

# Oculus

Summer 2012

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XOCOLATTI

CHOCOLATE *reimagined.*

2012 AIA NY

## DESIGN AWARDS

ARCHITECTURE / INTERIORS

URBAN DESIGN / UNBUILT WORK

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Cover: Xocolatti (see pg. 35)  
Architect: de-spec inc and Brian Gillen, AIA  
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## Manhattan Triplex

NEW YORK, NY

Architect: 1100 Architect

Client: Private

The deft deployment of lighting and sumptuous materials creates a rich yet simple living space in this 2,700-square-foot Manhattan triplex in a pre-war building. The architect's relationship with the client began in 2002 with the design of a duplex; the purchase of the apartment above in 2008 allowed for the introduction of a guest suite and workspace retreat. Refined details and a restricted color palette characterize this cohesive, ultra-modern environment. Floor-to-ceiling cabinets traverse the living room and kitchen, unifying the residence while respecting the independent character of each room. What appears to be a solid-white lacquer wall opens up to reveal a colorful wet bar and access to the bedroom and bathroom. These playful, surprising moments occur throughout the apartment as counterpoint to the refined aesthetic.



©Michael Moran/contractive

Jury: "This beautiful project intrigued us with the mysterious black cabinet and beautiful details, such as the stair handrail and ladder behind the door."

**1100 ARCHITECT TEAM:**

David Piscuskas, FAIA, LEED AP, Ed Parker, AIA, Timothy Furzer, Sofia Koutsenko, Dominic Griffin

**STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:**

Robert Silman Associates

**MEP ENGINEER:** D'Antonio

Consulting Engineers

**EXPEDITOR:**

William Vitacco Associates

**MILLWORK:** Galli Interiors

**CUSTOM STAINLESS STEEL**

**FABRICATION:**

Lennie Construction

**RESIN DESK TOP:**

Charles Hickok

**ELECTRICIAN:** Einstein

Electrical Corporation

**A/V CONSULTANT:**

SoundSight Technologies

**GENERAL CONTRACTOR:**

Lennie Construction

## Xocolatti NEW YORK, NY

Designer: de-spec inc

Architect: Brian Gillen, AIA

Client: Xocolatti

Xocolatti is a new luxury chocolate brand whose flagship store in SoHo is the first of a planned series of international locations. The concept for the 150-square-foot space eliminates the traditional division of a storefront and window display, offering an interactive, vitrine-like environment that seamlessly integrates with the streetscape. The walls are lined with custom-designed, floor-to-ceiling bronze shelving systems based on the different sizes of green and brown boxes of chocolate. The boxes act as both storage and display. As customers remove boxes from the walls throughout the day, the walls' graphic pattern changes and owners learn what is in demand. Glowing light boxes featuring each product assert the brand, while the neutrality of the grid gives shoppers a clear reading of flavors and options.

Jury: "An amazing demonstration of what can be done in 150 square feet. A compelling space in a tiny box that made us hungry for chocolate."



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**DE-SPEC INC TEAM:**

Farnaz Mansuri, AIA, Tom Shea, Maziar Ghavidel

**ARCHITECT-OF-RECORD:**

Brian Gillen, RA

**GENERAL CONTRACTOR:**

de-spec inc

**GRAPHIC CONSULTANT:**

Exit Creative Company

**METAL WORK:** Shock Studios

**LIGHTING:** Lightolier; Nippo

Seamless Line

**FLOORCOVERING:**

Cavendish Grey