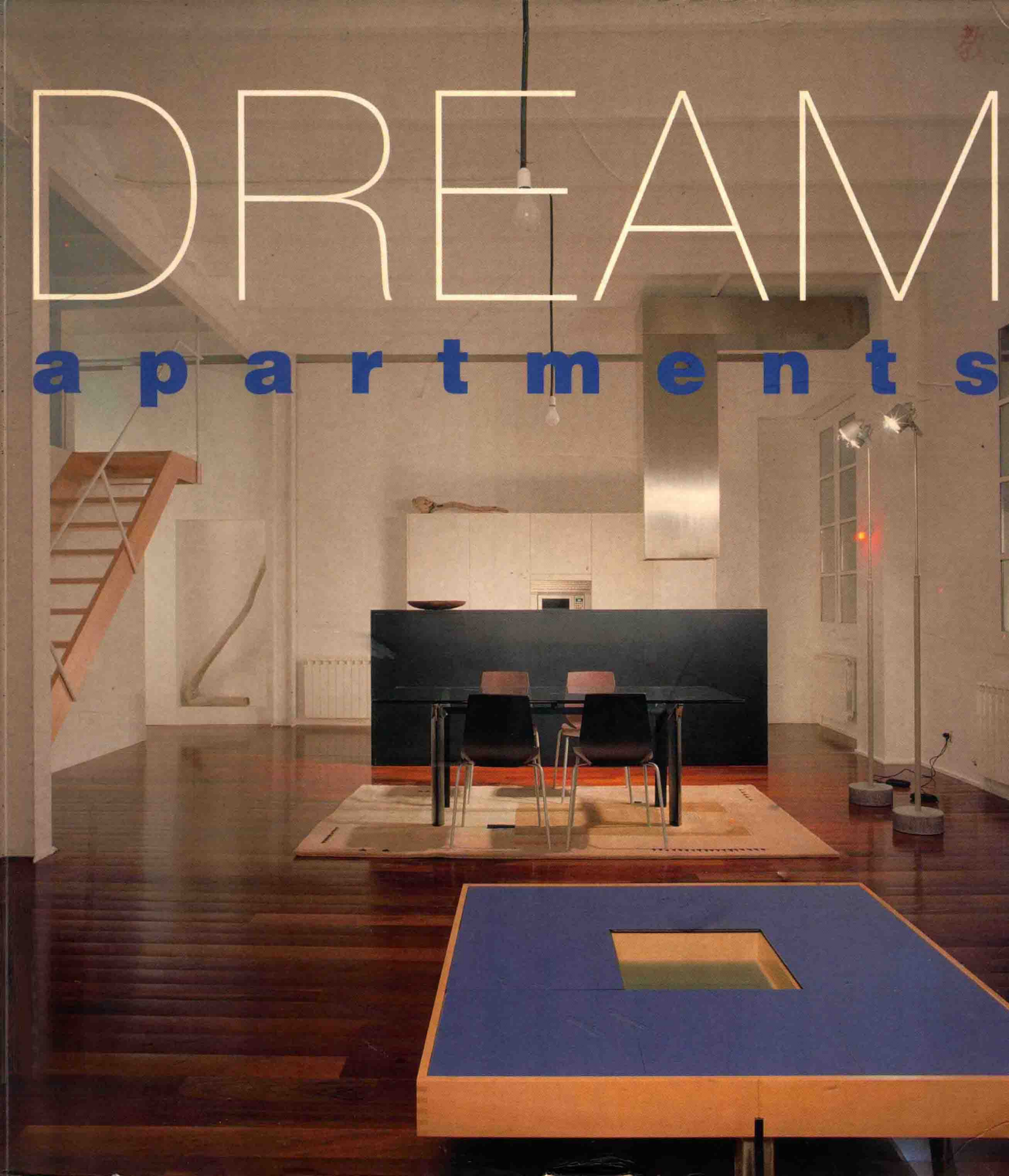


# DREAM

## apartments



DREAM

apartments

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Aurora Cuito:

Minimalist apartment, Energy efficient apartment, Loft in London's Soho, Reconversion of a factory, Attic in São Paulo, Apartment in New York, Apartment beside the Sea, Apartment in Sant Sadurní, Apartment in costa San Giorgio, Attic for a publicist, White apartment, Apartment overlooking the Thames, Remodeling of an apartment.

Belén García:

Introduction, Apartment in Manhattan, Dwelling in Barcelona, Apartment for a designer, The L house, The Neisser Residence, The Piper building, Apartment in Belgium, Zen apartment.

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The purpose of *Dream Apartments* is to offer readers an overview of this kind of dwelling, at the threshold of the XXI century, through a choice selection of projects embracing both architecture and interior design.

The apartments featured in this book, most of which belong to the urban context and reflect a wide variety of needs, clients, authors, and locations, provide a comprehensive sample of city lifestyles. Furthermore, the dwelling is probably one of the architectural forms most sensitive to changes in society, since it responds in an immediate, explicit way to the innermost needs and desires of the individual. And the projects included here are no exception to this rule.

At some stage in their existence, many cities have been on the edge of collapse due to a lack of infrastructures capable of sustaining all the complexities of contemporary life. Traffic congestion, the absence of green zones, the disintegration of the family nucleus, loneliness, noise, and pollution are just some of the factors that make the city an inhospitable place alien to its individual inhabitants.

Parallel to this, and in inverse proportion to the progressive increase in the distance between the city and its citizens, the importance of the dwelling has grown as the center around which the life of city-dwellers revolves. Besides fulfilling its function as a refuge, it is usually a space conceived for one or more individuals, and consequently designed according to their wishes and requirements.

The sacred place of the urbanite, a sheltering haven, an oasis in the midst of chaos, a multi-purpose space in that it offers the possibility of private life and coexistence with others, the dwelling is one of the main identity signs of the human individual in the confusion and anonymity of the metropolis. While neutralizing the effects of uniformity, it provides the individual with a small corner in which to recognize him/herself.

The common denominator of all the apartments featured here is the fact that they are "made-to-measure", in other words, conceived according to the client's personal, family and work circumstances. In some cases, for example, the arrangement of the owners' personal property (paintings, sculptures, objets d'art, or furniture) forms a fundamental part of the project; in others, the apartment becomes a center of operations, in that it is both the client's home and work place.

The versatility that characterizes most of these projects guarantees the apartment-dwellers a certain margin of adaptability, essential when it comes to confronting the insecurity of contemporary life. In some cases, flexibility is even one of the program requirements. This is the case, for example, of the projects that reutilize old buildings and transform them into dwellings.

*Dream Apartments* offers readers the possibility to "inhabit" some of today's most spectacular apartments and to identify with the desires and aspirations of their creators. In short, to dream.



Location: New York, US.  
Photographs: Michael Moran.

# Apartment with a terrace in Manhattan

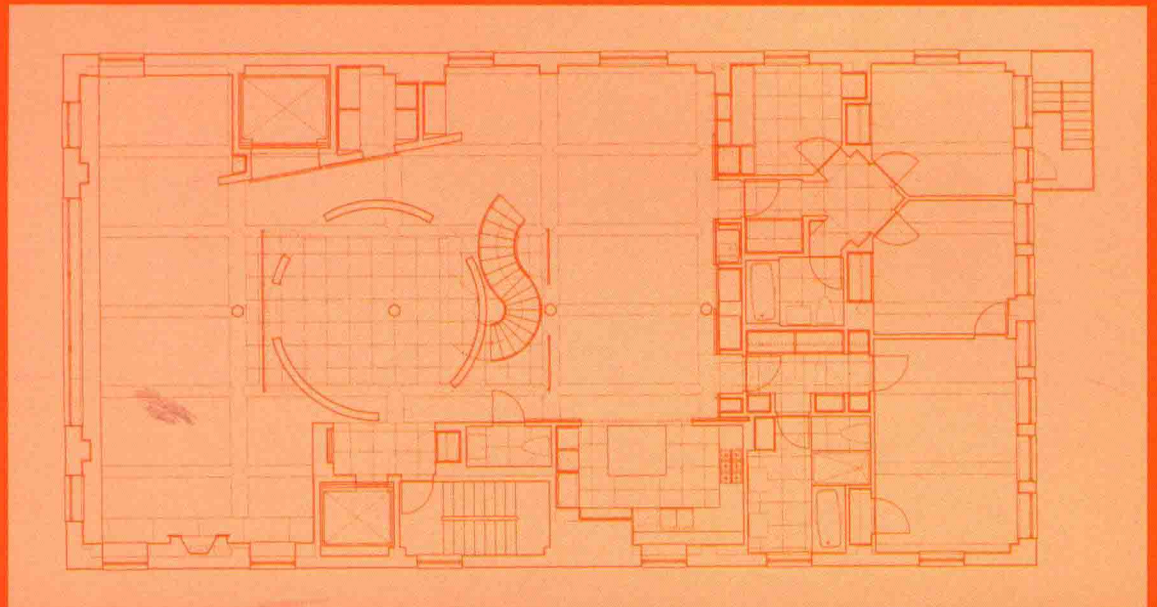
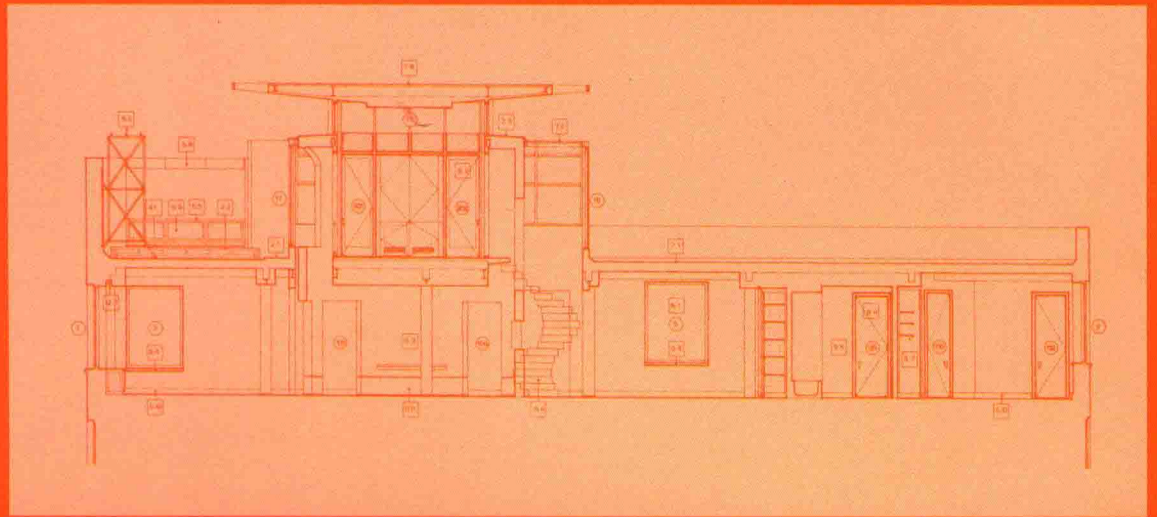
Shelton, Mindel & Associates

The first step in the project process followed in this apartment of around 2,160 square feet was to detect those problems that required specific solutions. Thus the following priorities were established: to integrate project and city; to take maximum advantage of the four facades and the roof; and to house a collection of pieces of furniture and objets d'art by XX-century artists and architects.

On the lower level of the apartment, public and private spaces are very clearly differentiated. The zone most suitable for public relations is organized as from the south facade around an element in the form of a water tank. A large living room with fireplace, and a dining room with an annexed zone in which to sit, are located on either side of the central artifact, a circular space and glass box with a double spiral stainless steel staircase.








## The public and the private, independent

On the west facade, an irregular volume contains the elevator and a storeroom. Furthermore, an L-shaped services strip separates this more public space from the private areas. Part of the L, which contains the vertical communications nucleus, the entrance to the apartment, a toilet, and the kitchen — which opens into the dining room — occupies the east facade. The other part, with a bathroom and dressing room for the two single bedrooms and another for the double bedroom, creates an intermediate zone between bedrooms — with excellent views north — and the rest of the apartment.

In the apartment, the mobile panels acquire a certain importance, since the fact that they may be opened or closed modifies the perception of space. Aluminum, stainless steel, structural white glass, and oak and cherry wood on the floors are some of the materials used for this apartment. Prouvé, Richard Serra, Hoffman, Jacobsen, Aalto, Charles Eames, Caldés, Wagner, and Robert Ryman are some of the artists, sculptors, ceramists, and architects whose works are exhibited inside.





A photograph of a modern interior space. On the left, a dark, curved staircase with a mesh railing leads upwards. In the center, a light-colored armchair with a curved backrest is positioned near a large window. The floor is made of polished wood. The overall atmosphere is clean and minimalist.

In a single gesture, this new element resolves access to the roof. The enclosed volume makes it possible to link the lower floor — specifically its more public zone — with the roof and the sky, creating a living room on the level above. This volume may also be used as an exhibition space.