

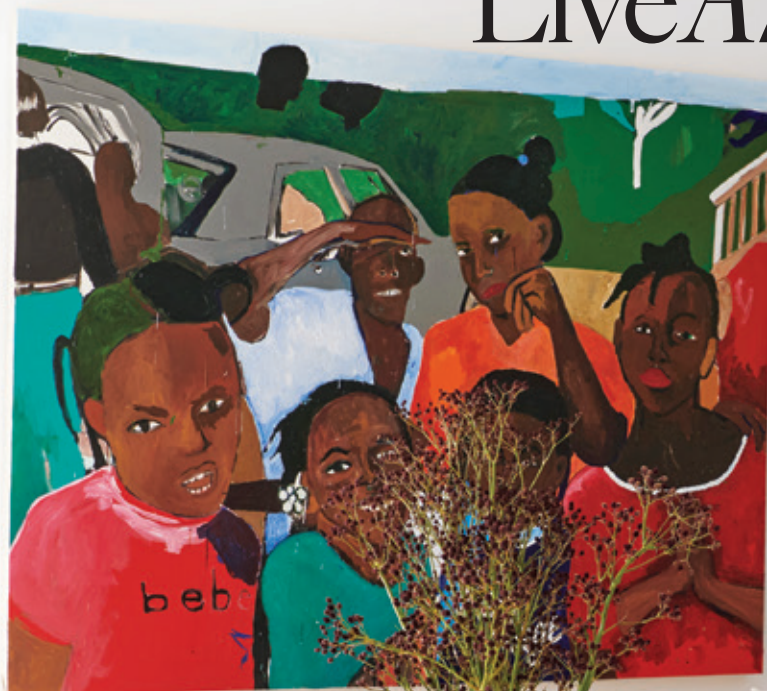
Galerie

LiveArtfully

**Annabelle Selldorf
Creates an Art-Filled
Masterpiece for
Avid Collectors**

**Secrets to Designing
the Perfect
Outdoor Escape**

**Private Getaways
in Bordeaux, Umbria,
and San Miguel
de Allende**



CREATIVE MINDS

**30 Incredible Talents Using Their
Genius to Change the World**

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A Jonas Wood painting hangs above the fireplace next to a large work by Laura Owens in the living room of an art-packed Westchester County home designed and decorated by Selldorf Architects. Annabelle Selldorf conceived the sofas, square cocktail tables, and slipper chair, which is paired with a 1950s Seguso table by the fireplace. For details see Sources.

elegantly modern machine for living with a diverse trove of dynamite art

box



Midcentury pendants by Kamenicky Senov hang in the entrance hall, where a colorful Mary Weatherford canvas shares a corner with works by Mark Grotjahn. **Opposite:** The home's exterior is clad in cedar planks charred by Delta Millworks using a traditional Japanese process.





**For the past
three decades,
Annabelle Selldorf
has created
memorably refined
architecture for
cultural spaces
around the world.**

Earlier in her career, she transformed a historic Manhattan mansion into the Neue Galerie, a jewel-box museum of German and Austrian modern art and design. Spectacularly austere commercial galleries followed for such powerhouse dealers as David Zwirner, Gladstone Gallery, and Hauser & Wirth. In Arles, France, Selldorf converted a derelict industrial site into a gleaming art complex for the Luma Foundation. Recently, she was tasked with overseeing expansions at the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego and New York's Frick Collection—projects that promise to reinvigorate both institutions.

The German-born, New York City-based architect is equally in demand as a designer of private residences, often for collectors who admire her vision of elegant restraint, in which perfectly proportioned, calm-inducing interiors let the art make all the noise. “I’m not showy,” Selldorf says in her typically precise and understated manner.

Six years ago, a couple who loved the renovation Selldorf had previously done on their Manhattan apartment approached her to design a new house on a wooded, 13-acre property in Westchester County, north of the city. Passionate collectors of contemporary art, the couple had raised three children in a nearby 1930s home packed with works hung salon-style on every wall. Now they

desired a residence with dedicated spaces for displaying their voluminous and diverse collection, including sculptures, ceramics, and paintings by such luminaries as Carol Bove, Mark Grotjahn, Laura Owens, and Elizabeth Peyton. “We wanted to live with it,” the wife explains. “We basically designed galleries for the home.”

The exterior of the 12,000-square-foot house sets a composed tone. Selldorf clad the rectilinear structure in cedar planks charred using the Japanese *shou sugi ban* technique, giving the wood a distinctive dusky hue. “There’s something in that char that makes the house feel more compact and tactile,” Selldorf notes. The wife concurs: “It melts into the landscape.” Her husband, however, needed convincing. “I was hesitant about black. I thought it was going to be severe,” he recalls. “Because of the burnt technique you see the wood grain coming through. It’s not harsh. I’ve learned to love it.”

Selldorf’s design scheme features a light-filled, open-air central courtyard from which the main living spaces flow. There are also three distinct galleries (not counting the foyer and corridors brimming with art), the largest of which is illuminated by a skylight. “It’s our version of ‘the grand gallery,’” says the husband.

The primary bedroom, occupying one corner of the ground floor, overlooks a moss garden and pond. The architect situated three other bedrooms, as well as a gym, upstairs. Even when the couple is alone, they use the entire house, which functions equally well when their children visit, as all of them did during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic last spring. “We had a real WeWork situation,” jokes the wife. “Seven people in all, five working from computers. But everyone found their space. We have doors, which is good.”

Like the clean-lined rooms, the furnishings—a mix of vintage and contemporary pieces—perform quietly. The living room, for example, is outfitted with velvet-upholstered sofas from Selldorf’s European-inspired Vica collection, which →



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A Mary Weatherford painting with neon and a work by Laura Owens occupy one end of the dining room, where a 1950s Stilnovi chandelier is installed over the custom-made table and Mart Stam chairs. A John Outterbridge wall sculpture is mounted above a work by David Hammons in the doorway, and the large painting at right is by Jacqueline Humphries.



The screened porch, paved with granite by ABC Stone and outfitted with RH sofas and a Richard Schultz table for Knoll, hosts a totemlike sculpture by Leilah Babirye. **Opposite:** In one of the galleries, a wall of works on paper hung salon-style makes a kaleidoscopic backdrop for Rob Pruitt's strikingly upholstered love seat.





Loll Designs Adirondack chairs for Design Within Reach surround a Paloform firepit on a terrace paved with ABC Stone granite. **Opposite, from top:** The home's entrance. A skylighted gallery displays works by (from left): Dana Schutz, Henry Taylor, Walter Price, Jana Euler, Mark Grotjahn, Calvin Marcus, Lauren Halsey, and Avery Singer.

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Flanking a nearly floor-to-ceiling door in the primary bedroom are nudes by Marlene Dumas (left) and Nate Lowman, which hang above floor pieces by Sonia Gomes and Katy Schimert. Installed over the custom-made TV cabinet are a Henry Taylor portrait, a John Outterbridge wall sculpture, and a large abstraction by Laura Owens. **Below:** Another Henry Taylor portrait surmounts the bedroom's Selldorf-designed tiered table, displaying ceramics.

she paired with vintage armchairs by the modernist Brazilian designer Sergio Rodrigues. Mart Stam tubular metal chairs reproduced by Thonet and a 1950s Italian circular chandelier add subtle curves to the dining room. “Calm, tranquil, organized spaces do not translate into boredom,” Selldorf says, “but instead become a background for all that boisterous life epitomized in the art.”

Amassed over decades, the couple’s collection holds surprises in every room. The main gallery displays a dozen or so paintings—including works by Dana Schutz, Jana Euler, and Avery Singer—that find harmony in their disparateness. Vivid portraits by Henry Taylor energize the living room and the couple’s bedroom, where the adventurous mix features nudes by Marlene Dumas and Nate Lowman. “The clients are courageous with art,” Selldorf says. “They let themselves be provoked, shaken, rattled. It’s part of their understanding of the here and now. I’ve always admired how curious they are. It’s very contagious.”

The screened porch, with serene views of the surrounding woods as a backdrop, plays host to a powerful sculpture created with found objects by the young Uganda-born artist Leilah Babirye. “We made a very peaceful house,” Selldorf says, summing up the project, “where not-so-peaceful art can do its thing.” □





In the primary bath, lined with marble from ABC Stone, an MTI tub offers scenic soaks beneath a Gabriel Orozco light sculpture.