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New York City played muse to this art-filled penthouse in the sky

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The team at Banda took their expertise and design prowess across the Atlantic for a project that traverses the bounds of old and new. *Photography by Nicole Frantzen.*



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In a sitting room, Sofa 280 by Pierre Augustin Rose, Paysage no. 2 rug by Atelier Fevrier, Ebisu armchairs by Charlotte Biltgen, Craft round coffee table by Pierre Augustin Rose, Ma.r.s No. 10 by Thomas Ruff supplied by Nous Art, The Resin Stool by Galerie Jag.

Interior design is, at its core, an exercise in balancing contrasts. Balancing the old with the new, refinement with careful curation, luxury with functionality. Manipulating the push and pull of oppositional forces is essential to achieving a cohesive space, one that is equal parts beautiful and liveable, yet it is an art that is, understandably, difficult to master. The latest project undertaken by Banda under the leadership of Edo Mapelli Mozzi, however, makes striking this notoriously challenging balance seem effortless.



It comes as no surprise, though, that when approached to reimagine a duplex penthouse on the 76th floor of the historic 111 West 57th building in New York City, Banda jumped at the chance—reinvigorating historic properties is the design firm’s bread and butter. “Honouring the past whilst creating a legacy for the future is at the very heart of the Banda ethos,” muses Mapelli Mozzi, Banda’s founder. In many ways, this project was made for Banda, right down to the very building the penthouse sits within. “It felt like a truly natural fit due to the history of Steinway Hall and the fact that, as the second tallest building in the Western Hemisphere, it has become an icon for future generations.” Making use of two adjacent structures—one being a newly constructed tower and the other being Steinway Hall, a landmarked building that was once home to the Steinway & Sons piano company—the development is, at its core, a seamless amalgam of old and new.



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In the dining room, Mast Teak chairs by Atelier Pendhapa, Luco dining table by Studio Parisien, Apparatus Studio Reprise pendants, Vitesse Oval rug by Atelier Fevrier.

Although the majority of Banda's developments have been in London with the exception of a few smaller client projects in New York, the tower's duplex penthouse proved to be the perfect debut for the firm in the United States. "This is by far and away our most notable project in the city," Mapelli Mozzi notes. "It marks the start of our evolution in the US and with other projects underway, we're building exciting momentum."



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In the kitchen, Swan dining table by Francesco Balzano in Breccia Aurora marble, Giraffe dining chairs by Juliana Lima Vasconcellos, custom banquette upholstery in Chaulnes fabric by Lelievre, Strict bar stools by Louise Liljencrantz.

While design principles are indeed universal, there's nuance to how, and where, they are applied. Where a refined sensibility may work in London, the vibrancy of New York might demand more drama—design is, after all, heavily influenced by time and place. This, however, was not news to Banda—in fact, rather than attempting to merely copy and paste the elegant and contemporary aesthetic of its London projects, the team turned to New York City itself for inspiration. “Having spent more and more time in New York particularly over the past few years it's really struck me that the city is very much a sum of its parts,” remarks Mapelli Mozzi. “Whilst the pace is extremely fast—even more so I think than London—there are surprises and moments of history around every corner.”



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In the living room, Saint Honor sofa by Pierre Augustin Rose, Apparatus Studio Signal Y pendants, Cuprite d'Eau coffee table by Pierre Bonnefille, L'attente (2014) carved maple wood sculpture by Wang Keping supplied by Noûs Art, Paysage no. 2 rug by Atelier Fevrier.

Inspired by the dynamism of the Big Apple, Banda's vision for the space was to merge the city's unmistakable diversity with its rich history, setting it against the backdrop of pure yet understated luxury. "We wanted it to feel like a curation and collection of incredibly thoughtful pieces from across the globe, each telling their own story whilst creating a space that would work beautifully for entertaining and enjoyment," Mapelli Mozzi explains. Calling upon its extensive rolodex of artists, craftspeople, and designers—Banda collaborated with interior design platform Invisible Collection and Paris-based art consultancy Noûs Art—the team created a timeless design scheme that pays homage to the building's rich history while celebrating the penthouse's spectacular views of the city below.



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In another shot of the kitchen, Untitled (2011) by Per Kirkeby supplied by Noûs Art.

To observe Banda's masterfully conceptualised project is, in essence, to observe balance in practice. Certainly, there is a tension between old and new quite literally built into the penthouse, but it is the careful consideration of each and every element, from the fixtures to the artworks, that affords the home its delicate equilibrium. "The Signal Y pendants by Apparatus studio in the great room celebrate the 'now' of the city—modern, energetic and creative," Mapelli Mozzi says. "The art by Andy Warhol also in the great room is a reminder of one of New York City's most influential artistic icons." It is, however, a single chair—an Oscar Niemeyer chair, to be precise—that may best encapsulate the very essence of Banda's project. "The chair sits so beautifully amongst the other pieces and is a reminder of how New York today is a true blend of styles and inspiration."



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In the principle bedroom suite, custom headboard by Lelievre, Nazar Rug No. 5 by Atelier Fevrier, Alta Chair by Oscar Niemeyer, The Frank Table Lamps by Louise Liljencrantz, The Elena Chandelier by Nicolas Haslam, Danilova by Andy Warhol supplied by Noûs Art (above bed), E (2014) by Elizabeth Payton supplied by Noûs Art (above chair).

While Mapelli Mozzi could speak about the origin of each and every piece of art and furniture featured in the spaces and what they bring to the penthouse's design, there's one piece in particular that truly resonates. "Perhaps one of my favourite design moments is the Nazar Rug in the master bedroom by Atelier Fevrier," he says. "Hand knotted in Nepal, each of these pieces involves a workforce of around 50 expert craftspeople. It's this combination of teamwork and talent that really makes it sing." The same can be said for Banda's penthouse.





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Another shot of the bedroom.



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In a sitting area, ceramic stool by Galerie Jag, daybed by Charlotte Taylor and Garc & Dimofski.



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In the study, The Paysage One rug by Atelier Fevrier, Marie table lamp by Haymann Additions, Petit Bureau desk by Charlotte Perriand, Female and Male Dancer (1952) by Andy Warhol supplied by Nous Art.