

“

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Annabelle Selldorf at home in New York.

## ANNABELLE SELLDORF

A master at bringing the human element to art and architecture, Annabelle Selldorf has been tasked with the first major restoration of the landmark Frick Collection in more than 80 years, propelling the beloved New York institution into the 21st century. But that's just one of many highly prominent projects the founding principal of Selldorf Architects, a 65-person firm, has ushered through with her signature thoughtful style, which exudes modern, restrained sophistication.

The client list of the German-born talent is a Who's Who of the art world, with projects for Hauser & Wirth and David Zwirner, including the latter's new Los Angeles flagship, as well as institutions such as the National Gallery in London; the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C.; and the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego. "I'm very much driven by understanding what the needs are

rather than following a preset path," says Selldorf. "Architecture ultimately is for people and by people."

Opening in late 2024, the reconceived Frick will allow unprecedented access to the American industrialist's 1914 home, thanks to Selldorf's overhaul. "For New Yorkers who have lived with the museum all their lives, I hope that they come to the Frick and find everything that meant something to them—only maybe better," she says. "And for the tourists who might only have an hour to spare, they should experience the wonder and the beauty of art and the house. We should help them with that."

**Magic formula:** "It's all about balance. I, for one, like a quiet environment where the art can speak without being interrupted."

**Art for all:** "I am a firm believer in both encouraging a person's free will to move about but also giving them the opportunity to let themselves be guided. You don't want to preclude discovery and curiosity." [selldorf.com](http://selldorf.com)