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The Tribeca Loft BY GRADE ARCHITECTURE · DESIGN / PHOTO Francis Dzikowski

GRADE Architecture & Interior Design

EDWARD YEDID AND THOMAS HICKEY EXCEL AT DESIGNING A
"CAPTIVATING SPACE FOR ENTERTAINING"

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photos Francis Dzikowski + Michael Weber*





The Tribeca Loft

The New York City loft, which used to be an artist's studio, is three floors consisting of a media room, salon, as well as living room, dining room and master bathroom. The living room and dining room area exemplify a superb confluence of light and texture within a black and white palette. Light from pre-existing skylights strikes against ebonized wood floors and mahogany door frames painted black. Breaking from the apartment's stark black and white motif, the kitchen's design exudes a sense of softness and warmth, flowing over into the adjacent dining area. A combination of Makassar ebony and white glass cabinets and white Caesar stone countertops lend this room a delicate, almost ethereal quality. Wood beams and exposed brick were left in their original condition to juxtapose otherwise tailored elements like ebonized oak floors and the GRADE custom designed and stained cerused white oak media unit.

“The challenge was to take a loft that was originally designed for entertaining and transform it into a home for family living.” EDWARD YEDID, PRINCIPAL

When interior designer Edward Yedid’s close college friend Marc Ravner asked him for help with renovating his family’s Tribeca loft, he immediately said yes. This original favor among friends turned into a full-on involvement of GRADE, the architecture and interior design firm led by Yedid and his business partner, Thomas Hickey. Hickey, Yedid’s former studio professor at Parsons School of Design, founded GRADE in 2001. After graduating in 2003, Yedid seized the opportunity to join the firm in 2004 and quickly became a partner.

Collaborating on every aspect as they do with all their projects, Yedid and Hickey began by renovating the top two floors of the Tribeca Loft. “The clients asked us to design a place where they could hang out after a night out – after the club, after hours,” Yedid says. “They wanted a captivating space for entertaining.” The overall design of the loft was to be “cool and sexy,” he says. Incorporating the clients’ love of black and white was also key.

This year, after the Ravner’s had their second child, a third floor was added, making the overall residence span over 7,000 square feet. “The challenge was to take a loft that was originally designed for entertaining and transform it into a home for family living,” says Yedid.

The initial emphasis on entertainment is not new to the building. The Tribeca Loft is part of a condominium that used to house Tribeca’s famous underground nightclub, The Mudd Club. In fact, Ravner is a principal at Magnum Real Estate Group, and it was his choice to turn the location of this subversive club into a condominium that includes his family’s multi-floor home.

Occupying the top three floors, the Tribeca Loft used to be an artist’s studio. In its newly renovated state, it still retains traces of this former locale. The living room, for example, includes a painting by the artist who used to work within precisely these creative walls.





The first room when you enter the loft serves multiple purposes. For one, it is a circulation room for visitors to transition to the larger salon. More than that, it is also a Media Room. Hickey and Yedid designed a custom stained media unit, including a hidden pocket for a screen. This way, the room can tastefully serve as both family room and home theater (when the screen is down).

In addition to the media unit, Hickey and Yedid are particularly proud of the dining table and the glass coffee table, both of which they also custom designed. The composition in the master bathroom, including a floating bathtub, is another favorite of theirs. Here, in the master bathroom, they resorted to grigio carnico, an Italian marble that fits in perfectly with the black and white theme that characterizes the loft throughout.

Overall, the Tribeca Loft is more than representative of Hickey and Yedid's working style. "The approach we have to design is a rather traditional process of research and analysis of precedence," says Hickey. "Through this process, we translate

our research in to a modern vision resulting in a design solution that is grounded and personal to each client." As such, the final product also corresponds to the lifestyles of their clients. "Sexy, fresh and clean," is the running leitmotif of their designs, says Hickey.

As for the future of GRADE, Yedid hints that their next project might be a hotel. "Between doing high-end residential homes, luxury retail, restaurants and different public spaces, we would like to bring that all together in a hotel," he says. A hotel, he feels "will exhibit all of our strengths in one space."

But Yedid and Hickey will not yet reveal where that space will be. Though GRADE is based in Manhattan, the firm has clients all over the world. "I think our global exposure is starting to connect in a lot of different markets," says Hickey. "We have projects in South America, India, U.A.E., Turkey, East Asia. We haven't had Japan yet, but we've been told that's where we need to go next." ■

