

HOME + DESIGN

DEPARTURES

Fall 2017

STEP RIGHT IN

Perfection in Paris

Michael S. Smith
Takes Malibu

The Insider's Guide
to New York



A New York townhouse by Nathan Litera includes a custom marble and brass table of his own design.

INSIDE SOURCES

YOUR PALS FROM PARIS

An emerging French design practice is becoming a hush-hush hit in Manhattan.

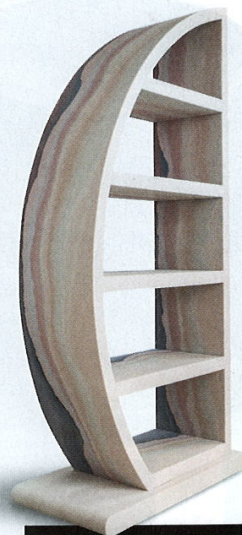
Seated in his Paris apartment at a green marble coffee table of his own design and drinking ice tea from an antique crystal goblet, Nathan Litera explains why New Yorkers looking for a touch of Europe in their decor have been

passing around his name. "I studied the classic vocabulary of architecture, Italian and French, and we are living in it every day," he says.

"We try to convey a certain way of life," adds Lyatt Samama, his partner in work and in life. It's a way that reflects Litera's

adolescence living on Paris's most beautiful square, the Place des Vosges, and the couple's passion for Old World elegance. The two met 17 years ago and went to New York to study. After finishing his architecture degree at Cooper Union, Litera, 35, worked for Kohn Pedersen Fox, then in Paris for Jean Nouvel and Joseph Dirand, before opening his own firm with Samama, 34, a former lawyer, in 2014. Since then they've outfitted almost half a dozen luxury New York residences in a sophisticated European style, frequently flying in French specialists in decorative painting, wood floors, millworking, and upholstery.

For a recent 14,000-square-foot townhouse on the Upper East Side, Litera added decorative molding to the walls and ceilings and placed the rooms in a typically Parisian enfilade, lining up the doors in a row. He covered the ceiling of the children's play area in silver leaf applied by French decorative painters Ateliers Gohard. When he wants mirrors with an antique patina, Litera turns to Kiko Lopez, an artist who lives on a farm in Provence and crafts them à l'ancienne: with mercury. nathanlitera.com —Amy Serafin



Only in New York

Fernando Mastrangelo mixes materials such as powdered glass and cement to create rock-solid pieces in his Brooklyn workshop. His Escape collection, shown at Maison Gérard, includes this bookshelf (\$68,000). He also accepts commissions. maisongerard.com, fernandoastrangelo.com.



Ask the Insider

TONY INGRAO

The Bronx-born designer of the Baccarat Hotel & Residences expounds on his city's offerings.

For inspiration he likes **R & Company**

(r-and-company.com)

and **Friedman Benda**

(friedmanbenda.com).

"They have exceptional furniture collections from great designers, including Wendell Castle and Joris Laarman." He cites

Twenty First Gallery

(21stgallery.com) as an

underrated place that stocks things you can't get elsewhere. "It's out

on its own in Chelsea, away from the other furniture galleries, but

you can find truly special pieces, such as mirrors by Hubert Le Gall." He

thinks **Ralph Pucci**

(ralphpucci.net) is an

iconic gallery that can't be missed. "It started as a

mannequin business and grew to become the quintessential New York showroom." And

he recommends

Atelier Charles Jouffre

(jouffre.com) for

finding "precise French upholstery."

Ask the Insider



"My wife, Margaret, and I collect silver serveware from Alice Kwartler [alicekwartler.com], and on occasion you can find something antique that is engraved with your actual initials. It's a treasure chest in there, and we recommend taking the time to look."

—**GEOFFREY ZAKARIAN** chef of the Lambs Club at the Chatwal Hotel