

ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST

An Exclusive Look at Tadao Ando's 152 Elizabeth Street

Michael Gabellini outfits Ando's First New York City building

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Simplicity is of the essence in the work of Japanese-American architect Tadao Ando, and his first New York City building is no exception. For 125 Elizabeth Street in Manhattan's Nolita, the visionary minimalist partnered with American architect Michael Gabellini to translate his signature style to the New York City skyline." Many of Tadao Ando's projects have a subtle spatial sensibility that combines a series of basic elements—concrete, metal, glass and wood—where beauty is found in the simplicity and refinement of nature," explains Gabellini. "Like Ando, I strive to create timeless spaces that heighten these primary elements, using them to define interior and exterior spaces." At 125 Elizabeth, this sensibility carries through from exterior to interior in a model unit of Gabellini's design.



"I think Tadao Ando and I also share a belief in the ability of design to transform the ordinary into the extraordinary," says Gabellini. In the living room, clean lines create a sense of serenity. "The neighborhood is always bustling," Gabellini explains. "This home has been designed to become an inner sanctuary—a quiet interlude from the animated vibrancy of Manhattan."



Much of Ando's work has a sense of openness, which Gabellini carried over into the interiors. "Having very few walls and doors enables a fluidity of movement of air and space," he explains. The kitchen includes several high-tech additions to make entertaining easier. " It is very spacious—particularly for a two-bedroom home—and has a custom designed sliding countertop that, when pushed back, reveals a hidden sink and prep area," notes Gabellini. "It also becomes the perfect height to accommodate island eating or entertaining." A Nakashima dining table is the centerpiece of the open space. "It acts as an extension of our philosophy, highlighting nature in one of its purest forms," says Gabellini.



"Cultivating feelings of serenity and tranquility in the building and each of its residences was also a main component of the design," says Gabellini. Shown is a monochromatic guest bedroom.



"The apartment exemplifies the environmental elements of light, air, sound and water that define the condominium's spatial identity," says the architect.



Gabellini worked with DDC to supply furniture throughout the model apartment.



The master bedroom.



The floor-to-ceiling Dinesen wood in the master bedroom has a hidden function: "These are actually doors that are inset flush within the corridor so that when closed that portion of the home can be sectioned off to create a seamless entertaining space if desired," reveals Gabellini. The hardwood also adds texture and a sense of nature.



The master bath.



Wood, concrete, and porcelain juxtaposed in the hallway. Says Gabellini, "Complementing Ando's signature materials, the interior material palette of a neutral tone selection, ranging from white Bianco Sivec marble to the light oiled Dinesen oak wood, to the Eucalyptus wood of the kitchen collectively create a dynamically inviting atmosphere."