

# INTERIOR DESIGN<sup>®</sup>

MAY  
2023

resi-on-high



## HEADLINERS



### Jouin Manku

"Maiden Voyage," page 114

**ceo:** Patrick Jouin.

**ceo:** Sanjit Manku.

**firm site:** Paris.

**firm size:** 50 architects and designers.

**current projects:** La Mamounia hotel in Marrakech, Morocco; Van Cleef & Arpels in Seoul, South Korea.

**honors:** Interior Design Best of Year Award.

**early days:** Jouin's first design job was with Philippe Starck and Manku's with Yabu Pushelberg.

**nowadays:** Both express themselves through drawing, Jouin using red notebooks and Manku black.

[jouinmanku.com](http://jouinmanku.com)

### Ramy Fischler Studio

"The Rules of the Game," page 156

**principal:** Ramy Fischler.

**firm site:** Paris.

**firm size:** 41 architects and designers.

**current projects:** A penthouse in Paris; residences in Beaulieu-sur-Mer and Vexin Français Regional Natural Park, France.

**honors:** Maison&Objet Designer of the Year; Ordre des Arts et des Lettres; Laureate of the Académie de France à Rome.

**foreign exchange:** Born in Belgium, Fischer is a graduate of Paris's ENSCI-Les Ateliers.

**passing the torch:** Aware of the importance of mentoring the next generation, he was director of studies there for several years.

[rfstudio.fr](http://rfstudio.fr)



### OHLab

"Made in the Shade," page 124

**cofounder, director:** Paloma Hernaiz.

**cofounder, director:** Jaime Oliver.

**firm site:** Palma de Mallorca, Spain.

**firm size:** 18 architects and designers.

**current projects:** Residences, a jewelry store, and a yoga retreat in Mallorca; Casa Cabrera Hotel on La Palma, Canary Islands.

**honors:** Interior Design Best of Year Awards; World Architecture Festival Prize.

**work:** OHLab also has offices in Madrid and New York.

**play:** Hernaiz is eager to explore new destinations and cultures, while Oliver is drawn to sailing the Mediterranean.

[ohlab.net](http://ohlab.net)



### Sawyer|Berson

"Putting on a Show," page 146

**partner:** Brian Sawyer, AIA.

**partner:** John Berson, AIA.

**firm site:** New York.

**firm size:** 30 architects and designers.

**current projects:** Residences in New York, Southampton, and Bermuda.

**master gardener:** Sawyer has a collection of some 1,000 rare orchids.

**mvp:** Berson was captain of the Princeton University fencing team.

[sawyerberson.com](http://sawyerberson.com)



### Geddes Ulinskas Architects

"In the Heights," page 106

**principal:** Geddes Ulinskas, AIA.

**firm site:** San Francisco.

**firm size:** Seven architects and designers.

**current projects:** A synagogue in San Francisco; residences in Los Angeles and Honolulu.

**honors:** San Francisco 2023 Decorator Showcase Staircase Award.

**then:** Born in the Philippines, Ulinskas was originally drawn to a career as a commercial artist.

**now:** He remains an avid watercolorist, unsurprisingly since he comes from a family of illustrators.

[ularch.com](http://ularch.com)



FROM TOP: STEPHAN JULLIARD; ADRIEN DIRAND; JOSÉ HEVIA

FROM TOP: JOHN HUBA; SLAVA BLAZER

text: **edie cohen**  
photography: **manolo yllera**

# in the heights

*The renovation of a San Francisco house by Shamir Shah Design and Geddes Ulinskas Architects does full justice to the property's elevated position*



**Shamir Shah Design has left its signature imprint** all over the Manhattan residential map. So much so that when a sophisticated, world-traveled couple visited a lower Park Avenue loft principal Shamir Shah had created for friends, the pair was determined to bring the designer West—specifically to San Francisco, where a recently purchased Pacific Heights house was in need of a gut renovation. “All the things he did—art, furniture, textures, textiles, scale—spoke to each other,” the wife says of what initially attracted them to Shah’s distinctive style. An ensuing dinner party established that designer and clients had mutual respect and the right chemistry—prescient planning since the project took six years to complete, thanks to COVID erupting during the construction phase.

“We do interiors and architectural design,” Shah says of his practice, “mostly in New York, where we generally don’t work with an architect on smaller residential projects.” Thousands of miles away, San Francisco’s infamously labyrinthine permitting process presented another story: “We needed a local architect to shepherd the renovation through the building department, take charge of the house’s core and shell, and work in a truly collaborative spirit.” Enter Geddes Ulinskas Architects. In a flip of the usual procedure, it was the designer who brought on the architect after diligently interviewing three other prospects. “We enhanced each other’s roles,” principal Geddes Ulinskas reports, lauding the thoroughness of Shah’s drawings. “He produced a brilliant package that was a fantastic way of communicating and transmitting his passion for the project to the entire team.”

The house, originally a 4,000-square-foot, three-level, wood-sided structure dating to 1947, was lackluster in design and substandard in construction. What it did have was location. At an elevation of 340 feet, the



**Previous spread:** In the art-filled living room of a San Francisco house renovated by Shamir Shah Design and Geddes Ulinskas Architects, a pair of Todd Merrill Custom Originals standard back-tufted sofas flank a custom bronze-framed cocktail table by Shamir Shah, all backdropped by a Max Neumann painting.

**Opposite:** Nearby, Charles Kalpakian’s Crescent loveseat and Luca Boto’s Dep armchair gather round the travertine fireplace while, outside, a Dylan Lewis bronze arches above the terrace’s shallow pool.

**Top, from left:** The living room’s Katherine Hogan wire sculpture and Kevin Walz daybed. The kitchen’s sintered stone countertops, backsplash, and floor. The oak stairs curling around the ash-clad elevator core. **Bottom:** In the entry, Niahm Barry’s Vessel sconce and Carole Egan’s hand-carved walnut shelf face a custom chaise below a Daniel Crews-Chubb painting and a Terrarium pendant fixture by Lindsey Adelman Studio.



site offers panoramic views of San Francisco Bay. And in a city given to a mélange of residential styles, the property was located in a cul-de-sac of pedigree modernist houses by Gardner Dailey, Joseph Esherick, and William Wurster. In fact, the enclave is up for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Technically a renovation, the project was essentially a new build that encompassed seismic upgrades, new framing and fenestration, a reconfigured floor plan, and the addition of a penthouse, which increased the interior to 6,500 square feet. The envelope was also transformed to make a statement. An arrangement of blocklike volumes centered round a patinated bronze-clad front door, it’s sheathed in Accoya—a type ➤





"In general, our work is quiet and serene, with a rich, layered approach"

**Top:** Matthew Brandt photographs enliven the dining room, where Lindsey Adelman Studio's Catch chandelier hangs above a Tyler Hays trestle table. **Center:** Geddes Ulinskas Architects added a penthouse to the residence and sheathed the cubic volumes in two shades of shou sugi ban—charred Accoya, an acetylated-pine siding. **Bottom:** Malcolm Hill's site-specific, mixed-media mural presides over the media room's custom sofa and Vladimir Kagan Wysiwyg armchairs. **Opposite:** In the penthouse, Eva Menz's Regolith pendant fixture and Niels Otto Møller's chairs serve Ferruccio Laviani's UFO table, while a pair of Bruno Moinard L'île d'elle sconces bookend a commissioned Aaron Wexler painting. ➤



of acetylated-pine siding—finished in two shades of *shou sugi ban* charring, which creates an intriguing chiaroscuro effect. The idea was the owners'. "We'd just come from Japan and seen amazing materials," the wife explains. "I didn't want cedar or anything difficult to maintain."

"For planning we listened to the clients," Shah reveals. "They even lived there while we were working so they could get to know the light." The new layout pinwheels from the central core, a graceful stair wrapping around an elevator to accommodate the wife's 90-year-old mother. From there, ground-floor spaces fall naturally in place. The living room is situated along the north side to take advantage of an existing fireplace and terrace, transformed into a shallow pool with a bronze sculpture at its center. Along the south side, also with a patio, lies the dining room and, in the east corner where daylight is sparse, the media room. A diminutive office is tucked into the connector hall between the two spaces. The kitchen, located just behind the staircase, is designed for the wife. A top-notch cook who entertains frequently, she detailed storage needs down to a pair of appliance "garages" that avoid even a speck of clutter. Though the rooms can be closed off via double or pocket doors, "All the spaces flow, making it easy for guests to circulate," Shah notes.

The second level is given over to private quarters: the main suite, two bedrooms, one doubling as a larger office, and a sitting room. The penthouse, which opens to a roof deck, is designated as a game room while more things recreational—a gym and a capacious wine cellar—join two additional bedrooms, a laundry, and a mudroom in the basement.

"In general, our work is quiet and serene," Shah says of the furnishings and materials, which are frequently custom and used plentifully "for a rich, layered approach." Pale creams and grays dominate the color palette,



**Opposite:** The main bedroom is an oasis of calm outfitted with Bruno Moinard Apora armchairs, a velvet-upholstered custom bed, cerused-ash millwork, and Stardust Silk vinyl wallcovering.

**Top, from left:** The earthquake-resistant, 1,800-bottle wine cellar. Heated cast-stone furniture and a Lionel Smit sculpture on the south terrace. A Paul Balmer commissioned painting, Antonio Citterio's Michel Club sectional, and vintage teak armchairs in the penthouse.

**Bottom:** A third bedroom doubles as an office, its Erickson Aesthetics EÆ lounge chair joined by three Caste Design Powell tables and a custom convertible sofa sporting a vintage Kuba cloth.

**PROJECT TEAM**

**NELY CUZO; CAILEN MESSERSMITH; OLIVIA MANZANO; WENDY WAHLERT:** SHAMIR SHAH DESIGN. **ALLA AGAFONOV; ROMA OLIŠAUSKAITĖ:** GEDDES ULINSKAS ARCHITECTS. **LUTSKO ASSOCIATES** LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS: LANDSCAPE CONSULTANT. **JON BRODY STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS:** STRUCTURAL ENGINEER. **MATAROZZI PELSINGER BUILDERS:** GENERAL CONTRACTOR.

**PROJECT SOURCES**

**FROM FRONT** TODD MERRILL STUDIO: CUSTOM SOFAS (LIVING ROOM). **THROUGH FAIR:** FLOOR LAMP. **THROUGH RALPH PUCCI INTERNATIONAL:** DAYBED. **THROUGH GALERIE BSL:** LOVESEAT. **LA CIVIDINA:** ARMCHAIR. **ARGOSY DESIGNS:** CUSTOM PEDESTAL. **WOVEN:** CUSTOM RUGS (LIVING ROOM, MEDIA ROOM). **NEOLITH:** SINTERED STONE (KITCHEN). **HOLLY HUNT:** SCONCES (STAIR), CHAIRS (DINING ROOM), ARMCHAIRS (MEDIA ROOM). **THROUGH MAISON GERARD:** SCONCE, SHELF (ENTRY). **LINDSEY ADELMAN STUDIO:** PENDANT FIXTURE (ENTRY), CHANDELIER (DINING ROOM). **BDDW:** TABLE (DINING ROOM). **CHRIS FRENCH METAL:** CUSTOM FRONT DOOR (EXTERIOR). **AMUNEAL:** CUSTOM COFFEE TABLE (MEDIA ROOM). **EMMEMOBILI:** TABLE (PENTHOUSE). **DWR:** CHAIRS. **GARDE:** PENDANT FIXTURE. **PHILLIP JEFFRIES:** WALLCOVERING (BEDROOM). **BRUNO MOINARD ÉDITIONS:** ARMCHAIRS (BEDROOM), SCONCES (PENTHOUSE). **B&B ITALIA:** SECTIONAL (PENTHOUSE). **GALANTER & JONES:** SEATING (TERRACE). **ERICKSON AESTHETICS:** CHAIR (OFFICE). **CASTE DESIGN:** TABLES. **THROUGHOUT SACCO:** CUSTOM RUGS. **RESAWN TIMBER CO.:** ACCOYA SIDING. **AMARI:** WINDOWS. **BENJAMIN MOORE & CO.:** PAINT.

while bronze is the metal of choice. A characteristic vignette centers on the living room fireplace, which is surrounded by planes of travertine and flanked by a pair of oak-lined niches with custom bronze pedestals topped by Ju Ming sculptures, part of the family's art collection.

"We wanted large walls for art," Shah continues. Whether existing, purchased, or commissioned, the pieces were curated by the designer. An impressive Max Neumann canvas, one of the first works acquired and a Shah favorite, anchors the living room. A pair of Julian Watts stained-maple bas-reliefs adorn the adjoining wall, across from which hangs a Katherine Hogan wire sculpture, a ghostly presence reminiscent of the late San Francisco artist Ruth Asawa's iconic pieces. Arguably closest to home is the commissioned site-specific mixed-media work spanning a media-room wall. Made of canvas, burlap, rope, and wood, it's by Malcolm Hill, Shah's life partner. 🍷

