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50

NAMES YOU NEED
TO KNOW IN

metro NEW YORK



MOJGAN HARIRI, GISUE HARIRI

DESIGN

Each firm has a trademark style and a signature approach all its own. Together, they reflect a shared belief that good design can make a difference in people's lives. They put creativity in context.

TOP 50 DESIGNERS

Hariri & Hariri—Architecture

GISUE HARIRI,
MOJGAN HARIRI

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TRADEMARK /
Futuristic, multisensory forms

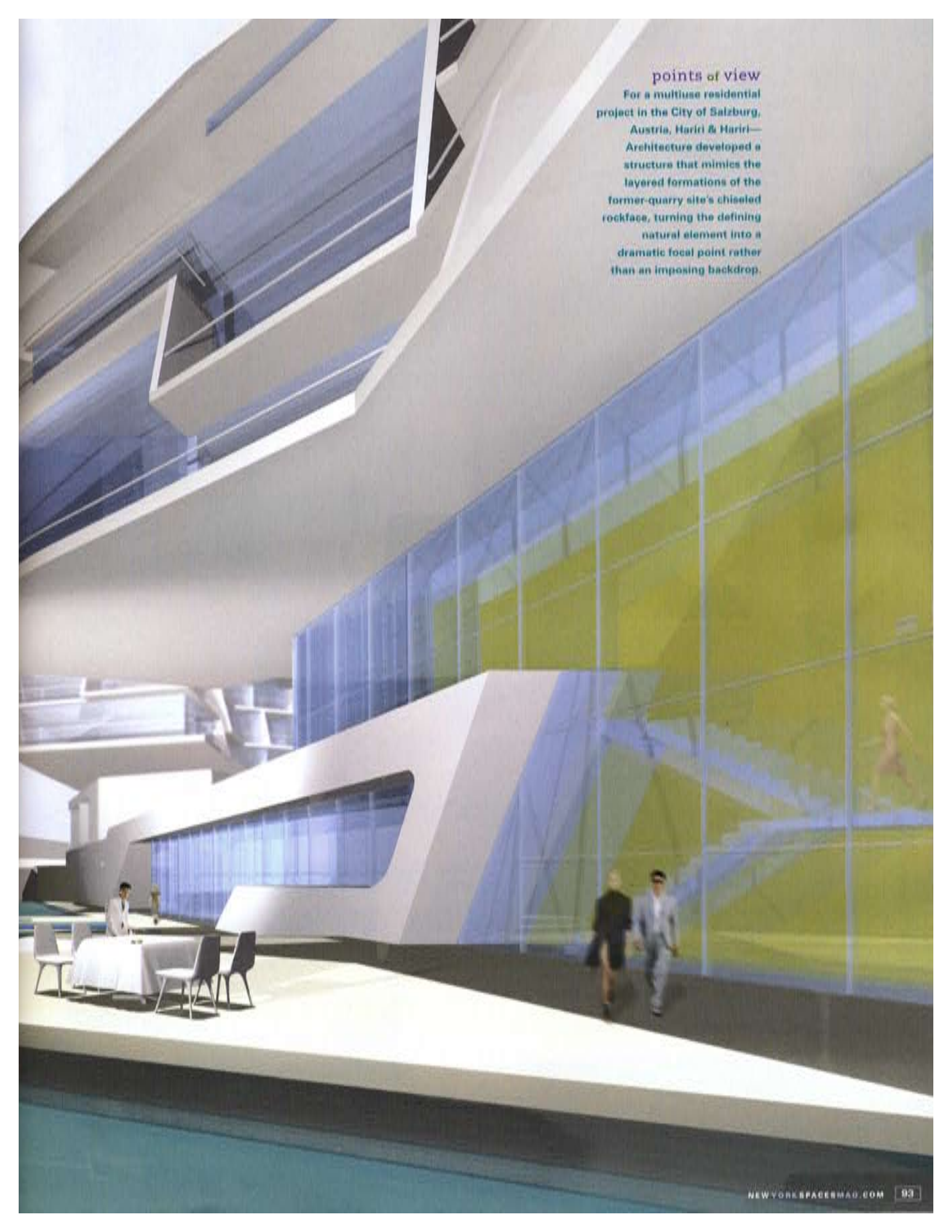
.a shared vision

Architects
Gisue Hariri
and Mojgan
Hariri reshape
design for the
digital age

ARCHITECTURE HARIRI & HARIRI—ARCHITECTURE

TEXT MARJORIE E. GAGE

PHOTOGRAPHY and DIGITAL RENDERINGS from
HARIRI & HARIRI—ARCHITECTURE, IMAGES PUBLISHING

An architectural rendering of a modern residential building. The structure features a prominent, layered, and chiseled facade that mimics natural rock formations. Large glass windows and balconies are integrated into the design. In the foreground, a white table with four chairs is set on a raised platform. Two people are walking on a dark path near a large glass wall. The overall aesthetic is clean, geometric, and modern.

points of view

For a multiuse residential project in the City of Salzburg, Austria, Hariri & Hariri—Architecture developed a structure that mimics the layered formations of the former-quarry site's chiseled rockface, turning the defining natural element into a dramatic focal point rather than an imposing backdrop.





culture in context

Recent Hariri & Hariri residential, commercial, and product-design commissions have included the gut renovation and redesign of a Park Avenue prewar apartment (opposite page); the conceptualization—from logo to storefront to cyber cafe—of the Juan Valdez flagship on East 57th Street (left); the reinvention of the Swarovski crystal chandelier (bottom); and the creation of Rapsel's Crystalline bath fixtures.



GISUE HARIRI AND HER SISTER/PARTNER MOJGAN HARIRI ARE NOT THE KIND of women who set out to shatter the rules on purpose, just for the sake of being rowdy or controversial. Yet, time and again over the past 25 years, the buildings, interiors, and products created by Hariri & Hariri—Architecture have fractured every established stereotype about what architecture, and female architects, can achieve.

Iranian-born and Cornell-educated, the sisters share a unique perspective on the world, as it exists and as it can be. Their progressive notions regarding what is right for a site are rooted in their native culture and nourished by a deep curiosity for all things natural and manmade. "Growing up in the desert of Iran was both deeply isolating and nurturing. Isolation encouraged my imagination to run wild and develop ideas that a more conventional childhood would have found odd," Gisue says, "and we often had to invent our own world, toys, and games."

CONTINUED



There is both style and substance to all of Hariri & Hariri's work. Their intensely intellectual design process breaks a project's elements down into the most basic form, examines every shape and sensory element, and, finally, reconstructs the whole in a manner intended to affect every single one of the senses. The flagship Juan Valdez cafe on East 57th Street, designed for the National Federation of Colombian Coffee Growers, provides a perfect example of the Hariri & Hariri design process, a journey that explores the overlap of two cultures (Colombian and American); the spirit of the iconic Juan Valdez vs. a new generation of java drinkers; and the notions of nature (the very shape and aroma of the coffee bean) and technology (our expectation to be able to get online, not just in line). The complex thought process results in a startlingly streamlined design, defined by intentional fluidity and warmth, qualities associated with coffee drinking, but not always with cafes.

Hariri & Hariri's brand of minimal architecture is not minimal at all, but a blend of monastic serenity and dazzling opulence. "Each new project is an opportunity to give our clients not only a new spatial experience but also to help them to a new way of living, where furniture, lighting, and art are all integral parts of the environment," Gisue explains. "Architecture is more than the construction of buildings. It is where our dreams transcend realities of life." - See Resources.



harmonious juxtapositions

Opposite, top: Smooth limestone surfaces contrast with a white pebble wall in the tranquil master bath of a Sutton Place apartment. Opposite, bottom: Hariri & Hariri's Kryptonite collection for Atelier Swarovski "gives one superpower for its sheer size," says Mojgan; the asymmetrical cut demonstrates that beauty and perfection are not always synonymous. This page: Two towers wrapped in glass and metal mesh "embrace" in this conceptual rendering for a new hotel in Dubai.

