

Franklin D. Israel

buildings + projects



introduction by Frank O. Gehry essays by Thomas S. Hines and Franklin D. Israel

RIZZOLI
NEW YORK



view of exterior at 31st floor



gillette studio |

New York, New York 1980–1982

A 3,000-square-foot living space for one in New York City, the Gillette Studio was completed in 1982. The studio reclaims the boiler room of a New York office tower, and transforms the vestigial space of the building into a living and working environment for a fashion photographer.

Once gutted, the space became a shell for a new, and in some ways foreign, pattern of order. The disparities of scale between this high, secluded retreat and the surrounding buildings of the

metropolis were accentuated by inversions of "civic" and "private" monumentality within the design itself. The ancillary needs of the client were clustered around the service core of stairwells and elevator shafts, leaving large open areas on either side. The concise planning of the kitchen, bath, and dining rooms complements the free and open studio and bedroom. In a more pointed juxtaposition, a miniature grand stairway leads up to a cubbyhole closet, while an oversized and ebullient bathtub overflows luxuriously in one corner of the living suite.

Transformations in the life of the client have led to many alterations of the original design, but the flexible overall pattern remains unchanged. At his request, we incorporated a number of clear references to the work of Luis Barragán into the design. As Mr. Gillette's tastes moved away from Barragán and toward the motifs of the Arts and Crafts movement, the studio has taken on new character, but without sacrificing the essential structure of the whole.





