultra Luxury Design: A Billionaire's Penthouse In New York

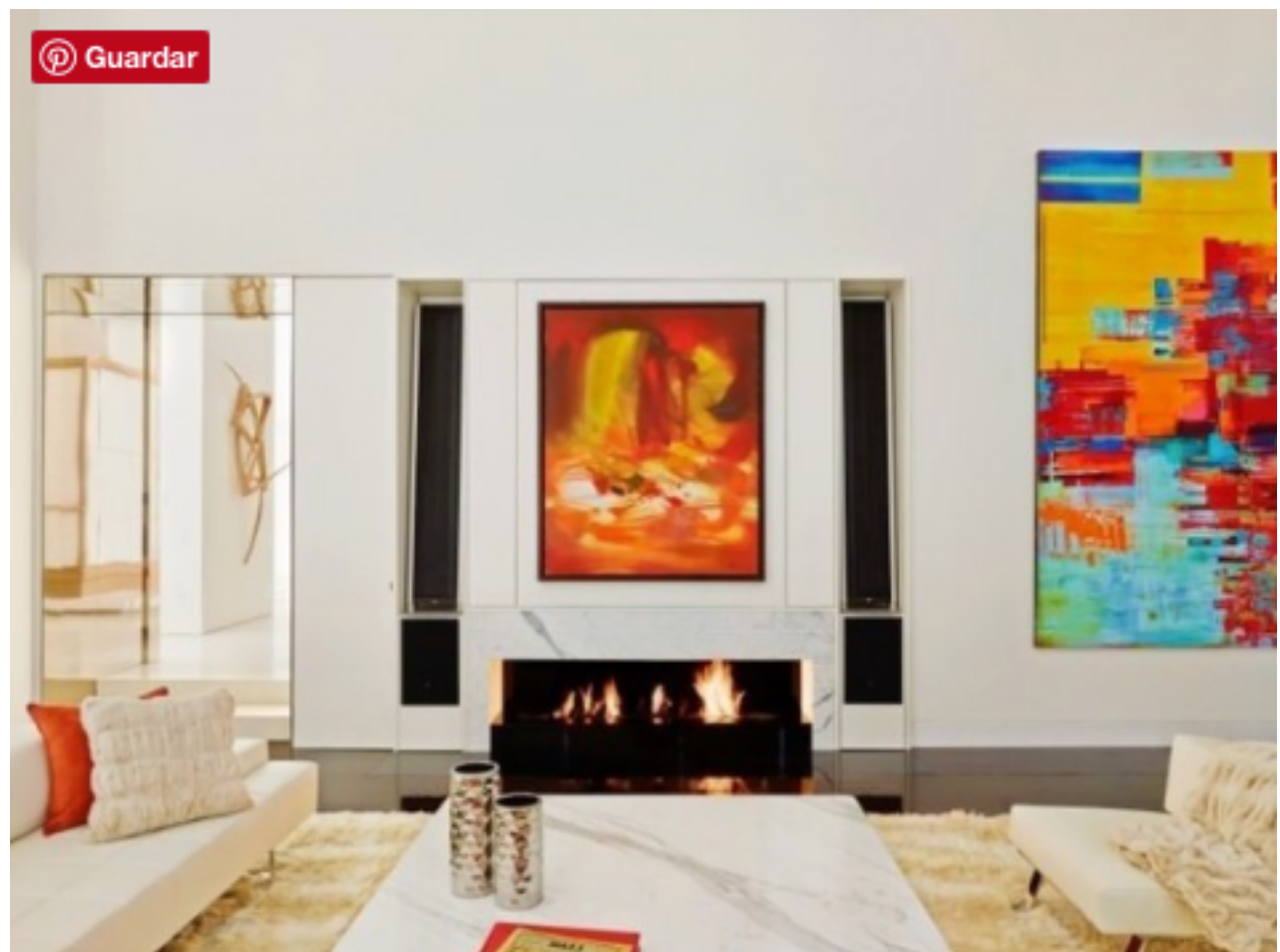
[Curbed](#) has the scoop on what appears to be a true 1% home - an 18,000 square foot behemoth that looms 90 stories above Manhattan overlooking the East River. Designed by [ODA](#)

[Architecture](#), this luxury abode boasts of 6 bedrooms, 12 bathrooms, sculpture garden, theater and music room, 30' waterfall with reflecting pool, private spa and gym, teahouse, private elevator and a 2,000-bottle wine room. Due to the private nature of the project not all these features are shown in the photographs released but we are pretty sure the coverage below won't disappoint you.





With a perimeter of 16' foot floor- to-ceiling windows, the essence of the apartment is the sculpture **garden** at its entrance. The garden features a spectacular 30' water wall and reflecting pool overlooking the famed United Nations headquarters along the East River. This superlative dwelling also features a 75' expanse of living and **dining** area along with a Italian **kitchen**, library, game room, day spa, home theater and professional grade listening room with recording **studio**. Seemingly without limitation, every feature from the façade to the interior is meticulously planned and detailed with a modern and minimalist approach using only the most pristine of materials creating a unique and exceptional setting to rival.



Whose home is it? We are not sure but do **hop over** if you want to see some educated guesses.



Home → Design → Decorating → Design 101

16 Rooms in a Mind-Blowing NYC Penthouse

The 90th-floor duplex penthouse, designed by ODA Architecture, has six bedrooms, 12 baths, 18,000 square feet and an endless array of amenities.

By: Mina Hochberg

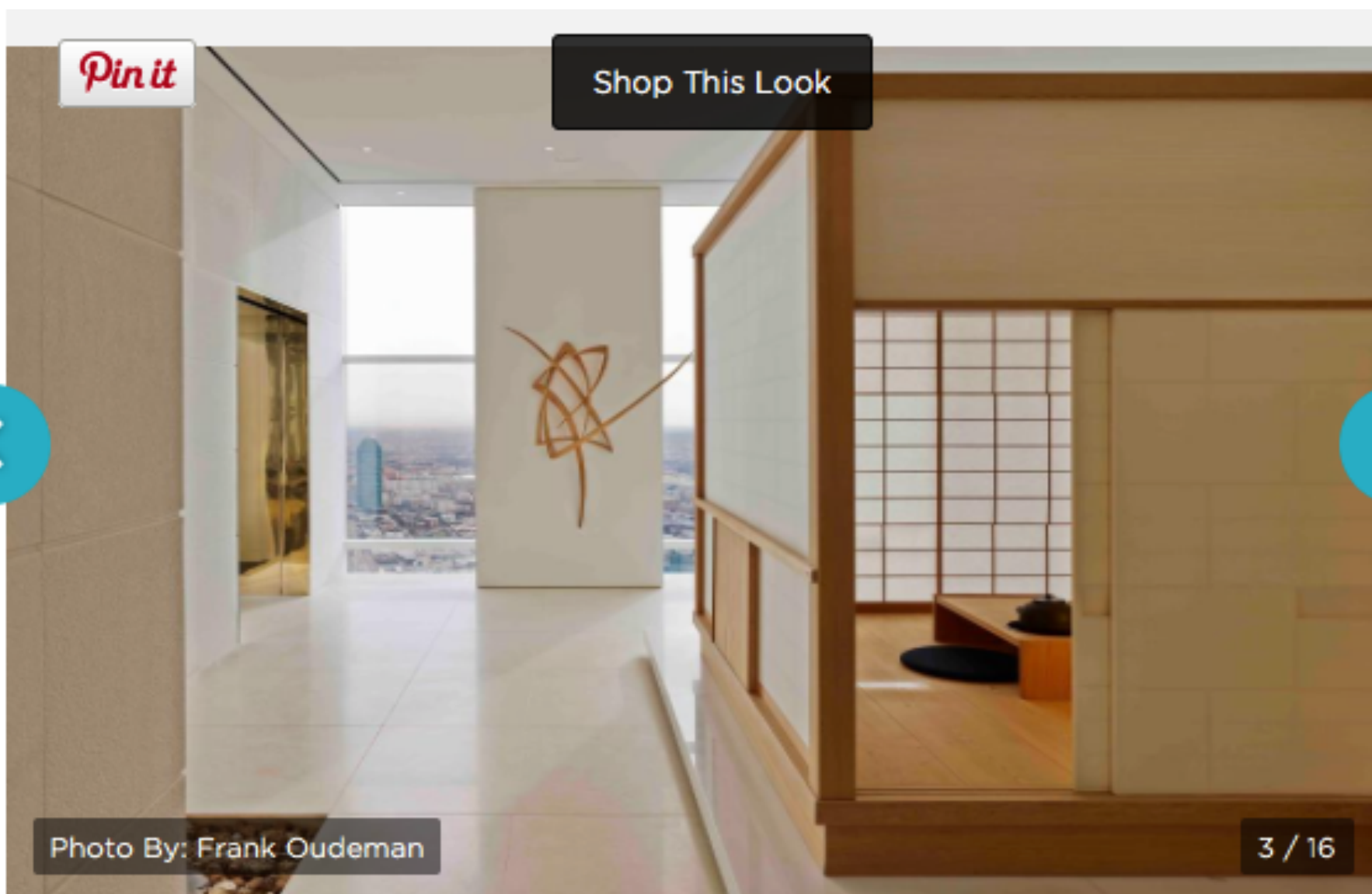
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Photo By: Frank Oudeman

3 / 16

Teahouse

The teahouse, made of wood and rice paper, is located just off the Zen garden.

HOME > APARTMENTS

Breathtaking Opulence: Posh New York City Penthouse Leaves You Awestruck

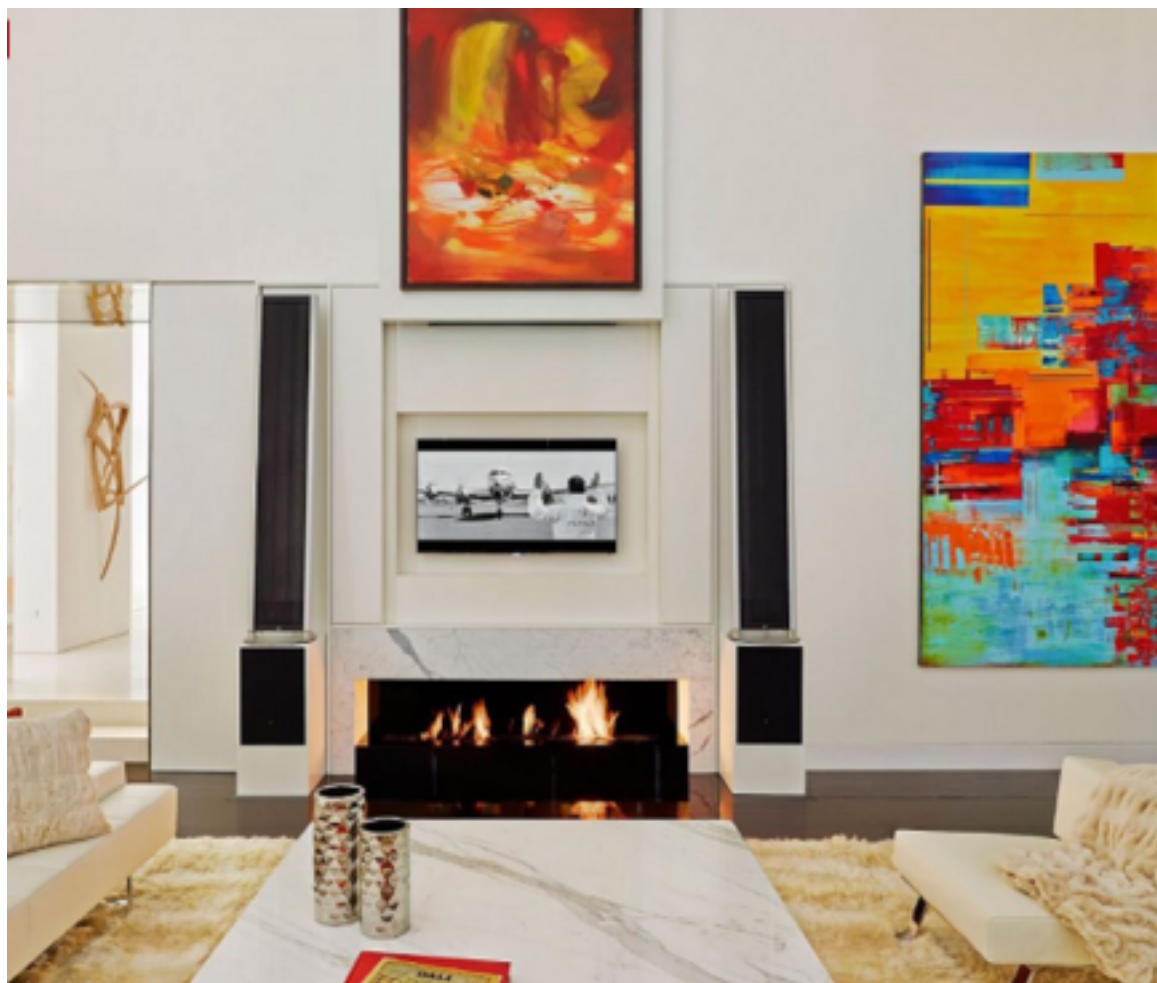
by Sherry Nothingam

Sharing Creative Space

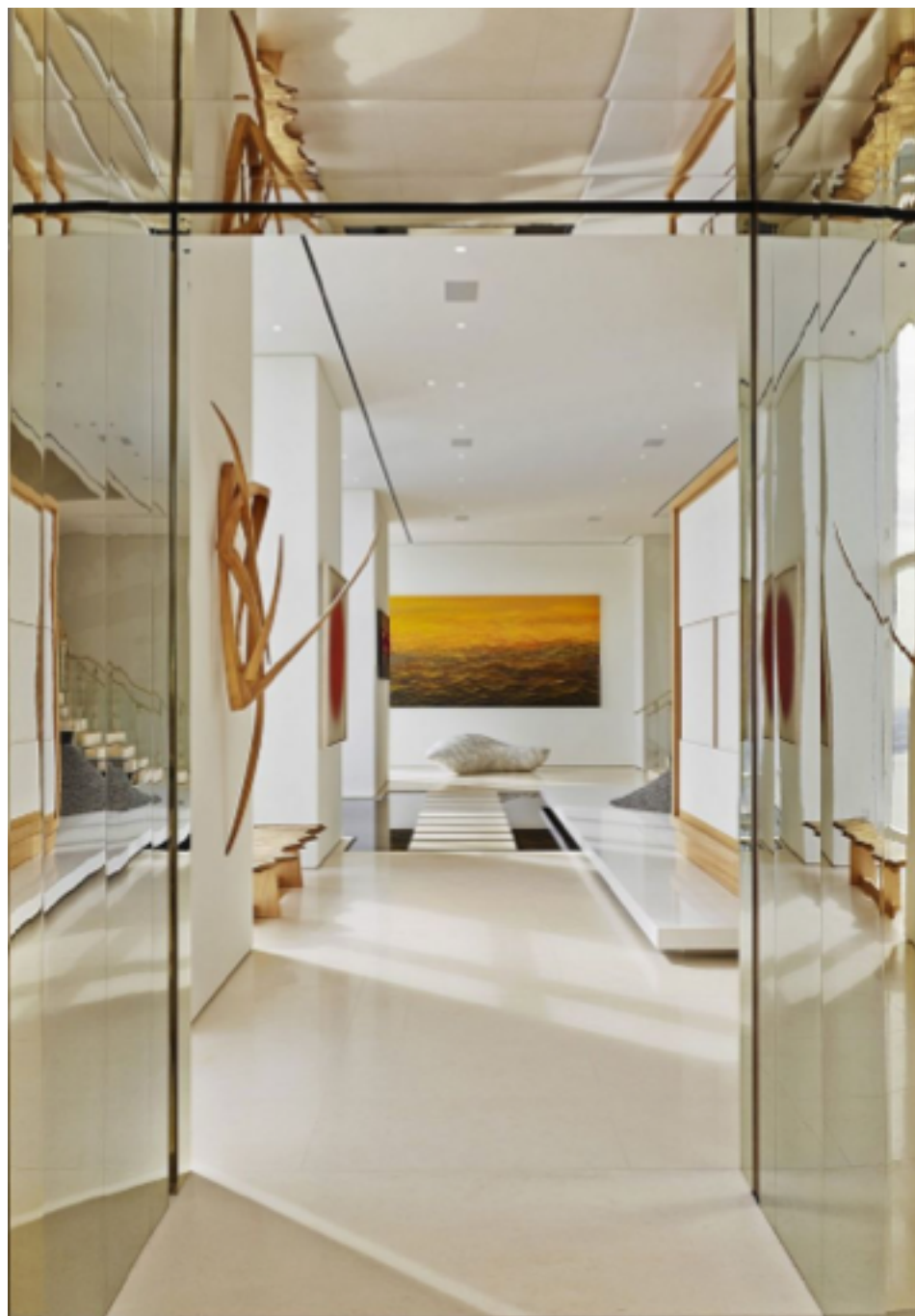
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The definition of a dream home is definitely different for different folks. Some might just prefer the solitude of a mountain retreat overlooking a lush green canopy and the gentle stream. Others may opt for a stunning hub draped in contemporary goodness. But an awesome penthouse sitting on the 90th floor of a **Manhattan** skyscraper and offering 360° views of the city and its iconic skyline is a proposition few among us would ever refuse! Barring a chance of falling asleep on the couch staring at the dazzling lights of the Eiffel Tower, **Private Residence I** could very well be the dream apartment for those who adore urban brilliance.



One of the largest private apartments in all of New York City and arguably the best in terms of the views that it offers, this penthouse was crafted with immaculate style by [ODA Architecture](#). Spread across *18,000 square feet*, the multi-level apartment contains a private elevator, a sculpture garden, home theater, music room, private spa, gym, teahouse and a 2000-bottle wine cellar as well! Of course, all this is in addition to a mesmerizing living room with 16' foot floor- to-ceiling windows, a world-class kitchen (which might be a touch too red for our liking), an amazing dining space, 6 bedrooms and 12 bathrooms. Being among the best in New York City, one would expect nothing less!



Another splendid feature of the apartment is its expansive art collection that adds class, color and tasteful panache to each and every room. A wide range of textures and finishes ensures that every room inside the penthouse has a personality and aura of its own. And to top it all off, you have the 30' water wall and reflecting pool at the entrance that offers a bird's-eye view of the UN headquarters. When it comes to sheer grandeur and opulence, it would be hard to find another NYC apartment that comes close!



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The Penthouse by ODA Architecture

Architects: [ODA Architecture](#)

Location: [Manhattan, New York City, USA](#)

Area: 18,000 sqft

Photo courtesy: ODA

Description:

ODA was selected to create the interior for one of the largest private apartment residences in the United States. Located 90 stories above Manhattan overlooking the East River, the luxury condominium boasts 360° views within 18,000 square feet of open floor area.

With a perimeter of 16' foot floor-to-ceiling windows, the essence of the apartment is the sculpture garden at its entrance. The garden features a spectacular 30' water wall and reflecting pool overlooking the famed United Nations headquarters along the East River. This superlative dwelling also features a 75' expanse of living and dining area along with a Italian kitchen, library, game room, day spa, home theater and professional grade listening room with recording studio. Seemingly without limitation, every feature from the façade to the interior is meticulously planned and detailed with a modern and minimalist approach using only the most pristine of materials creating a unique and exceptional setting to rival.



Once in a lifetime - luxury New York penthouse

By [Sarah Swain](#)

You can tell this apartment, dubbed The Penthouse, is going to be something unforgettable from the first moment you step out of the private lift. The foyer boasts a Zen garden with a reflecting pool that mirrors the East River below. Tip-toe across the stepping stones, beside a sculpture comprising a heap of porcelain sunflower seeds by renowned artist Ai Weiwei, and look over to the waterfall that gently flows down a 30ft slab of marble. Don't miss the nearby Japanese tea house from Kyoto, which glows like a lantern come dark. Continue walking and you'll reach one of the main living areas, with its towering 16ft windows overlooking Manhattan, and Luceplan chandelier, and you'll be knocked back by the 360-degree vistas.

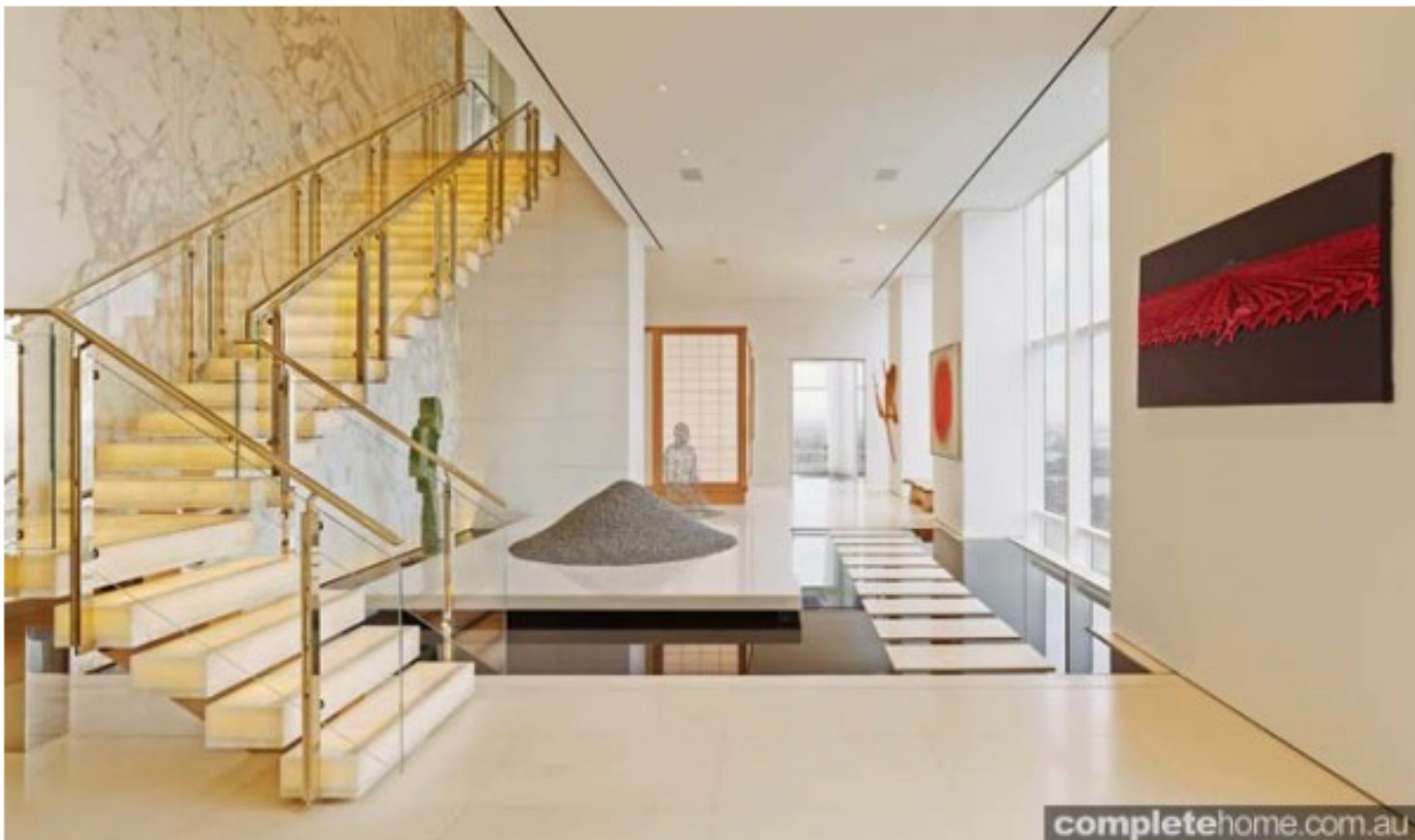


This home – which is also a place to display priceless artworks by the likes of Monet, Dali and Rodin – is not so much a home as a sublime, luxurious and opulent creation that has captured the attention of the media around the world.

Even the New York Post reported it "takes luxury to new heights", and said the owner – apparently banking billionaire Chinh E. Chu, who snapped up the 89th and 90th floors of the lavish Trump World Tower to create it – "auditioned" 40 architects before hiring ODA Architecture.

"This apartment is one of the largest in Manhattan," says ODA executive director Eran Chen. "It's totally open from 360 degrees to the views of New York City. Add to that one of the largest private art collections in the world – on the 90th floor."

Creating a home in a space so epic was a challenge for Eran and his team, but they came up with a reasonably simple solution: "What we decided to do was literally divide the apartment into two parts that connected via a main spine. The southern part is the private residence. The other is the entertainment section that includes listening room, wine room, cigar room, lounges, and a projection room. The challenge was to express the greatness of the space and the big perspectives that you get, without overwhelming you."



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However, Eran maintains it was approached as any other project. "It's quite a rare opportunity to be able to design a home like this with the richness and scale of the art, furniture, materials and everything else that went into it. At the end of the day, even with something as remarkable as this, we approached it as we do every project. It's all about the people who live here and the tools that we have as architects to express who they are."

For more information
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Originally from Home Design magazine Volume 17 Issue 6

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