

## HOME BUILDERS + REMODELERS



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## EMPIRE CITY CONSTRUCTION

Empire City Construction, led by principal Andrew Galda, understands the importance of masterfully combining detailed customer service with high-quality work. The New York-based firm is unique in the industry, offering a concierge-style experience unlike any other. "Our philosophy is to do everything we can to make life easier for our clients," Galda says. "We deal directly with architects and engineers, send real-time pictures and conduct video meetings if clients are out of town and keep communication open at all times." The firm's most recent venture, a division focusing solely on the kitchen and bath, offers clients unique product options. For the kitchen, products can be sourced from Italian manufacturers exclusive to Empire or designed, fabricated and installed by their local craftsmen. For bathrooms, the firm provides full design-build services. While Empire City has ample experience in new construction, it is not the firm's only forte. Galda and his team frequently take on historic preservation and restoration projects. "Taking a building that has been neglected for 75 years and bringing it back to its original beauty is especially rewarding," Galda says. Having assisted in the recovery of several problematic projects started by other builders, the team also provides consulting and owner's representative services. In addition to the plethora of services it offers before and during a project, the firm provides continuous support and maintenance to its clients, who often become friends in the process. "Once we finish a job, we're kind of married to it, so we always come back and address any issues or updates," he says. "With almost every job, we develop a long-term relationship with the client, so naturally we end up doing more work for them."

**RIGHT:**

This corridor features a statuary and pure black check marble floor set against three spray-lacquered doors.

## ASK THE EXPERT

**Describe the philosophy behind your firm.**

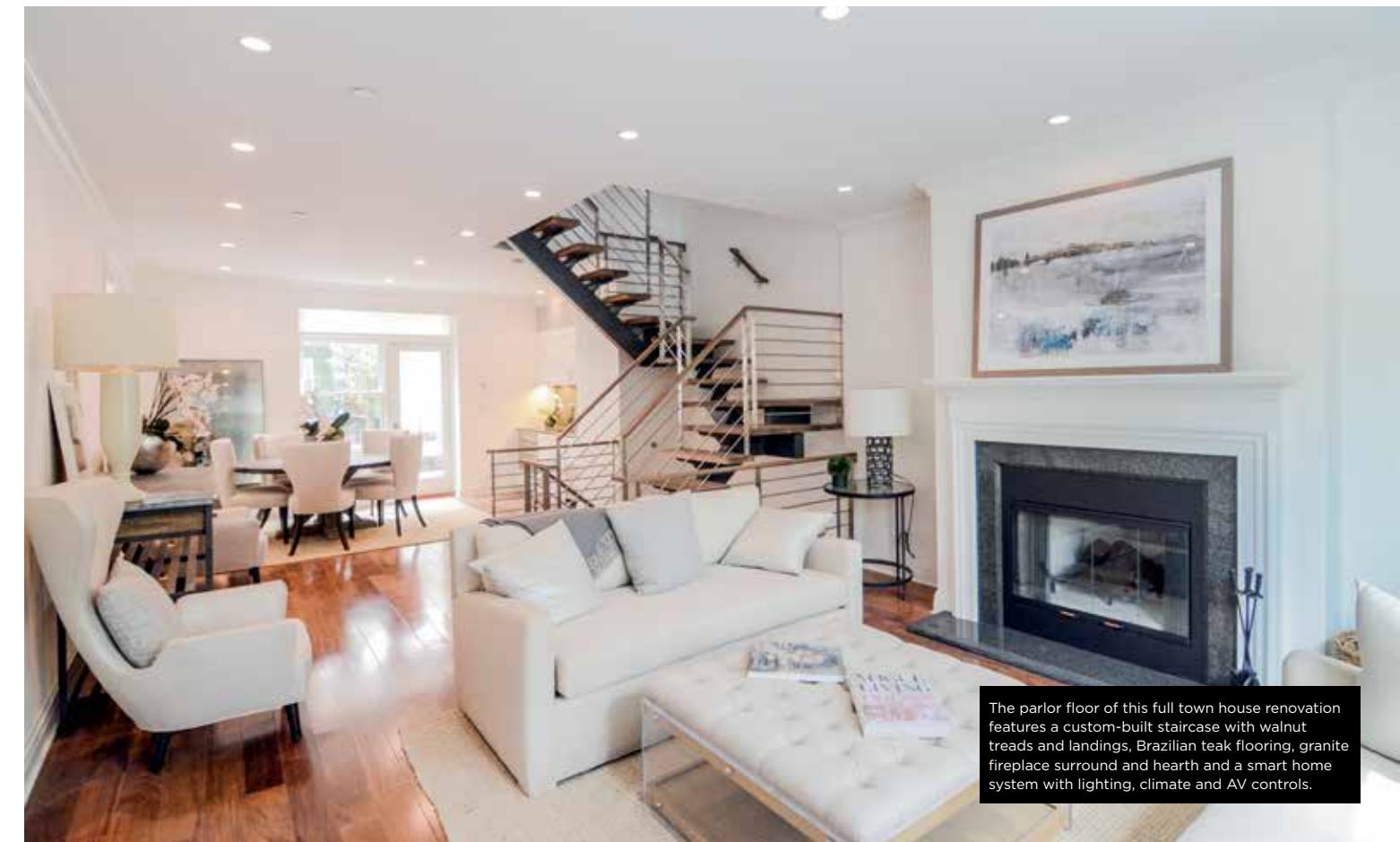
I believe that all work should be held to a certain standard and performed with the same level of quality and craftsmanship, whether it's a multimillion-dollar home or studio rental.

**What do you like most about your job?**

I enjoy creating something tangible. You're working toward an end goal, you are problem-solving along the way, and in the end, you have something that you can see, feel and know that you've created.

**How do you define luxury?**

I think luxury is less about extravagance and more about thoughtful design. It doesn't all have to be expensive. The nicest homes have a flow; each space ties into the next and makes sense. That is luxury.



The parlor floor of this full town house renovation features a custom-built staircase with walnut treads and landings, Brazilian teak flooring, granite fireplace surround and hearth and a smart home system with lighting, climate and AV controls.

**“We work with architects, engineers, interior designers and contractors so that our clients don’t have to deal directly with anyone but us. We are a one-stop shop.”**

—Andrew Galda



The striped and completely refinished paneling in this home office was painted seven times, with sanding between each coat, to create a glass-like finish. Interior décor by Kemble Interiors.



In this room, all existing wood paneling, doors and trim were restored to their original condition, and the existing herringbone flooring was restored and refinished. Interior décor by Kemble Interiors.