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VIEWSTRUCK

Modern Manhattan Living





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Remodeling can be a horrible experience, if you don't have a team you can trust. Luckily, Bruce and Gail Chizen were able to put together a dream team for their pied-à-terre in New York, all while living across the country in California. Having grown up in Brooklyn, and with family on the East Coast, the Chizens wanted to take advantage of the city's offerings they missed out on when they were younger. They bought an apartment in the city, and on recommendation from Bruce's brother Stu, hired Belida Associates. That sparked the synergistic efforts of Belida Associates, Ann Macklin of A2architects, and the Chizens to create this spectacular home in the clouds.

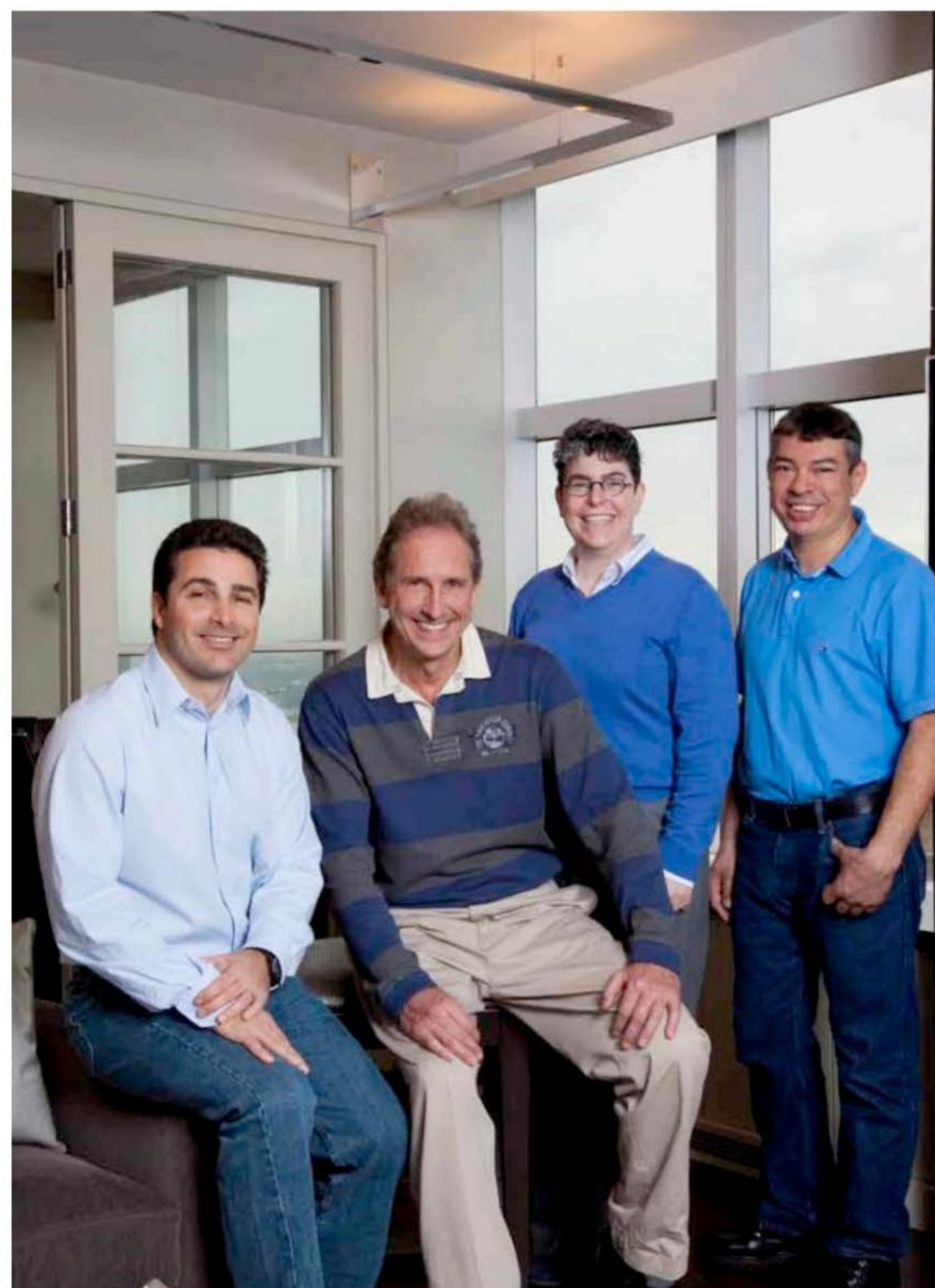


Glass doors separate the semi-private office but still allow for light and a larger sense of open space.





“ CHOOSING A CONTRACTOR AND ARCHITECT MAKES A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A GOOD PROJECT AND A HELLACIOUS ONE. ”



FROM LEFT: Bill Cooper, Steve Belida, Ann Macklin, and Hector Fuentes are the design build team from Belida Associates and A2 Architect.

They were able to build doors that closed off the office for guests but are usually left open to extend the living room. To finish the effect, Staci Ruiz of Studio 87 was brought in to perfect the lighting, as seen in the powder room.

Asked what advice he would offer to others considering remodeling, Bruce replied, “Choosing a contractor and architect makes a difference between a good project and a hellacious one.” Having a team he could trust who were willing to do things one step at a time allowed Bruce and Gail to oversee the project from afar and make decisions as they arose. They were sent photo updates of the construction often when they couldn’t visit. They liked how interested Ann and Bill were in figuring out different ways to use the place and how their pleasant personalities helped ensure the cooperation of the building managers.



The collaborative effort between Belida Associates, Ann Macklin and the Chizens ultimately ended in a "cool place where everyone who goes in is impressed. We're proud of it." When working together three thousand miles apart for a year, a result this inspired is a dream come true. ■



Staci Ruiz of Studio 87 found perfect pendant lighting to give the powder room an underwater dreamy effect.





The bedroom overlooks the Hudson River through Manhattan architecture and into the skyline of New Jersey.

