





Whether admiring beautiful Miami Beach homes as a child on his 45-minute bus ride to school or infusing a client's Upper West Side apartment with a liberal dash of Paris, Mario Egozi has always viewed architecture as a transformative experience.

For Egozi, this has meant everything from using blue hues to recall varying shades of the sea, to deploying particular wood grains to convey the feel of a garden, to using a singular entry doorknob to welcome a visitor into a home full of circular and curving motifs.

Creating such an experience takes time and discourse with the client. A sole practitioner since founding his firm in 1982, Egozi limits his work to one to two projects a year, giving him ample opportunity to take a client through the process that can begin with choosing the real estate and concludes with choosing furnishings and other finishes.

"If someone is hiring an architect, they have their own fantasy. An engaged client will make for a more successful project," said Egozi, who says he wanted to be an architect as far back as junior high school. "Entrusting me to build your home is an enormous decision in my mind. But I like the responsibility of being an architect. It's a bit audacious to design a building that's in the public domain."

Which is not to say the Egozi relishes in the indulgent. The sailing enthusiast, who's done most of his work in either New York City, the Northeast, or South Florida, has long been fascinated by how boats are designed to maximize space efficiency.

"We are not sculptors, we are architects, and by profession, we are here to build for a purpose, not as an abstraction," Egozi said. "Without purposeful functionality, the project fails. There's rarely a reason to compromise function."

With that in mind, Egozi tries to preach a less-can-be-more ethos. Egozi, who splits time between New York and his native South Florida, is also a proponent of using local materials whenever possible in the name of sustainability.

"Homes built today are too large. We need way less than we think we do, and my mission is to at least have that conversation," Egozi said. "It is easy to design large where the premium of space is not considered. Efficient design, compact and well organized, is more difficult. We need to learn to live with less."





Joseph Vance Architects | Photograph by Nikiko Kikuyama

# NW NEW VIEW

Twenty Magnificent Homes  
by Northeast Architects

Beth Buckley

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Foreword by Anne Decker  
Introduction by Brian Mac

A Curated Visual Gallery



morris adjimi

ed barnhart

bruce beinfeld

thomas catalano

anne decker

stuart diston & joshua rosensweig

mario egozi

allison ewing

marcus gleysteen

gale goff

robert gurney

pierre-henri hoppenot

caleb johnson

sussan lari

brian mac

brian mann

nick martin

peter paulos

travis price

joseph vance

Mario Egozi

Mario Egozi Architect





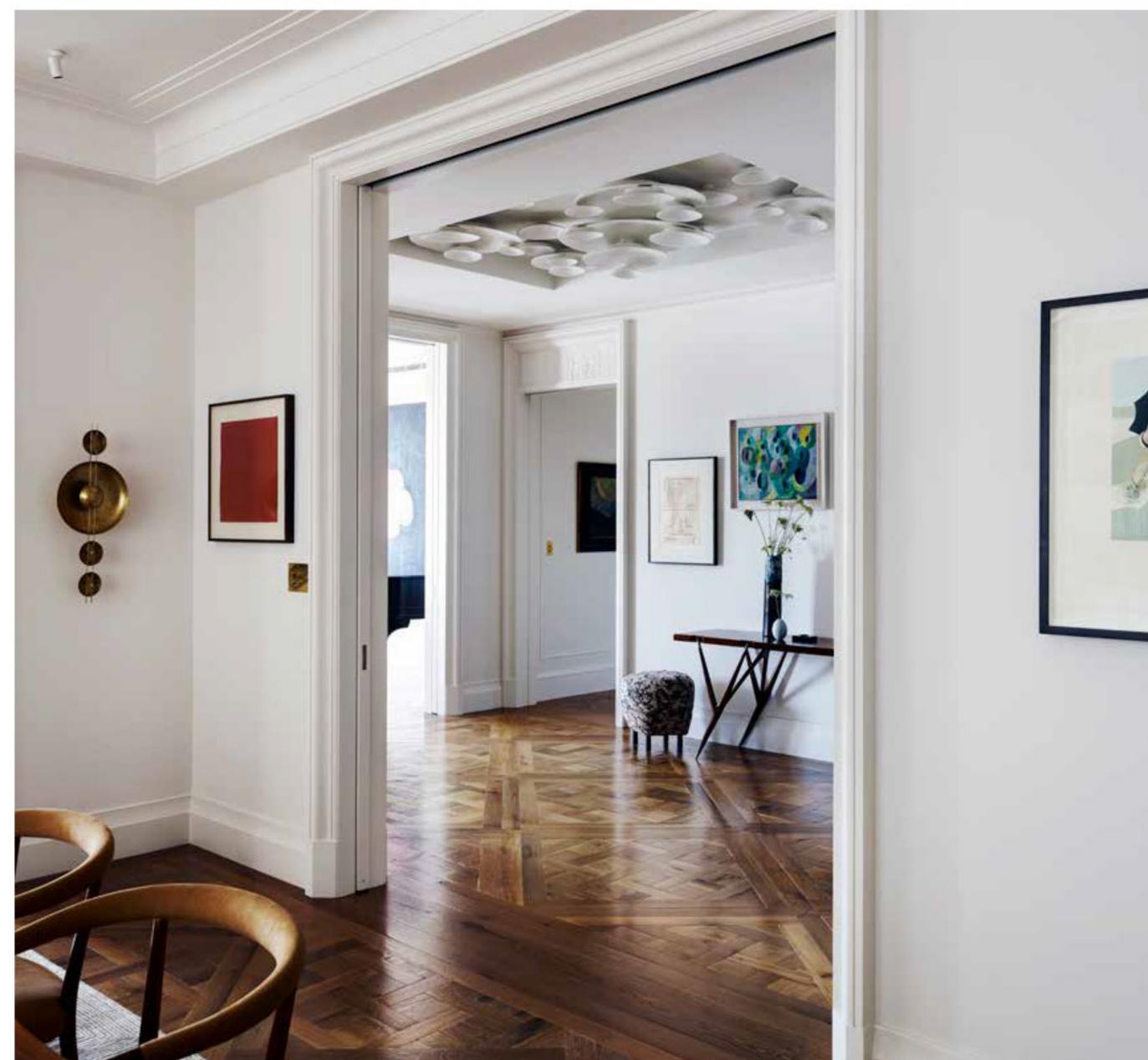
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— Mario Egozi







Still, Egozi, who says he's also inspired by Brazilian residential architecture and its integration of wood with glass, concrete, or steel, has embraced his own evolution toward taking a progressively bolder design approach, whether it be using furnishings and color motifs to play off a client's artwork or integrating particular spatial themes throughout an abode.

Case in point is the aforementioned Manhattan apartment. Taking his client's fondness for her Paris apartment into account, Egozi aimed to interpret how a Parisian apartment would feel if it were located on New York City's Central Park West.

With that in mind, Egozi stripped the 3,600-square-foot space down to its steel beams and concrete, laid down parquet flooring, and built in plaster moldings and fixtures throughout the home. Egozi also deployed five different shades of white on the interior walls in order to accentuate the pops of color from the furniture and artwork. The three-bedroom, three-and-a-half bathroom project was completed in 2021.

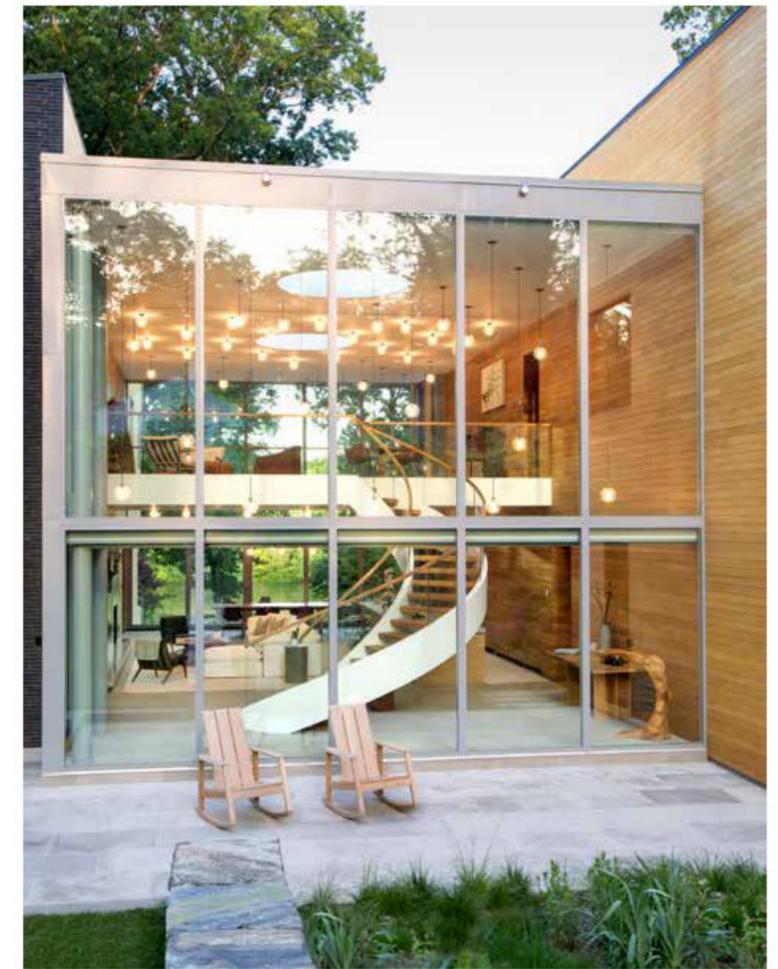
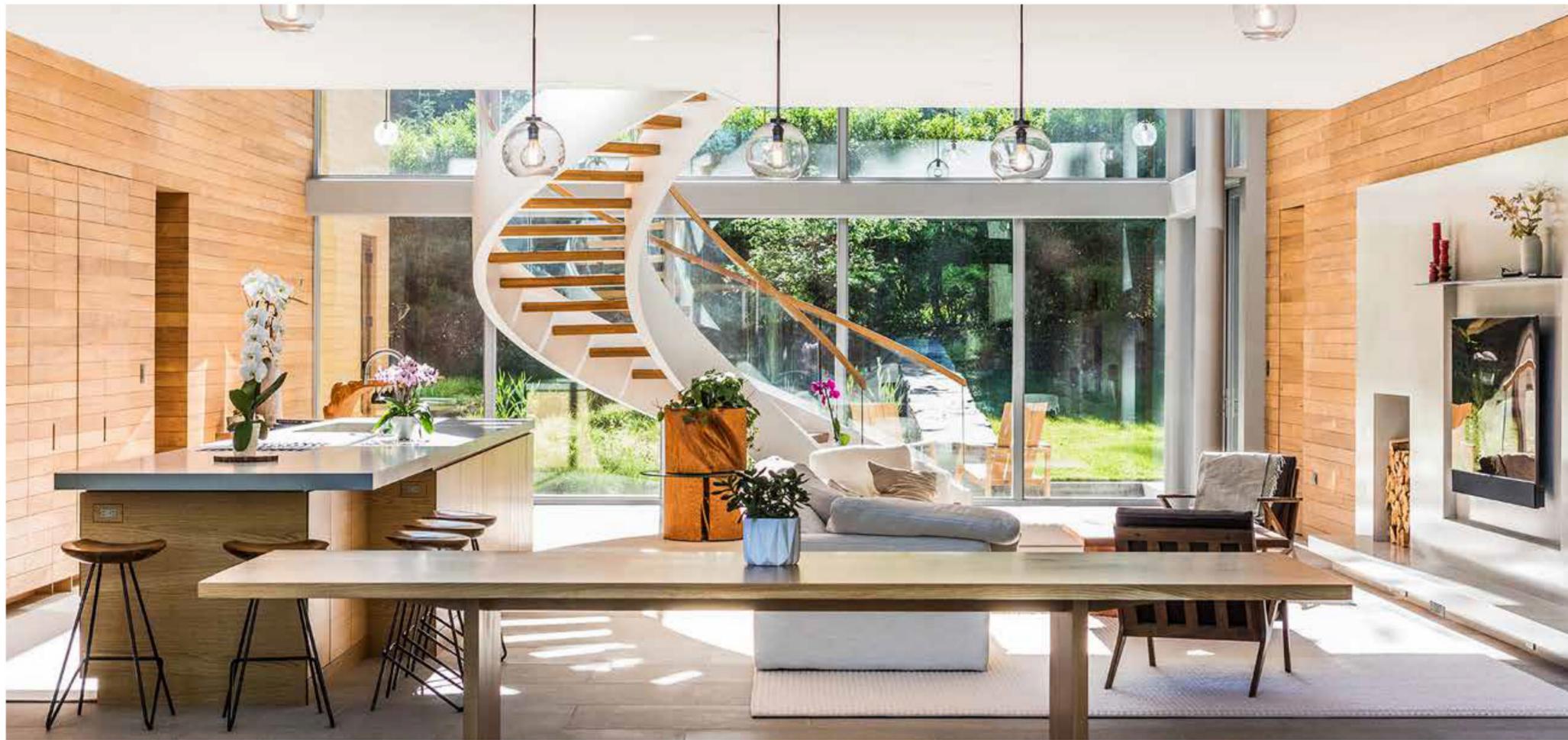
"Architecture, to me, is about spatial relationships with textural color painted upon it. Inspiration comes from everywhere," Egozi said. "I delight in the unexpected, in the wonderment of surprise. A great architect must be an artist."

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*Interior Design: Mario Egozi  
Builder/Contractor: Silverlining Inc.  
Photographer: Richard Powers*



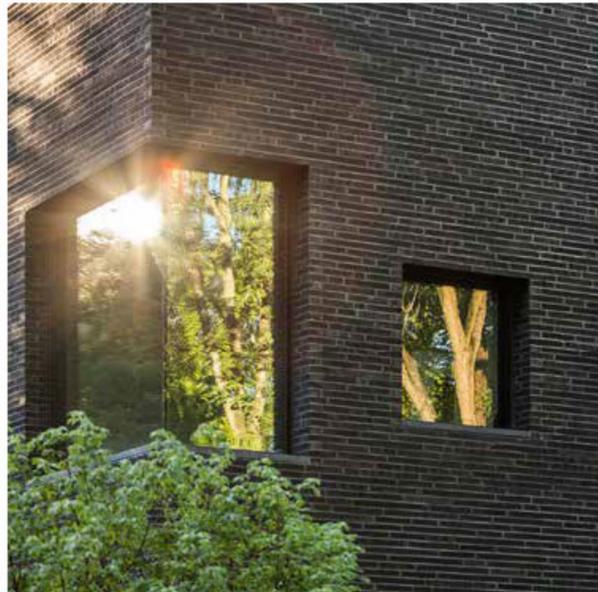




"Humans are innately connected to nature, light, materials, and sounds. A space's ability to reconnect us to these basic human needs is always a priority."

— Pierre-Henri Hoppénot





“Psychology is woven into the science and art required to make architecture — an essential part of our design process comes from taking the time to identify our clients’ dreams.”

— Pierre-Henri Hoppenot

# Pierre-Henri Hoppénot

PHH Architects



Pierre-Henri Hoppenot founded Brooklyn-based Studio PHH Architects in 2016 after six years of working at globally recognized firms like Rafael Vinoly and Weiss Manfredi. With residential and commercial projects across the United States and abroad, Hoppenot says the studio's work is based on attentiveness and sensitivity to cultures, history, and context, with a focus on creating highly crafted and site-sensitive places.

"One of the most important aspects that drives the architecture we create is empathy, and the ability to understand our clients deeply while simultaneously keeping our eye on the functional, spiritual, and aesthetic drivers," he says. "We believe that only from immersing ourselves in diverse views can spatial and material poetry emerge."

And this poetry is reflected in spaces that are "woven" into the landscape, in which the architecture can be viewed as a piece of art. "What is functional, tactile, and warm from close up may become abstract and ephemeral from a distance."

As part of his approach to design, Pierre-Henri says he guides conversations with clients, providing options while keeping an eye on the big picture and the architectural cohesion. Each conversation takes him and his clients one step closer to their home, which he says should serve as a space where the heart rate slows and the world can fade.

"Humans are innately connected to nature, light, materials, and sounds. A space's ability to reconnect us to these basic human needs is always a priority."

Wherever a project is based, he spends time learning about local materials, methods of construction, and other influences. "Sun paths, prevailing winds, and context inform passive and active sustainable systems, which are proposed and incorporated in the early planning phases. This is why we do not have a specific style. We cannot design the same home in Seattle Sound, New York City, Baja California, and the French Alps, but the underlying drivers remain the same."

