

CITY

THE DESTINATION FOR STYLE



form &
function

THE 2007 DESIGN ISSUE

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Personality (& Apartment)

DROR CONQUERS ICF
+ 8 More Designers to Watch

CONVERTIBLE SPACES
Pack More Bang
Into Your Blueprint

HANS WEGNER
A Life Through Design

ARCHITECT STEVEN HOLL
Underground in Kansas City

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SUMMER
FASHION

AND...

Serial Killer City
Weekend Escape to Boston
Get Sauced with Your Friends
Jean-Georges' Crostini



14'-11 3/4"

TITLE:

GO CONFIGURE

DATE:

CITY Design & Home Issue 2007

DESCRIPTION:

Crunched for space in your apartment? Not enough walls in your loft? With her new book, 'Convertible Houses,' longtime CITY contributor Amy Thomas gets inside the minds of architects who offer creative ways to pack more bang into your blueprint.

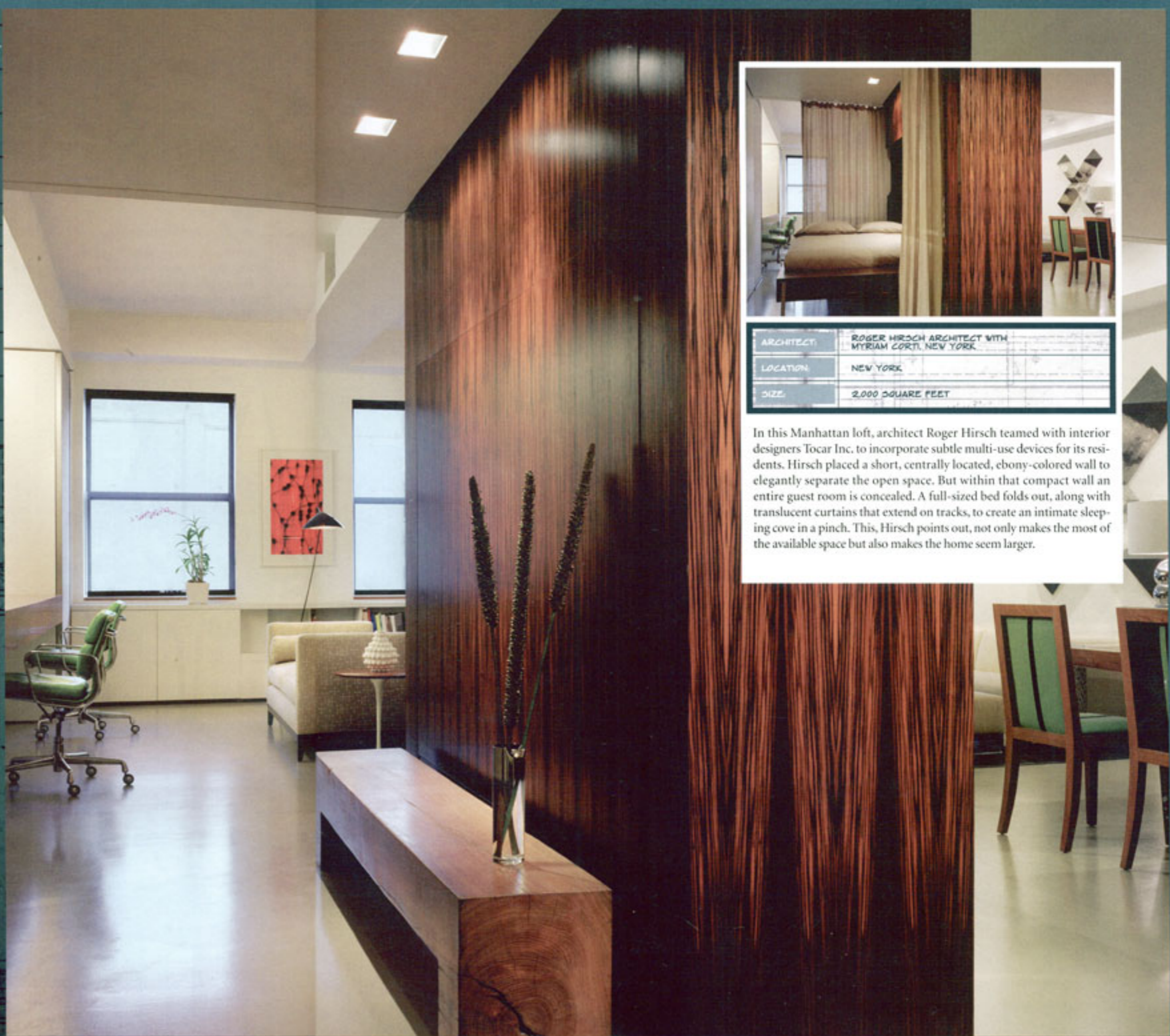
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REMEMBER THE QUIANT OLD DAYS OF HOMES WITH A DINING room, a living room, a sitting room, a laundry room—different rooms for different functions? May those days (and rooms) rest in suburban peace.

Among the disintegration—and subsequent reconfiguration—of the family unit, the loft craze of the '90s, and the influence of digital technology on every aspect our lives, rooms no longer have formal functions. Today, we drag laptops from the home office to the kitchen to the large common area. We watch television at the dinner table and from the bathtub. And, in the case of studio apartments, we sleep within the same four walls as we entertain, eat, and work. So how can singular spaces seamlessly accommodate multiple functions? How can we create flexibility within finite boundaries? By being more flexible ourselves.

As our lifestyles continue to evolve and we need our homes to work harder, rule number one is to embrace change, architects say. Convertible living, by its very definition, is meant to be transformed. A curtain wall allows for spontaneous shifts in the floor plan. Attaching casters to a desk or dining table allows you to move it on a whim, if only to suit the day's needs. Relying on functional furniture lets one room do double-duty. We've been multitasking for years—it was only a matter of time before our homes did too.

"Convertible living is as much a lifestyle concept as it is physical," says New York-based architect Andrew Franz. "Our needs and routines change and evolve; so should our environment." In other words, with the breakdown of formality, we can lose our own rigid definitions of space hierarchy and use—a concept more architects, including those behind these five projects, are embracing.



ARCHITECT:	ROGER HIRSCH ARCHITECT WITH MYRIAM CORTI, NEW YORK
LOCATION:	NEW YORK
SIZE:	2,000 SQUARE FEET

In this Manhattan loft, architect Roger Hirsch teamed with interior designers Tocar Inc. to incorporate subtle multi-use devices for its residents. Hirsch placed a short, centrally located, ebony-colored wall to elegantly separate the open space. But within that compact wall an entire guest room is concealed. A full-sized bed folds out, along with translucent curtains that extend on tracks, to create an intimate sleeping cove in a pinch. This, Hirsch points out, not only makes the most of the available space but also makes the home seem larger.

14' 11 3/4"

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In the same New York loft, Hirsch installed another sleek detail: a floating teak counter along a wall in the living area. The ledge, however, transforms into two individual workstations, thanks to ingenious flip-desktops. Not only does this multifunctional design replace the need to devote an entire room to a home office, but when the desks are not in use, the counter line helps frame a large projection television for viewing from the adjoining room.

