

TRENDS IN RENOVATION | GREATER NEW YORK



VELLA INTERIORS

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Any longtime New Yorker probably has a story to tell about an intense renovation project. With so many historic buildings, the city especially presents a challenge to anyone longing for an update. But in Vella Interiors, homeowners and industry partners alike have found an inimitable solution. The high-end residential construction company specializes in complete apartment and townhouse renovations, and its in-house millwork shop and passion for collaboration have garnered it a reputation for excellence. As well as, if you can believe it, fun. “We create comradery with the whole team,” principal Michael Vella shares. “In fact, some clients even have ‘withdrawal’ when the weekly site meetings end.” Those check-ins sometimes include walking through Vella Interiors’ workshop, where kitchens, libraries and more are fully built for viewing and selection. Who wouldn’t enjoy the journey?



“In the midst of renovation, always, **always maintain your sense of humor.**”

ON TREND IN THE CITY

- **Features:** As the home becomes more of a sanctuary than ever before, Michael sees clients seeking luxurious details in the master bath and dressing rooms, studies and offices. “Also, mudrooms are no longer a suburban concept,” he says. “With the elevated desire to remain healthy, a place to leave all streetwear at the door is highly relevant.”
- **Finishes:** Natural grain woods are back in a big way. “I come from a heavy woodworking background, so this excites me,” Michael shares. “I am especially fond of lighter tones and matte sheens, which can make the wood appear raw.”

PIECE OF ADVICE: START FRESH

Asked to share one overarching recommendation specific to New York City renovations, Michael points to a method of approach. **“Beginning with a complete shell really allows for the design to be cohesive and not feel forced** in the end, which sometimes happens when we see new details and finishes designed to ‘blend in’ with the existing.”



Above In this kitchen, a banquette with red-upholstered seating adds a cheerful touch to what was once a dark spare room. **Top** This expansive library of French-polished mahogany is centered by a wood mantel with a stone surround inlaid with a bronze Greek key pattern. **Left** One of Vella Interiors’ in-house artisans meticulously assembles the hand-carved, classically designed mahogany mantel. **Photography** Above by Francesco Lagnese; Top by Durston Saylor Photography; Left by Kris Tamburello



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