

Some basic info about:

The Modulightor Building

Architect: Paul Rudolph

246 East 58th Street, New York, NY 10022

The history of the building and its design:

1. The building was originally designed by Rudolph to be at twice-or-more as tall as was built during the first phase of its construction.
2. The *First Phase* of the building (floors 1-to-4, plus 3 cellars) was built from 1989 -to- 1993
3. Rudolph was the architect of that *First Phase* [Rudolph's dates are 1918-1997, so that First phase was completed during his lifetime, and with his direct and continuous involvement.]
4. For about a half-decade, Paul Rudolph's architectural office occupied the 2nd floor of the building
5. After Paul Rudolph passed, Donald Luckenbill—an architect who had worked for Rudolph, and who knew his design approach very well—added shelving throughout the interior of the Duplex. It is upon this shelving that items from the Collections (as well as books from Paul Rudolph's own library) can today be seen.
6. The *Second Phase* (floors 5 and 6, plus a Roof Deck) was built from 2007 -to- 2015
7. The architect for the Second phase was Mark Squeo—and he was chosen because he worked for Rudolph, and was familiar with the “design DNA” of Rudolph's approach. Of course, Squeo used whatever drawings/sketches/documentation were available from Rudolph's archives, to discern Paul Rudolph's design intentions.
8. The square footage for each of the two residential floors of the building (the two floors of the Paul Rudolph designed duplex, on floors 3 and 4) is: approximately 1400 square feet *per floor*

The objects in the apartment — “The Collections”:

1. Throughout the interiors, one can see displayed a fascinating array of objects—many of them are vintage, and some are serious antiques. They are carefully placed—and not only do they each have intrinsic design interest, but they also ornament/enhance the spaces wonderfully.
2. Ernst refers to them as “The Collections”
3. They come from years of travel by Ernst Wagner and Paul Rudolph—both internationally and across the US—and were purchased from a variety of sources: flea markets, antique stores, and even roadside craftsmen.
4. What you see in the apartment is a combination of things that Paul Rudolph collected and what Ernst Wagner collected.
5. You can see many of these objects in photos of Paul Rudolph's Beekman Street Quadruplex apartment
6. When Rudolph died, many of his possessions were inherited by Ernst Wagner, and integrated into the Modulightor Building's Duplex (where Ernst Wagner lives).
7. These wonderful objects come from all over the world—So, as Mr. Wagner puts it, they can be characterized as “collections of artworks, tools, industrial forms, and everyday objects from different cultures”
8. Ernst offers this quote from Oscar Wilde, which captures the reason for the visual appeal of so many of these objects: “I have found that all ugly things are made by those who strive to make something beautiful, and all beautiful things are made by those who strive to make something useful.”

Contact info, and more info can be found through:

www.modulightor.com

www.paulrudolphheritagefoundation.org

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