

GOTHAM

ESTATE OF MIND FAVORITE FINDS

Builders' Special

Looking to transform your panache-challenged pad into a perfectly proportioned palace?

Turn to **Taconic Builders**, the master construction team behind many of the city's top residential renovations. Jason Oliver Nixon sits down with Taconic CEO Vince Tyer to find out what sets this firm apart.

GOTHAM: Tell us about Taconic Builders, and why the firm stands out within the highly competitive world of New York builders.

VINCE TYER: Taconic is a luxury construction company that works with some of the top architects in the industry. The company has set itself apart by the professionalism of its team—each job is treated as a separate business—and by its access to some of the most exquisite resources around the world, including Portuguese stone, Italian marble, and sustainable Brazilian wood.

G: Architects and interior designers are so well known, why are construction firms not also known quantities?

VT: It likely stems from a paradigm that comes from public "low-bid" construction. The presumption is that whatever is on the drawings will be built, so the low-price contractor is the best deal. Also, once something is built, the contractor generally goes away—there's no expectation of "aftermarket service." In the high-end residential segment, Taconic is a known quantity. We're referred regularly to other architects and designers by past clients, and enjoy repeat business with the architects and designers we work with.

G: What are some of the unexpected sources you tap into, and what does this mean to a consumer?

VT: One of our strengths is our access to exceptional resources, which truly span the globe. For instance, we liaise with a 300-year-old company called Perrault Frères in Angers, France, that does millwork, joinery, and parquetry. It's one of the preeminent restorers of ancient French castles, and has a store of oak, among other woods,

that's more than 1,000 years old—much of it taken from old estates. We partner with them here in the US to build American "castles."

G: When someone hires Taconic, what can he or she expect from the experience?

VT: Taconic's level of quality is a given. Clients can be assured that Taconic's expert staff is buying them the best services and materials available and orchestrating them to provide the best product available. White-glove service, while cliché, is what Taconic aspires to—it's what our customers are accustomed to in any other purchase they make, so why not construction? Many of our clients don't want the project to end because of the relationships they've developed with [everyone] from the project manager to the laborer.

G: What's the most "out there" project you've done in Manhattan?

VT: At the end of 2005, Taconic completed the gut renovation of an 8,500-square-foot duplex at 740 Park Avenue. Peter Marino was the architect and interior designer, and our company was brought in to replace the original construction manager who was removed from the project at



Taconic Builders CEO Vince Tyer surveys some of the firm's dramatic transformations.

the 15 percent mark. We used finishes rarely seen in American residential construction: relocations of European floors and antique millwork rooms, with new constructions to match; custom furniture and fixtures; Italian mosaic work; a room featuring mother-of-pearl inlays, and more. But the summer schedule was highly restrictive—work was permitted May 15 through September 15 only. The result was a triumph.

G: I'm renovating a row house in Brooklyn. Could you come fix my leaky toilet?

VT: Sorry, that's too small for Taconic, but I can walk you through the repair. Or I can recommend a great plumber. ☺

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