

# Architect in Residence

Soho Mews unveils the Charles Gwathmey Residence, a model apartment uniquely designed from top-to-bottom by the architect



This open plan is reminiscent of Soho's historic lofts. Here, a ceiling height of 10-plus feet, enormous windows and Mafi Vulcano oak floors contribute to the effect.

**A**n architect does not often execute his vision for a residence at all levels—at the macro, through building design, and at the micro with furniture, decorative objects and artwork—though special exceptions certainly exist. Celebrated architect Charles Gwathmey of Gwathmey Siegel & Associates Architects recently designed a model residence for Soho Mews, an elegant residential development in Soho's Cast Iron Historic District, over which he had creative control. The Gwathmey model residence is the architect's interior concept for Soho Mews realized, and has been met with great public interest following his passing this year.

Charles Gwathmey grew up in Manhattan, just bordering Soho. He witnessed the transformation of the neighborhood,

from the arrival of galleries and artists to the introduction of loft-living, a concept born in the area. Drawing inspiration from the loft concept, which centers upon open space and the orientation of rooms in non-traditional layouts, Gwathmey created a modern invention of a classic aesthetic. Now complete, Soho Mews is both contemporary and historically compatible.

Upon entering the three-bedroom Gwathmey model, the eye immediately travels around a pleasingly curved wall—a signature of the architect—and into the large living space. Soft brown and off-white fabrics are contrasted by three contemporary prints, carefully selected by the local art gallery, Deitch Projects, for their electric splashes of blue, pink and



The large open kitchen, perfect for entertaining, features Gwathmey Siegel custom-designed Valcucine cabinetry and fully integrated appliances.



A bedroom, staged by Gwathmey as an office, offers built-in custom cabinetry and plenty of natural light.

yellow. Hans Wegner's famous three-legged chair, a 1963 Danish Modernist design, serves as a focal point for the classically arranged seating area. Pillows covered in barely-there taupe zebra stripes add a touch of whimsy to the clean, geometric sofa.

Gwathmey's love of the neighborhood is a key ingredient in the design. The living room's floor-to-ceiling windows frame a view that can only be described as classic Soho: below, cobblestone Wooster Street; at eye level, red brick buildings dotted with fire escapes and planted window boxes. Large industrial skylights on a nearby rooftop reflect the sun at varying angles. The effect is engaging and serene.

The kitchen, open to the living area, boasts Gwathmey Siegel custom-designed Valcucine cabinetry of striated elm and smoked glass, Jet Mist granite and Sub-Zero, Miele and Gaggenau stainless steel appliances. Airy chrome barstools by Italian designer Harry Bertoia bridge living and cooking spaces.

A bedroom, staged by Gwathmey as an office, is outfitted with custom white lacquer cabinetry and high bookshelves. Though framed photographs and a central desk remain within a black and white palette, colorful fashion books dot the shelves, and a very red armchair—the 1935 design of Gerrit T. Rietveld—is clearly the biggest personality in the room. ♦



Soho Mews is set amidst cobblestone streets and classic red brick buildings in Soho's Cast Iron Historic District.