

RAZZLE

DAZZLE



COLIN COWIE'S MANHATTAN MARVEL

BY JORGE S. ARANGO

“It reeks of chic,” says event planner to the stars Colin Cowie, of the duplex penthouse he has put on the market for \$5.75 million. The 15-story modern edifice of limestone and gray brick—named The Emory and located in Manhattan’s historic Flatiron district—is by **Morris Adjmi Architects**. Cowie closed on the top two units in 2009 and proceeded to customize the resulting nearly 3,000-square-foot space into a glamorous couture haven where he could host his legendary parties. The apartment, available with furnishings for an additional sum, is awash in materials and surfaces that emanate shimmer and shine.

The foyer is an elegantly minimalist white glass box with sliding doors that open to the living room. The space faces southwest over rooftops and features a contemporary gas fireplace with a long, sleek profile, above which Cowie installed hydraulic-lift Macassar ebony paneling to conceal a wealth of storage. In fact, this sort of millwork is installed throughout the apartment so clutter can be minimized and not interrupt the clean lines of the interior architecture.

Furnishings include a gold Milukan armchair by Parisian designer **Christian Astuguevielle**, a curvaceous **Vladimir Kagan** sofa, and what Cowie calls “the jewelry of the room”—a floor-to-ceiling illuminated beveled-crystal column that is actually a Swarovski chandelier. The custom rug is 100-percent silk. There is also a discreetly concealed

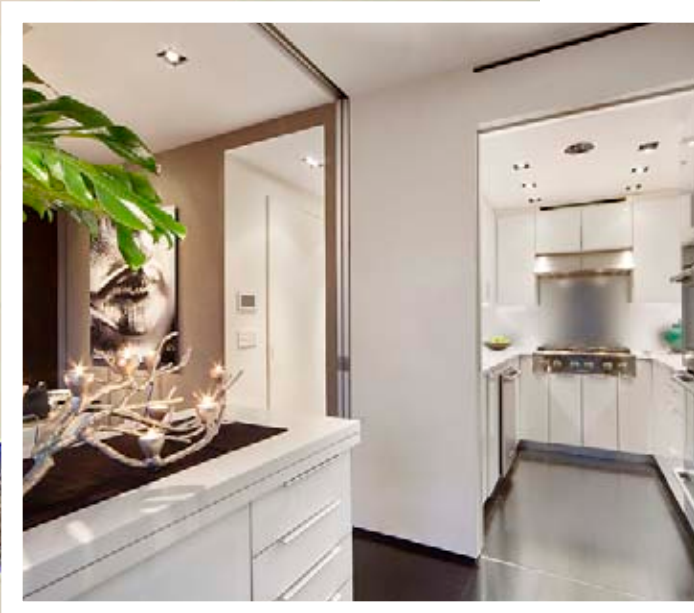




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—COLIN COWIE

wet bar and an adjacent powder room dressed to kill with Absolute Black granite floors and **Maya Romanoff's** darkly sparkling Bedazzled Geode textured wallcovering in caviar black.

Cowie chose to outfit the dining room with similar stylishness—silk rug, lacy mohair curtains, a silvery gold lacquer table surrounded by Lucite zigzag chairs—and illuminated it with a 1970s **Gaetano Sciolari** chandelier. The room is adjacent to the immaculate white lacquer-and-glass kitchen, which can be partitioned from the dining area by sliding pocket doors. The view here, shared by the master suite below, is of the perfectly framed Empire State Building.

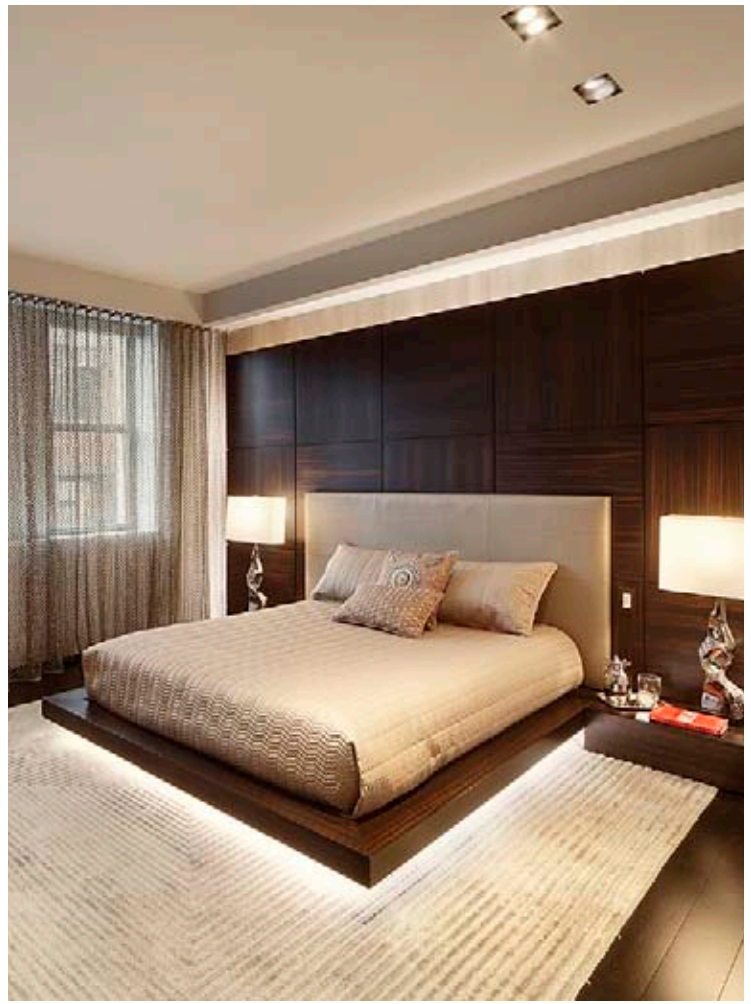
Cantilevered oak slabs between the living room and the dining room create a floating staircase that leads down to the master suite, which repeats the Macassar ebony paneling of the other rooms, as well as the tantalizingly see-through mohair curtains. The platform bed, neatly attired in bronzy gold linens against an upholstered headboard, faces a flat-panel television, on the other side of which is a spacious walk-in closet/dressing room with built-in racks, shelving, and drawers for someone who obviously adores clothes. Across from this is the master bath, another white glass box with a shower that showcases a silver-and-gold **Sicis** mosaic niche and a Corian tub beneath an enormous window.

There is a den on this floor, too, that triples as home office and guestroom. Completely paneled in Macassar ebony, with another gas fireplace framed in steel and a second wet bar, it is a symphony of neutral tones, most evident on a custom sectional sofa upholstered in Loro Piana cashmere.

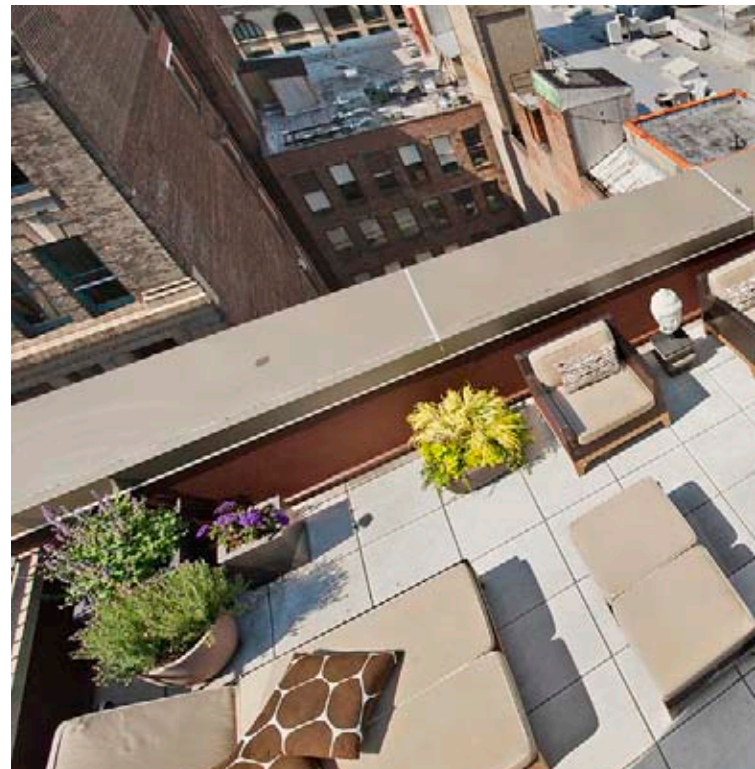
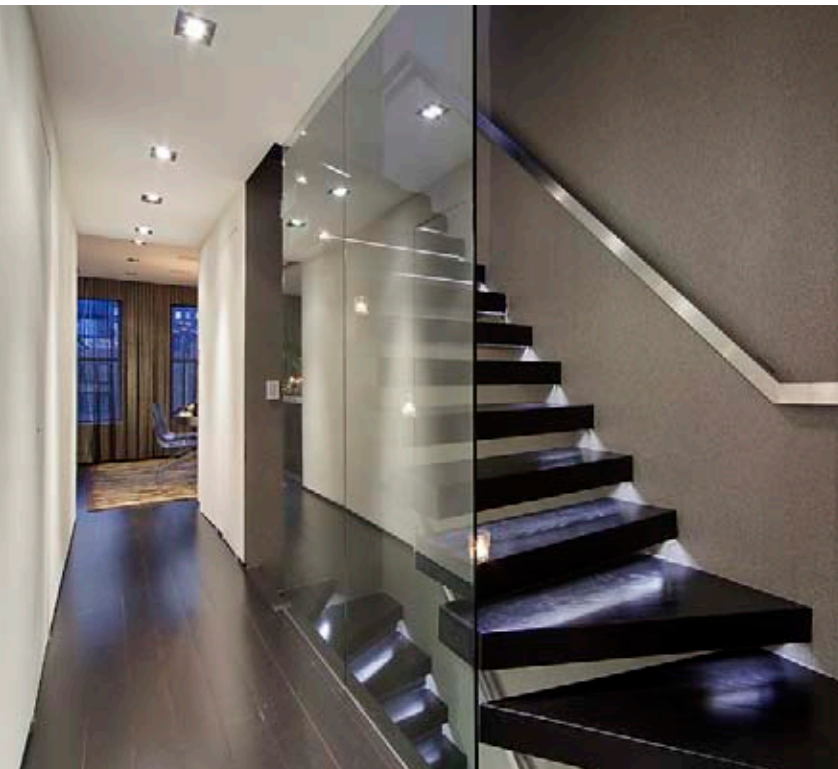
The flow of the home ends upstairs, past a muted sparkle of the textured walls, at the roof deck, where Cowie has thrown many parties on temperate evenings. Seating abounds to take in the sweeping Manhattan views; guests also often linger at the barbeque. Sometimes, however, it's the private moments that Cowie has enjoyed most. An absence of tall nearby buildings, says Cowie (who also exercises and practices yoga up there), assures one can truly be au naturel without concern. "I can't begin to tell you how much fun I've had in that apartment," he says.

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SATURDAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD



NEST. You're a stone's throw from **Restoration Hardware**, **BoConcept**, **ABC Carpet & Home** (above), **Lillian August**, and other design shrines.

DRESS. Ann Taylor, Armani Exchange, Kate Spade, Club Monaco, and many more are only steps away.



EAT. The Flatiron District is the epicenter of Danny Meyer's restaurant empire, with one of his eateries just a short walk in almost any direction: **Maialino** (Italian), **Blue Smoke** (BBQ and jazz),

Gramercy Tavern (classic American, left), **Union Square Café** (American-Italian), or **Shake Shack** (burger-and-shake stand).

WALK. **Madison Square Park**, landscaped by Ignatz Pilat, a disciple of William Grant and Frederick Law Olmstead, offers people-watching benches, shady strolls through verdant plantings, a dog run, and elegant public monuments.

INDULGE. **Eisenberg's Sandwich Shop** has been "raising New York's cholesterol since 1929" with its old-fashioned tuna melts, diner breakfasts, and Jewish classics like pastrami Reubens and tongue-on-rye.



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RIGHT: ALL IMAGES COURTESY OF COLIN COWIE CELEBRATIONS

CLOSE-UP

COLIN COWIE



“For me the art of entertaining is not about impressing people, but about making them feel welcome,” says **Colin Cowie**. That has not stopped the wedding and event planner extraordinaire, of course, from conceiving spectacular parties for an impressive roster of clients that includes Jennifer Aniston, Tom Cruise, and Jennifer Lopez. Born in Zambia and raised in South Africa, Cowie is the debonair male version of

Martha Stewart, dispensing vital tips for creating memorable celebrations through his best-selling books (eight so far), articles in major publications (among them the *New York Times*, *Architectural Digest*, *Town & Country*, and *Modern Bride*), and the go-to wedding website **The Knot**. He also makes frequent television appearances—*The Today Show*, *Oprah*, and *Ellen*—and is Platinum Guild International’s brand ambassador for jewelry.

