



CITY LIVING

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 architects

FIRM PROFILE

SPG Architects is a full service award-winning architecture firm founded by Coty Sidnam and currently led by Eric Gartner. SPG provides a comprehensive range of design services and has worked with clients on a broad array of architecture and design projects. Our work includes projects of varying scales and character, with a range of regional, national, and international projects that include single- and multi-family residences, retail environments, corporate interiors, and institutional and hospitality buildings and spaces.

Corporate clients have included a wide range of fashion and design companies, as well as traditional and new media companies. Residences include numerous co-op and condominium apartments, urban townhouses, second homes, free-standing houses, and residential compounds throughout the United States and Latin America. Although the clients are diverse, they are united in their desire for architecture that is well conceived and well executed by a team of thoughtful and energetic design professionals.

Working in the modernist tradition, SPG employs a sense of “critical regionalism” to what originated as an International Style of forward looking architecture. This approach applies sustainable solutions and locally relevant construction technologies and materials to create unique client and site driven solutions.

SPG Architects’ modernist approach to design allows for the various functions of a space to be organized and expressed, while eliminating the cacophony of the untended environment. Architectural ideas are drawn from the project site and the client’s needs and desires. These then are expressed through manipulations of form and light. An interest in up-to-date building technologies, natural and man-made construction materials, and a constantly developing approach to sustainable design strategies further inform our designs. SPG’s work clearly presents a visual consistency based on human proportions, the exploration of light, and the judicious use of materials that provide singular tactile, visual, spatial and temporal experiences.

Eric A. Gartner, AIA, LEED AP

As SPG’s principal partner, Eric has been practicing architecture since obtaining his Master of Architecture degree from the University of Virginia, where he also received his undergraduate degree. He maintains an active relationship with UVA, having long served on the School of Architecture’s Foundation Board, and he regularly serves as a visiting design critic for student reviews at numerous schools of architecture. At SPG, Eric has broadened the firm’s range of project types and helped it expand its national and international presence. SPG Architects’ built work is now located not only across the US but also in Latin America and Africa, and it has been published worldwide. Eric’s ongoing commitment to both environmental and social responsibility has instigated and informed a series of projects that explore the benefits of sustainable design. Eric continues working as the design architect for the Kageno Worldwide community development project in Banda, Rwanda, and a new school in Kenya. For the firm’s private client base, Eric continues to explore the relationship between local environments & building traditions and modern technologies & architectural expression. Eric is a member of the American Institute of Architects, is registered with the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, through which he is licensed in numerous states, and is a LEED Accredited Professional.

 [SPG Architects Full Portfolio](#)



RIVERSIDE DRIVE PRE-WAR APARTMENT

New York, NY

This three-bedroom Riverside Drive pre-war apartment was last renovated in the 1980's and its 2550 square feet of space badly needed a complete refresh. The client came to Foley & Cox and SPG Architects to open the apartment's interiors to the expansive views and to brighten and update the space with a modern perspective. To that end, the design team removed an abundance of veneered cabinetry that tightened the footprint of the entrance foyer and removed a bedroom wall, replacing it with a blackened bronze and glass partition that reveals the new home office. The large living area was similarly divided into two commodious seating areas with another bronze and glass partition, and is filled with modern and comfortably luxurious seating areas and enlivened with art. The bones of the 1926 Schwartz and Gross Architects building are respected but enhanced, and original detailing is maintained and repaired, while new interventions are clearly differentiated with their respectful modernity.

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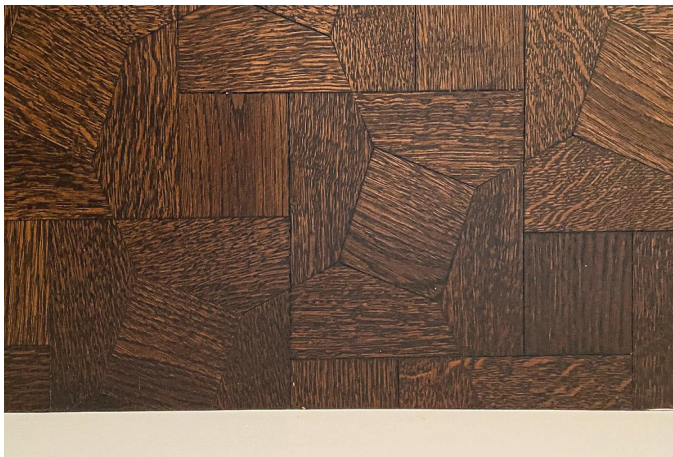
RIVERSIDE DR. APARTMENT RENOVATION

New York, NY

This 2,750 SF Upper West Side apartment with water views is renovated to maximize transparency and bring light from the Hudson River-facing west perimeter to the reconfigured living spaces. Design function and aesthetics are influenced by the clients' interest in Asian architecture, and the apartment features a new tea room with a dynamic wall of folding maple doors to match the maple finishes, visually unifying the apartment. The versatile door system allows the divisions from the public to the private spaces in the apartment to be reconfigurable for varying uses.

Glass panels that run perpendicular to the exterior window wall similarly unify the sequence of rooms along that edge of the apartment and are designed to maximize transparency and bring light from its west-facing perimeter into the reconfigured living spaces. The apartment windows along with the new glass panels maximize the apartment's connection to the expansive views of Riverside Park and the Hudson River. SPG also worked closely with the client to create custom stone and wood mosaics that define each bath and the kitchen with unique patterns based on 2-dimensional geometric principles, with custom tile and wood mosaics that provide bespoke floor and wall surfaces.

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PARK AVENUE APARTMENT
New York, NY

Located on Park Avenue, this 2,100 SF apartment renovation modified the circulation between the primary living rooms and updated the overall aesthetic and function of the entire apartment. Designed in conjunction with the services of the client's interior designer, the cabinetry, appliances, fixtures, and finishes reflect the client's personal style and programmatic needs in this newly acquired 2 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath apartment. The renovations include full upgrades to the existing plumbing and electrical and replaced all windows, which along with all new HVAC systems, makes for a more comfortable interior environment. Restrained but referential detailing updated what was an estate-condition space. The built design navigates the line between modern improvements and the building's original 1929 Emery Roth design.

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EL DORADO DUPLEX
New York, NY

SPG Architects combined two 1500 Square foot apartments into a single duplex of 3000 SF looking over Manhattan's Central Park in the landmark El Dorado building. The new apartment respects the spirit of this pre-war building, but the young family enjoys a stream-lined version of classic upper-west side living that matches their lifestyle. A new stair was incorporated into the new flexible program, which includes living and family rooms, an office that can easily be converted into a formal dining area, a large eat-in kitchen area, along with the primary suite and a separate children's bedroom wing. The new configuration allows for both private and intimate family living that can open up into a large open public areas ideal for entertainment.

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FIFTH AVENUE DUPLEX PENTHOUSE

New York, NY

Spectacular cityscape views distinguish the renovated space of this lower Fifth Avenue duplex penthouse and wrap-around terraces. At the outset, the apartment was a dark, cluttered space. The client requested a more expansive feeling to take full advantage of the apartment's assets & overcome the challenge of unusually low ceiling heights. SPG secured Landmarks approval to enlarge many of the existing window openings. The 2-story living room was enhanced with a comparable double-height window, capturing views of midtown & the Empire State Building. Radiant heat flooring replaced traditional radiators, allowing other new openings to go to the floor. An open plan strategy focused the horizontal experience of the space in order to extend it out to the views, contrasting nicely with the tall living area. Finally, the choice of clean detailing & richly textured materials contribute to the bright, airy, appealing finished space.

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UNION SQUARE TRIPLEX

New York, NY

Located on NYC's Broadway, this project entails the complete gut renovation of the upper 3 levels of a 4-story building into a single 3225 sq ft triplex unit. The developer Client for this project initially conceived the renovation of this 1890's four-story building to provide rental income, but with SPG Architects, saw the potential of the space as a residence for his young family. With its private street entrance, the resultant triplex provides a residential sensibility of a townhouse, but the unit is detached from the urban activity of the street below. Carefully executed acoustical isolation between the residence and the commercial space and the 1000 SF landscaped rear terrace helps provide an urban refuge for the family. The existing building was built with a masonry and wood structure and had to be reconstructed in accordance with Landmarks Preservation Commission standards, new building and fire codes; this meant the existing shell was maintained and enhanced while the completely new interiors were updated to meet modern standards and expectations.

Honors
2016 AIA New York Chapter Design Exhibition

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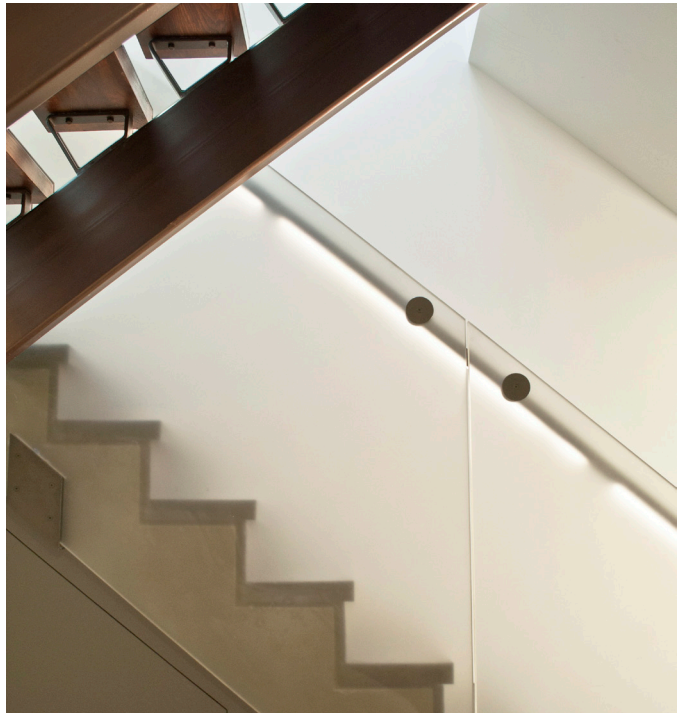
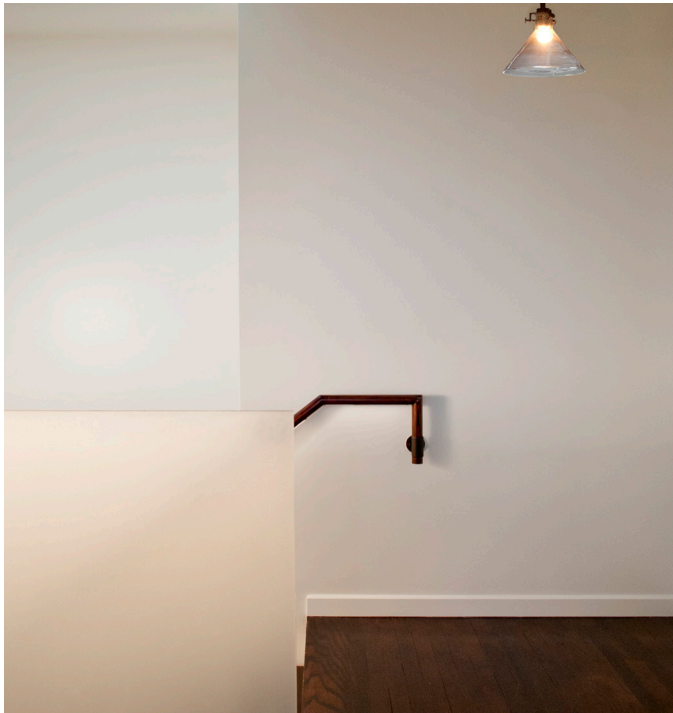




DUPLEX PENTHOUSE
New York, NY

This duplex penthouse, located in Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood, exploits the play of light and surface to define its interior spaces. The living areas' dark natural wood flooring contrasts with the ceiling and wall surfaces which reflect the daylight coming in through the windows and skylights. The highly glossy ceiling plane that defines the Living Room reflects both interior surfaces and the exterior views, making the city and the interior one. Translucent stair railings and an interior light slot enhance the impact of a second floor skylight. As is typical in SPG's work, both manmade and natural materials are used to create distinct interior spaces. By night, extensive use of LED lighting defines floating architectural planes, circulation and work surfaces with its subtle glow and supplements the city's lit skyline that is ever-present in the apartment's spectacular views.

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EAST SIDE TOWNHOUSE
New York, NY

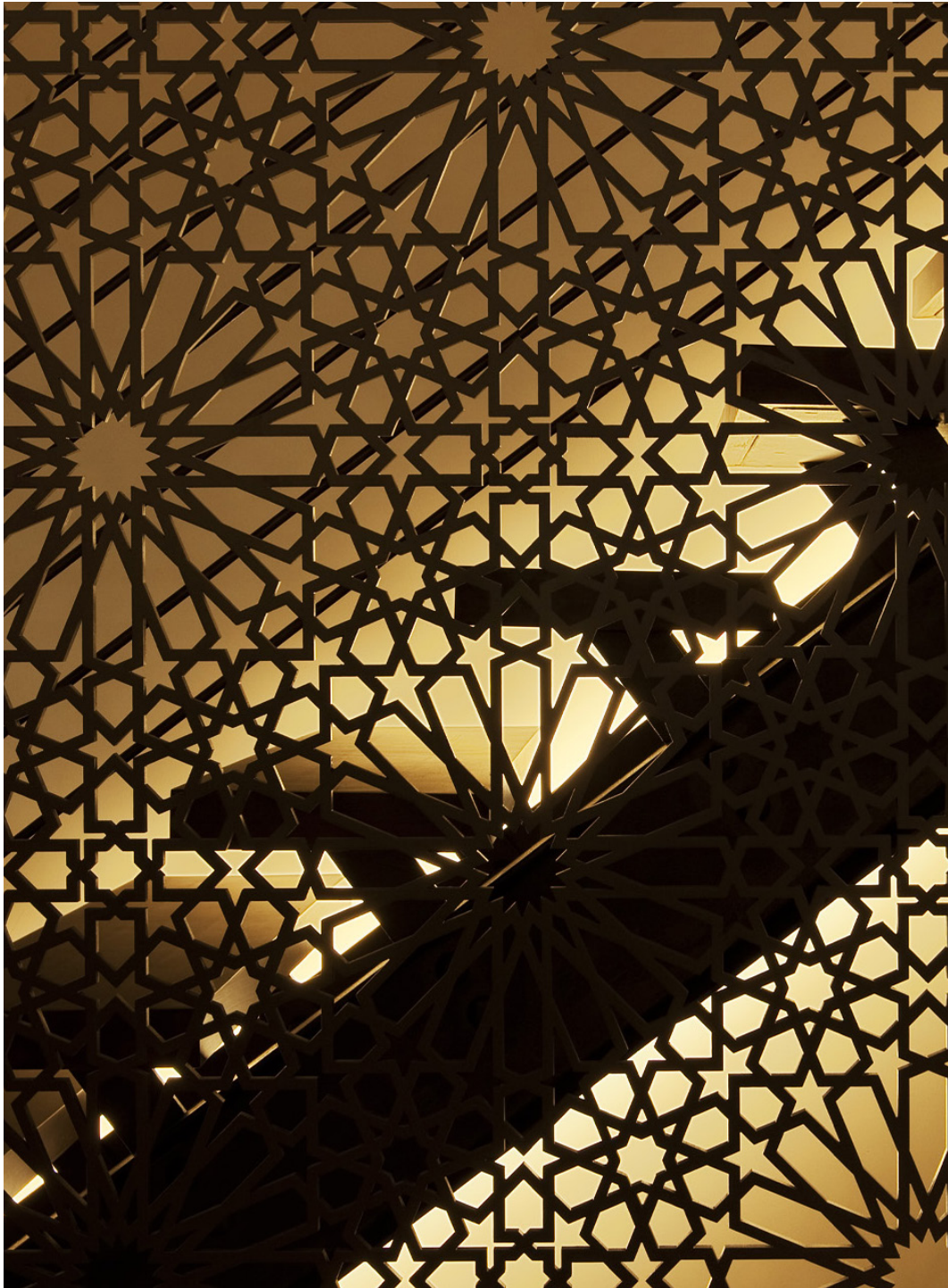
For this gut-renovation project, the clients requested an updated European Arts & Crafts design, and while the interior was fully reconciled, the townhouse's leaded glass Living Room windows were meticulously restored. The glass panels were laminated, insulated, and placed in the new sashes, which are clear-finished wood inside and bronze-clad at the exterior. They are integrated into a two-story bronze facade, along with the dining room/ garden doors, bronze spandrel panels, and custom bronze gates. Family living areas, including the kitchen, dining room, living room, and library are on the ground and first floor, with five bedrooms and a home-office on the top three floors. A gym, wine cellar, and mechanical room were moved into the newly excavated cellar. A large skylight filters light into the center through the house, brightening the new and more open staircase.

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MURRAY HILL TOWNHOUSE
New York, NY

Originally a two-story carriage house built in 1901, today that three-story facade conceals a 6-story, 7300sf townhouse beyond. SPG Architects was hired to remedy the spatial fragmentation that had resulted from the numerous renovations. After taking the premises back to base building structure, a new open steel staircase became the chief unifying organizing element for movement and visual focus. The stair mediates between the various elements of the building's split section and, most importantly, reveals two impressive double height spaces, 20 and 14 feet tall respectively. The large open spaces satisfied the clients combined desire for loft-like public areas with the intimacy of townhouse living. The Owner's affection for Moroccan details inspired custom laser-cut aluminum screens, hand-carved Spanish cedar doors, custom stone mosaics and special finishes which are woven through interior. These details capture the essence of the Moorish influence while still maintaining the modern visual and spatial language inherent in SPG's design.



WEST VILLAGE TOWNHOUSE
New York, NY

Originally constructed in 1836 in the Greek Revival style, this townhouse has been called the ‘Best Preserved’ house in its West Village row by the Historic District Report, and was renovated by the developer for resale as a move-in ready townhome. In addition, SPG’s carefully conceived rooftop addition which maximizes the home’s size at 5300 SF was called ‘ingenious’ by the NYC Landmark Commissioners as it seamlessly extended the roofline to mask the sizable additions. The house had been divided into two duplex units, but has been unified by a continuous curving central staircase into a flexible five-bedroom and seven-bathroom single-family home. Additional features include a 500 bottle wine-cellar, an excavated media room beneath the 800 SF rear-yard garden terrace, a modern kitchen, and an open plan parlor floor. A large skylight brightens the 5th floor living area and brings light down through the center of the house through the open stair, while a two-story steel and glass facade unifies the kitchen, dining, and living areas with the outdoor living spaces, creating light-filled interiors.

Honors
2018 NYCxDESIGN Honoree Award

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OTHER PROJECTS | HOUSES

SPG Architects' very first clients retained us for our skills in designing and renovating houses, and this body of work continues to help define the firm. We have long explored the intersection of formal design, local site, environmental conditions, and our clients' needs to create a series of new site-specific and elevated free-standing homes and reimagine existing homes to meet our clients' updated expectations.



OTHER PROJECTS | MODULAR DESIGN

Modular Construction offers opportunities to address important issues in the residential building marketplace, including scheduling, affordability, and sustainability issues, all of which impact financial and resiliency concerns in this segment of the built environment. SPG Architects has developed a wealth of knowledge and relationships in the modular building realm that could benefit clients, owners, builders and developers address market concerns without sacrificing the heightened design sensibilities that SPG always brings to the table.

