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Penthouse Decorum

Global design platform Galerie Philia sets up shop in New York's iconic Walker Tower

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The exhibition occupies every room in the duplex but favors flow over clutter. (Courtesy Galerie Philia)

As fixed brick-and-mortar spaces become less important, a growing number of established and emerging collectible art and design galleries are experimenting with new exhibition formats. Some are teaming up with real estate developers to create contextualized displays in luxury apartments. These win-win collaborations help the former demonstrate how their wares might situate in what are ostensibly collector homes, while the latter is able to stage their spaces in new, dynamic ways.

International platform Galerie Philia has just taken up residence in New York's historic Walker Tower. Integrating 70 works into a 5,000-square-foot, 18th-floor duplex, this contextualized display accentuates the luxury apartment's art deco detailing and stunning views. Works from the gallery's extensive roster of talents occupy an expansive living room, a full kitchen, an alcove dining room, four en-suite bedrooms, and even a shower with unobstructed views of Downtown Manhattan.

"Black, white, and brass tones set the vibe in the main rooms," said the show's curator Italian architect-turned-designer Pietro Franceschini. "Primitive shapes and meticulously crafted materials bring out an ethereal character that is consistent throughout the apartment." His cohesive intervention highlighting the gallery's main aesthetic but also the main attributes of this restored apartment.

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