

# FOUR

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# SHAPING SENSIBLE SPACES

Ever-inspired by the creative process, Danish-born, New York-based interior and architectural designer Thomas Juul-Hansen aims to design ageless spaces that flawlessly fuse form with function. *FOUR* sits down with the Harvard graduate to learn more about his passions, principles and latest projects...



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT  
Thomas Juul-Hansen;  
dining area in a model  
residence at 96+Broadway  
© Evan Joseph; the  
beautiful lobby at  
96+Broadway features  
a front desk carved out of  
a solid block of travertine  
© We are Visuals.



## TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR FIRM, THOMAS JUUL-HANSEN, LLC...

My firm specialises in high-end residential architectural design, occasionally segueing into the hospitality realm. Our primary mission is to create residential designs that are as pragmatic as they are beautiful. Prioritising pure, natural materials and craftsmanship allows us to achieve truly timeless design.

The goal with everything we do is to create something that doesn't seem to age, whether just completed or after being lived in for a decade or more. We create warm spaces that are still modern — evoking emotion and character. Architecture is really all about feeling — you want to walk into a space that feels good from the moment you step into it.

## TELL US ABOUT YOUR BACKGROUND...

I received my BA in Architecture from the University of Miami and an MA in Architecture from Harvard. I began working for Richard Meier & Partners (now Meier Partners). For the next couple of years, I was fortunate enough to work with a team of people there who were diligent, focused, and smart. Through their tutelage, I learned how to master the tools to create designs and drawings and, importantly, how to make them as close to perfect as they could be. This precision and thoughtfulness in design are the critical skills that have remained important throughout my career.

I really disliked business school, and when I first started studying architecture, it was primarily a means to an end. However, the more I dedicated myself to the craft of architecture, the deeper my passion for it grew. I love to create; for me, making something and being a part of the creative process is extremely satisfying and rewarding.







**WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVOURITE PROJECTS YOU'VE WORKED ON?**

Honestly, it's difficult to say — I am proud of all my work and love them equally. The design and construction process from start to finish takes years, and it takes a lot of back and forth to source the perfect materials and to fight for thoughtful designs that ensure the building's integrity and value. The projects become almost like a child you birth and want to protect and nurture so they can become the best they can be.

**WHAT ABOUT YOUR LATEST PROJECT, 96+BROADWAY — COULD YOU SHED SOME LIGHT ON THIS?**

96+Broadway is a building designed with a deep appreciation and respect for its surrounding community, as it was conceptualised with functionality at the forefront. The Upper West Side is very much a neighbourhood where young families settle and long-time New Yorkers reside, so we wanted 96+Broadway to fit right in with providing that familiar sense of home and practicality in every aspect of its design. Working with JVP as the developer for this project has been such a pleasure because they are not only invested in the economic success of their projects but also genuinely take pride in the quality of their end-product. That's why the commitment to using the highest-quality natural materials is my favourite thing about this project. Everything was selected and built for 96+Broadway to last; we didn't cut any corners. All kitchen cabinets are solid oak, bathrooms are clad from floor to ceiling with solid marble tile, and the pool features travertine surfaces as well as custom-designed Hemlock wood panelling. Even the lobby's front desk is carved out of a solid block of travertine. This project has so many incredible stand-out features that were created with much thought and consideration for the people who will inhabit this space which certainly appeals to me as a designer.

**ANY ACHIEVEMENTS IN YOUR CAREER THAT STAND OUT THUS FAR?**

I have been fortunate to have had a few outstanding experiences and achievements throughout my career. Befriending Jean-Georges Vongerichten was definitely one of the highlights. He gave me one of my first jobs designing one of his restaurants in New York City, which was the start of our business partnership and, ultimately, a huge game-changer for me. Another achievement was



TOP LEFT Bedroom of a model residence at 96+Broadway © Evan Joseph.

TOP RIGHT 96+Broadway is located in New York's Upper West Side neighbourhood © We are Visuals.

winning the bid for 505 W 19th, our first ground-up building. Getting such an incredible commission early in my career was life-changing. I would also say completing my tenth building in New York City is a huge milestone. Winning the bid for Sutton Tower, an 850-foot-tall tower in Manhattan's historic Sutton Place, is the most recent high point.

**WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU AND THE COMPANY?**

We're excited to start diving into smaller residential projects that we can execute ourselves from start to finish. This will be the first time we will be able to set our own parameters with no limitations — with our own creative flow and an extraordinary amount of freedom. We currently have three standalone single homes being developed along the North Fork in Long Island, and we expect the first house to be completed in about a year and a half, with the others following six months after. ■