

# THE ARCHITECTS NEWSPAPER

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## AFTER NEARLY 100 YEARS, NEW YORK'S SECOND AVE SUBWAY FINALLY OPENS OPEN SEASON

Despite pictures of tunnels shrouded in scaffolding, and multiple missed project deadlines, the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) assured a skeptical public this fall that phase one of the system's newest line would be open by New Year's Day.

Despite challenges, the agency was able to deliver on that promise. First there were reports in October that the new tunnels, which would add stations at 72<sup>nd</sup>, 86<sup>th</sup>, and 96<sup>th</sup> streets, were too narrow to accommodate trains; workers had to file **continued on page 4**



The extension includes three stops and will go uptown to 96<sup>th</sup> Street.

REHEMA TRIMIEW/MTA CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION

## A LOCAL TEAM CREATES A PLACE FOR ARCHITECTURE AND ART IN A MEXICAN CITY



COURTESY INSTITUTO CULTURAL DE AGUASCALIENTES

## HOT SPOT

When asked why he installed his latest public intervention at the Museo Espacio

in Aguascalientes, Mexico, French artist Daniel Buren simply said, "Because I was invited." But it is not difficult to see what makes the Museo Espacio and the larger Macro **continued on page 18**

## SPECIAL SECTION: KITCHEN & BATH

CHECKING IN ON THE LATEST FIXTURES, COVERINGS, AND MORE AHEAD OF KBIS. SEE PAGE 28

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## 1100 ARCHITECT'S PERRY WORLD HOUSE IS THE LATEST ADDITION TO UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA'S CAMPUS



An 1851 campus cottage gets a face-lift

GREG BENSON/COURTESY 1100 ARCHITECT

## WORLD OF WORK

In 1865, "hat and cap merchant" Robert D. Work purchased a Gothic Revival cottage at 3803 Locust Walk in West Philadelphia, riding the wave of the migration to the suburbs. This cottage, designed by prolific

architect and author Samuel Sloan, was built in 1851. It now forms part of the Perry World House—a new destination on the University of Pennsylvania's campus courtesy of New York **continued on page 8**

## RESIDENTS SAY CELEBRATION, FLORIDA HOMES ARE RUINED BY MOLD AND SHODDY CONSTRUCTION



## Not Celebration Time!

Homeowners in one of the most famous company towns have little to celebrate these days.

Although the Walt Disney Company hired a cadre of leading architects to design

Celebration, Florida, in the 1990s, the shoddy construction of homes in the dream town is driving residents to grief—and financial trouble.

The pastoral New **continued on page 9**

CHAD SPARKES/FLICKR

## MIRÓ RIVERA IS AUSTIN'S LATEST AWARD-WINNING UP-AND-COMER. SEE PAGE 20



PAUL FINKEL/PISTON DESIGN

## AN SUBURBAN FUTURES FEATURE

WHILE CITIES HAVE SEIZED PUBLIC AND MEDIA ATTENTION OVER THE PAST DECADE WITH BOOMING POPULATION GROWTH AND THE HIGH RENT THAT GOES WITH IT, SUBURBS ARE STEADILY ON THE RISE. THANKS TO FRESH PERSPECTIVES, BLURRED BOUNDARIES, AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES, ONCE-SLEEPY SUBURBS MAY BE THE NEXT FRONTIERS. SEE PAGE 22

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# A NIGHT AT THE OPERA

**SNAIDERO'S OPERA KITCHEN LINE COMBINES  
STREAMLINED SURFACES WITH WARM MATERIALS**



In the home, the kitchen can be particularly tough to perfect. That's because residential kitchen designs are typically based on the so-called "kitchen triangle rule" that sets established relationships among the three major kitchen appliance zones—sink, stove, and refrigerator—such that the distances in between each zone are neither physically in conflict nor too close or far away from one another.

Historically, the kitchen has also been seen as a contested space, both in terms of the cyclical relationship between architecture and technology, with appliances

like refrigerators and dishwashers being relatively new in terms of their presence in everyday domestic spaces, and, of course, the continued gendering of kitchens as a feminine domestic space. Visit a building designed in the middle part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and you will likely find a kitchen that's too small—a space designed for a single, presumably female homemaker—and one that is perhaps difficult to fully utilize in a world where most families involve two adults who work both inside and outside the kitchen. Those tight quarters were designed to be efficient

workplaces, separate and removed from the rest of the household.

Today, however, kitchens are seen less as places of labor and more as social spaces, with the walls between kitchen, dining, and living rooms removed.

The Opera kitchen line by luxury-interiors designer Snaidero USA is a kitchen for just that type of space. The line combines modularity, rich materiality, and streamlined components into a collection of flexible, customizable kitchen design components meant to be celebrated as aesthetic, social objects as well as functional

**This page:** Views of Snaidero USA's Opera kitchen line, a modular kitchen prototype with interchangeable components.

**KITCHEN MODEL DESIGNER:**

Michele Marcon Design

**HARDWARE AND COUNTERTOPS:**

Snaidero USA





SNAIDEROUSA / MICHELE MARCON DESIGN

**Top:** One of the Opera line's larger proportioned kitchen cabinet installations. The line comes in a variety of layouts and can be expanded out from formal kitchen spaces into surrounding living rooms, as seen here.

**Bottom:** Snaidero USA's new Doria handle type mounted on elm wood cabinet fronts. The handles are meant to add a tactile quality to the touch-free cabinet installations.

tools for storage and food preparation.

The kitchen prototype is defined by several salient qualities, such as a bifurcated emphasis on solidity and openness. Lower-level elements like kitchen cabinets and countertops are anchored to the ground via wide, low-slung proportions, while elements above the counters, usually shelving and upper cabinets, dematerialize into open, porous configurations that are designed to float or be suspended from the wall. The kitchen line's rigorous horizontal emphasis can have the effect of making small spaces look more generous than they actually are, with the aforementioned interplay between solid and open and ground and wall, forwarding these imperatives in kind.

The design employs thickened countertops—available in laminate, solid-surface, and stainless-steel materials—to add depth of volume to the kitchen line. It also combines Snaidero USA's standardized bottom-cabinet components with a new handle type, Doria, designed as a lengthy, key-hole-shaped extrusion projecting from the cabinet surface to cast long, stark shadows over the fronts.

Though the cabinetry is designed to be touch-free, with so-called "touch-open" and "soft-close" mechanisms that eliminate the need for handles, the designers behind the kitchen have sprinkled Snaidero USA's distinctive kitchen handles throughout the prototype to add a physically and visually tactile component to the streamlined designs.

Opera is available in a collection of 14 pre-designed layouts, with the basic components deployed out in a variety of modular arrangements, including galley, island, and L-shaped. **AP**