

The inner world of... MARK SELIGER

World-acclaimed photographer, Mark Seliger opens to us his style of life in New York and shares with us his studio, his rooftop, his music, his art... his world.

How did you choose this place ?

The area where I live is called the Far West Village and for a long time it was a very darelike neighborhood with the highway running through it splitting your view of the water. There were lots of gloomy bars and falling apart piers. It wasn't considered at the time for its incredible river views. But I found this old building on West End Highway and bought it completely out of luck. I rebuilt the twelve thousand square feet space from scratch. I think the vision I had one morning of the low fog rising across the Hudson River made me definitely go for it. Now I have a beautiful living space with a rooftop overlooking the water, an apartment and my studio.

Your place has been decorated by Benjamin Noriega-Ortiz. What do you particularly like about his work ?

The sensibility Benjamin has blended perfectly into my universe. He created very simple lights that connects you to the space. He used a lot of warm tones and mochas to create a special atmosphere around the open windows and big shag carpets to create spaces within the apartment ; it reminds me of when I was a kid. I love big, shag carpets. Then, instead of curtains, he used amber pull-up shades to filter the light, to drain full sun, to create warm areas.

What is your favorite design piece in your interior ?

I have a Heywood-Wakefield table which Benjamin covered with a Plexiglas top and now it looks like a real, monumental piece. I love it. I also bought a couple of beautiful glass-works, like sculptures, in Murano the last time I was in Venice. I also go to flea markets in a super casual way. I'm always the last person to get there and I love picking up objects from leftovers. I'm actually quite good at picking up things: they're not necessarily the most design piece, they're usually funkier like this Barcelona chair I found. It matches nicely an old velvet chair from Minnesota I have from my grandmother. She made sure I had that chair before she passed away. She wanted it to be in my house. I also collect photographs and mount them on old frames. My favorite is a picture of Martha Graham by Steichen.

What is your favorite room or place in your apartment ?

It's probably the main area, which is like a large loft with incredible arch windows overlooking the water. It's a relaxing place to spend long hours, to go and sit by the fireplace. Just to sit and watch.

Do you spend a lot of time in your apartment ?

Most of my time I spend traveling, but spring and summer I enjoy my rooftop so much that I try to spend time there. I have a garden with Japanese maples and black pines, junipers and river birches. I enjoy having lots of people come over. It's very much of a friend and family meeting place. I'm a good cook and have a great kitchen and in summertime we organize barbecues and enjoy long cocktail hours. But my place is also a sanctuary where I can be quiet and listen to music, where I can get away from the world. Being over the water has a calming quality. When I stand on the roof top, I can feel the breeze from the river, get this precious sense of movement from the trees, listen to the birds.

What resembles you the most here ?

There's a guitar sitting in the middle of my apartment next to a comfortable chair... me at the end of a long day... or an old acoustic guitar that over 50 people, guitar players, singers and songwriters, have signed over the years. It now sits in its plexus case above my fireplace.

By Marie Le Fort



THE FAR WEST SIDE

Mark Seliger's apartment overlooking the Hudson.



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