

Q&A with Charles Allem of C.A.D. International

Charles Allem, of the Miami-based firm C.A.D. International, is bringing his streamlined, minimalist aesthetic to projects in New York with a permanent outpost in the city.

by New York Spaces



C.A.D. International.

NYS: Why and when did you decide to open your firm? What is your background?

Charles Allem of C.A.D. International: (<http://cadintl.com/>) I was driven by design from a young age, as I was always surrounded by beautiful things growing up. Design was given to me, and that is where my energy has been focused ever since. I opened my first firm in 1977. My background is Lebanese and South African.

NYS: What is your firm known for? How would you describe your personal aesthetic? You seem to have a very clean, streamlined look with an edge!

Charles Allem: My firm is best known for high-end residential and hospitality projects. I am a minimalist at heart—my personal aesthetic has always been minimalism.

NYS: We are excited you are going to have an outpost in New York. Will the focus change at all? If so, how?

Charles Allem: I don't believe the focus will change. It will only extend my presence in the city that I first started my journey in.

NYS: What do you think works for high-end turnkey apartments that wouldn't necessarily work in private residences?

Charles Allem: When working on a private residence you get to know the client on such a personal level, therefore the design reflects the client's lifestyle, etc. When designing high-end turnkey apartments, you must instead think ahead and anticipate what buyers generally need or want.

NYS: What are certain design trends you are seeing in Miami that you have not encountered in New York and vice versa?

Charles Allem: I would describe the overall design in Miami as more casual-chic as you are closer to the ocean. New York has a more formal and urban look. Since there is a huge flow of New Yorkers buying properties in Miami though, there's a great combination of styles coming together.

NYS: What has been one of your favorite projects to date and why?



Charles Allem of C.A.D. International.

Charles Allem: Two of my favorite projects to date are residential projects in the Hamptons, NY and Bel Air, Los Angeles. The reason why these projects are so special is because I was fully involved with the architecture, landscape design, and interior design of both. It was all one vision, one voice.

NYS: What would a dream project of yours be?



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Charles Allem: My dream project would be to unfold an uber-luxe brand of hotels, comprising of all suites in a minimalist style with a curated contemporary art collection in Hong Kong, London, New York City and Los Angeles.

NYS: What are you working on now?

Charles Allem: Currently I'm working on multiple high-end residential projects in Hong Kong, New York City, Los Angeles, and Miami, as well as some commercial developments.

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