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**COLOR WHEEL.** Handcrafted pieces add warmth to the starkly modern interior. A Murano glass chandelier brightens a dining table crafted from reclaimed wood by Marsia Holzer. Mark Albrecht's artisanal iron and woven leather dining chairs provide the perfect match. Irene Mamiye's vibrant artworks add a joyous note.

# EYE CANDY

DESIGNER KERRY DELROSE TURNS A MINIMALIST TRIBECA TOWNHOUSE INTO A CANVAS FOR ARTIST IRENE MAMIYE'S VIBRANT WORK

INTERIOR DESIGN KERRY DELROSE · BY ARLENE HIRST · PHOTOGRAPHY PETER MARGONELLI





**LIGHT AND SPACE** FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: A pair of Papilio chairs stand guard in front of Irene Mamiye's abstract photography panels—C-Prints mounted to aluminum. Delrose designed the facing sofas and coffee table in the living room. Charles Mamiye discovered the Marsia Holzer floor lamp in Holzer's studio bathroom. A panel of back-painted red glass warms the basement bar.

**WHEN A FRIEND** called Charles Mamiye to ask his advice about purchasing a residential property in TriBeCa, Mamiye told him to jump on the deal, but added, "If you decide not to buy it, maybe I'd be interested." When the friend decided against the purchase, Charles and Irene Mamiye moved quickly to buy the property. As Charles says, "A home is fate."

The place, a four-story townhouse that had been completely renovated by the previous owner (Italian architect Leopoldo Rosati designed the project) was a modernist's dream, with a dramatic skylight over the downstairs living area, acres of built-in storage that concealed a television and a fireplace, high-tech lighting, a screening room in the basement, a spacious deck on the second floor surrounding the aforementioned skylight, state-of-the-art bathrooms, and a dramatic staircase that linked all the floors.

The couple asked designer Kerry Delrose—he designed their New Jersey beach house—to help them decorate it. To say that it was in move-in condition was an understatement. "It was like walking into a modern spec house in the Hamptons," says Delrose. Because Irene is a professional artist—her work will be shown at the Context art fair in May—Delrose felt the space was an ideal place to throw a spotlight on her work. Her paintings, *CONTINUED* ▶



**WORK/LIFE BALANCE** ABOVE: Irene Mamiye and an assistant work in her second floor studio. BELOW LEFT AND RIGHT: The previous owner left the Fendi bed behind. He had also installed Porcelanosa tile and a spa tub in the master bathroom. OPPOSITE: Designer Kerry Delrose exiting from the front doors of the townhouse.



photographs and constructions make all the rooms feel intensely personal and add warmth and spirit to the surroundings. The couple love color and coaxed Delrose away from his usual neutral palette. “When we went to B&B Italia to look at chairs, I suggested the Grand Papilio—in beige, of course—but Charles announced that he wanted it in red. He had seen a custom tufted bench in one of my projects and also wanted that—not in gray, but turquoise.”

The designer did provide a neutral background for all the exuberant color, with a pair of Delrose-designed custom facing sofas. The coffee table, another piece of his handiwork, sits atop a multicolored shag rug from Beauvais Carpet.

Mamiye’s limited-edition furniture and lighting are featured throughout the house; from the lamps in her studio to the side tables in the living room, the pieces add punches of color and visual interest. Delrose thinks the house is almost like a gallery. “It speaks well to the art.” **SEE RESOURCES**