

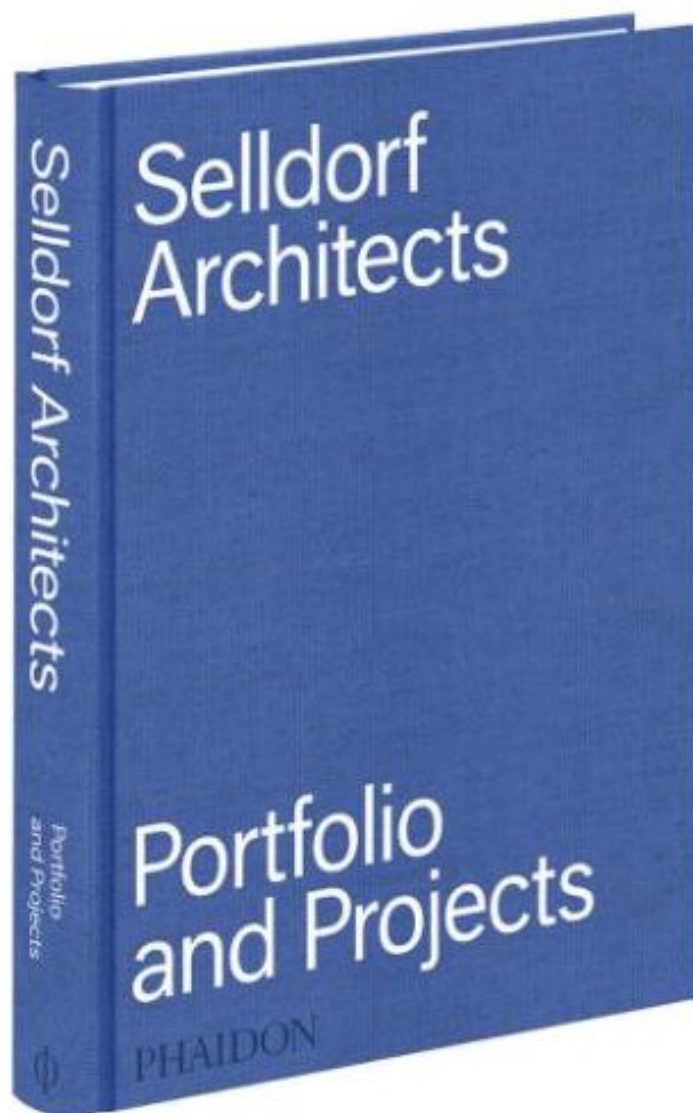
## Annabelle Selldorf launches new Phaidon book

Back in May [Annabelle Selldorf](#) launched her latest book, published by Phaidon, in a new interior space she had just completed for Steinway pianos, as both a retail showroom and space for recitals and recording music. Neither eclipsed the other, both book and showroom are examples of the comfortable rationality that Selldorf – a German, whose spent most of her adult life in New York – so deftly enhances with liberal dashes of the unexpected.



Annabelle Selldorf Credit: Brigitte Lacombe

The book, with its handsome blue linen cover, had been a long time in consideration. “We’ve talked it about it for 15 years,” she said, the other half of the “We” being photographer Todd Eberle who has consistently captured her work. “I have a portfolio that shows the projects through the eyes of a single person, which is an amazing thing. It’s about a sensibility.”



The new Selldorf Architects book published by Phaidon

The first half of the Pentagram-designed book eschews a standard chronology for a sequence of colour-saturated images that subtly suggest's Selldorf's design language. Five subsequent interiors – from the new-build David Zwirner gallery in Chelsea to a bathroom interior in a Greenwich Village coaching house – seem to speak about a monolithic use of material (concrete, marble, richly hued wood) until you realise each includes the insertion of a generous skylight that washes the space with light. A series of windows shows Selldorf adapting the old (John Hay Library) and making the new (10 Bond Street apartment block). The second half of the book is the *catalogue raisonne*, with plans and black and white imagery, and tight descriptions.



Brown University, John Hay Library, Providence, RI Credit: Todd Eberle. Courtesy of Selldorf Architects

Much of the pleasure comes from seeing how the architect fluidly moves between scales and the realms of public and private. All those gorgeous Hamptons houses in Selldorf's portfolio don't just inform newly renovated art galleries, but even a recycling plant opposite Manhattan too.



Skarstedt Residence, Sagaponack, NY Credit: Todd Eberle. Courtesy of Selldorf Architects

At the Steinway showroom, Selldorf has referred again to her broad experience of creating gallery spaces and treated Steinway pianos as art objects in their own right. “They’re pieces of sculpture, with so much history and heritage,” she said. “It was our job to locate them in the here and now, in a space that’s quintessentially modern and very public.” (The new showroom occupies a ground-floor corner site by the Rockefeller Center.) The acoustically calming ceiling is a grid of oak veneer pieces pressed into piano-lid shaped curves, while the oak end-grain floor was chosen for its weight-bearing capacity, as well as its presence in the Steinway factory in nearby Queens.



House in the Springs, East Hampton, NY Credit: Todd Eberle. Courtesy of Selldorf Architects

Downstairs, in the 74-seater recital hall (wired for live streaming), seats are covered in an Imperial yellow fabric – “It comes from the material used inside a piano as a sound absorbent,” explained Selldorf, who used the same colour for the soft polyurethane floor in the rehearsal rooms. “All the colours and materials relate to the pianos themselves. When you go to the factory and see how they’re made, you know that everything you need is right there.”



Steinway Hall, New York, NY Credit: Christopher Payne ESTO. Courtesy of Selldorf Architects

Portfolio and Projects is out now ([£49.95 Phaidon](#)) [selldorf.com](http://selldorf.com)