

JANE IDZI presents

The High End™

Insights Into Extraordinary Living

*Where to Buy
Around the World*

*Catering for
Your Private Jet*

Jane Idzi • Keller Williams Elite Dallas-Park Cities • 214.522.7997 • jane@idzi.com • www.idzi.com



MAKING THE GRADE

This New York City firm designed a former Oprah Winfrey penthouse and was selected to rebrand Tiffany and Co. for Asia.

By Alexa Rozzi

Interior design duo Thomas Hickey and Edward Yedid are redefining what it means for the whole to be greater than the sum of its parts.

Their holistic approach to architecture and design blends the two disciplines in a way that considers a space in its entirety — from the structure and layout of an area to the furniture, materials and furnishings that adorn it. The result is a design space that functions in harmony with the individual elements within, making the “whole” an extension of the style and luxury exuded from each individual part.

“We are thinking of every component of the project so that a room is both consistent and has a continuity in how you experience the space,” says Hickey.

“We consider everything as one, not just a certain aspect of the building or a piece of furniture. We ask, ‘How are people going to use it? How will they live in it?’” adds Yedid. “The product becomes more seamless in the end.”

Hickey and Yedid are the founders behind GRADE, a multidisciplinary, New York City-based architecture and interior design firm. The GRADE approach takes a critical look at the visions and goals of each client, where curating a lifestyle through design aligns with creating stimulating contemporary aesthetics.

The GRADE portfolio hosts a list of different projects, ranging from high-end residential spaces to luxury retailers



Thomas Hickey (left) and Edward Yedid



Bell Book & Candle



A renovation and design project at a condo in New York City's St. Tropez combines Hollywood glamour and Upper East Side flare.

and restaurants, as well as a custom furniture line. Projects include the redesign of Oprah Winfrey's former Upper East Side penthouse and the rebranding of the iconic Tiffany and Co. for the Asian market, in addition to their work on a multitude of high-end homes in cities across the U.S., in Brazil, Shanghai and beyond.

“Our global experience expands our reference points and provides us with a broader exposure to materials, details, luxurious spaces and current design,” says Hickey.

Hickey and Yedid combine this global perspective with a youthful mindset to provide design solutions that are relatable and livable, yet edgy and cool. They applied this approach through their design of Bell Book & Candle, a New York City restaurant in Manhattan's West Village.

Exposed brick, a textured barrel-vaulted ceiling, tailored millwork and warm lighting helped create an environment reflective of the rustic nature of the farm-to-table movement

behind Bell Book & Candle cuisine. Farm-to-table became roof-to-table with the design of an award-winning, aeroponic rooftop tower garden, where chefs could grow fresh herbs, fruits and vegetables.

“In the concrete jungle that is Manhattan, residents crave green space and a connection to nature, and they also realize the importance of fresh, seasonal, hyper-local ingredients. It gives greater meaning to their meal in more ways than one,” says Yedid.

Hickey and Yedid are currently working with custom patterns, an element that will help maintain continuity throughout GRADE designs.

Defined by what both call a distillation of the past, Hickey and Yedid look at classic solutions and refine them to their purest form. A modernization of traditional methods and elements, along with a multidisciplinary philosophy, creates synergy between architecture and design, introducing a clean and timeless look to the design space.



The Club Chair: The interplay of quality materials like wood, fabric, leather and lacquer is a signature of the GRADE Furniture Collection.

Design tips from GRADE:

Hickey and Yedid share 5 easy ways to infuse a fresh, contemporary look into any space in your home.

- 1 Keep it simple:** “Get rid of anything unnecessary and get rid of the excess. That alone will make your space feel fresher.” – EY
- 2 Make decisions:** “Be objective about the space you're designing. Be logical and edit down the ornamental elements.” – TH
- 3 Value a pure design:** “Don't be a pack rat. When making design decisions, try not to let your emotional attachment make the decisions for you.” – TH
- 4 Find purpose:** “Create your space to have reason. Create a concept or goals for your project and anything that doesn't help meet that goal shouldn't be included.” – EY
- 5 Design responsibly:** “Focus on bold, timeless design. You don't want to renovate or rebuild every year or two. Bring in pieces that withstand time and are dynamic, yet comforting so the space doesn't become a showroom.” – TH