

PENTHOUSE

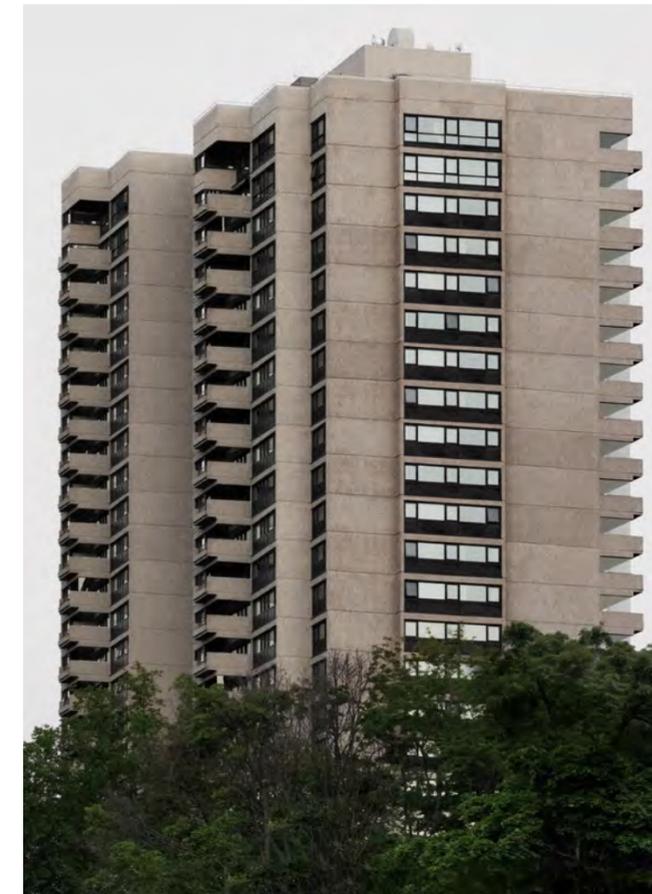
SYNDRÖMME

Interiors
Above
the City

gestalten



A Creative Laboratory in the Sky



Canadian architect and professor Jean Verville—known for his bold, playful, experimental approach to design—has established his home and “creative laboratory” in a 20-story, 1970s residential tower designed by Marcel Bilodeau. The monumental building, one of several striking brutalist landmarks in the city, flanks the Plains of Abraham in Québec City’s Battlefields Park and offers sweeping views over the St. Lawrence River, the urban skyline, and the distant Laurentian Mountains.

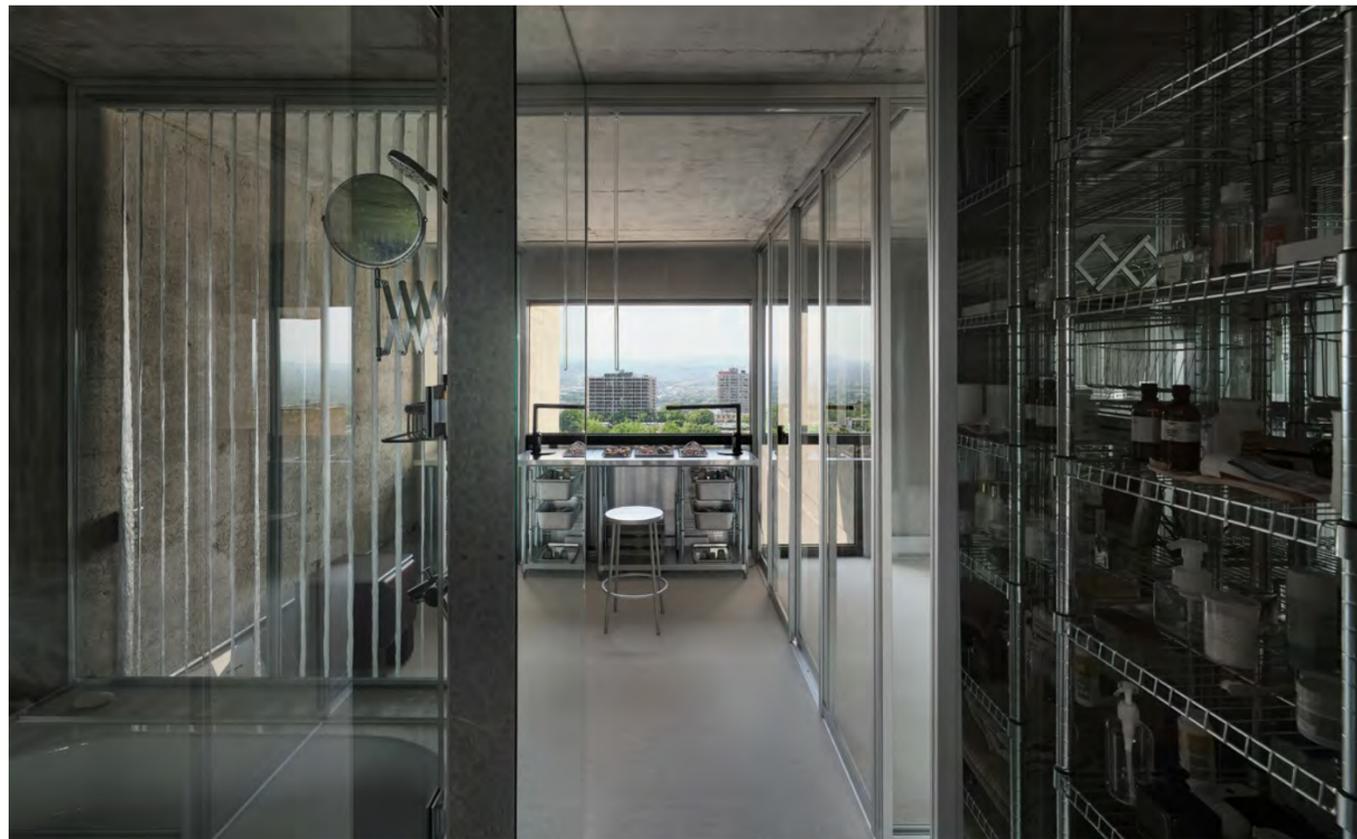
Verville’s project focuses on reimagining a compact apartment high up in the tower, while staying true to its brutalist form. Stripped back to its raw concrete shell, the unit takes advantage of its cross-ventilation and dual orientation, with windows facing both north and south. This bare structure forms the backdrop for a flexible system of sliding glass walls, which can reconfigure the apartment into different zones without interfering with light, air, or the stunning views. Though small in footprint (850 square feet/79 square meters), the space can be divided into up to seven distinct areas depending on need, with blinds providing either transparency or complete privacy.

The interior is designed for adaptability: kitchen and storage elements are positioned to leave circulation free and maintain openness throughout. Sensitive to the 21st-century drive toward greater sustainability, Verville relies on the concrete’s natural thermal inertia to help regulate temperature, drawing on winter sunlight and summer coolness to reduce reliance on mechanical systems. Combined with cross-ventilation, this creates a comfortable and energy-efficient living environment.

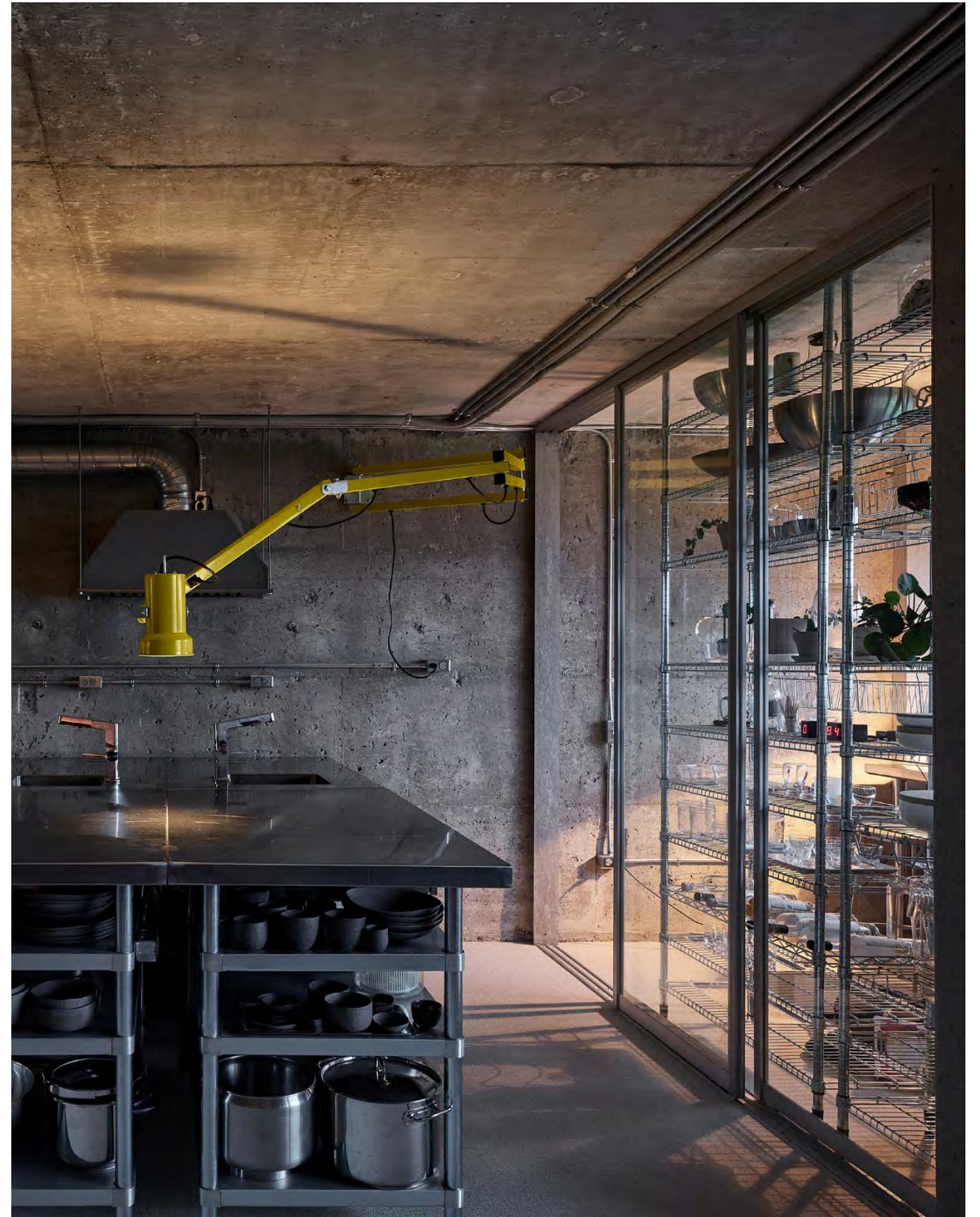
Material use is also deliberately pared back. The interplay of reflective, transparent, and metallic surfaces amplifies natural light, animating the apartment with shifting shadows and shimmers, while bright yellow lamps, a rust-red sofa, and green houseplants add a few splashes of color to the predominantly gray tones. Industrial fittings, such as dock lamps and restaurant furniture, sit alongside glass vials of all kinds, models, various explorations, utilitarian objects, and plants—in Verville’s words, “revisiting the spirit of the cabinet of curiosities in a playful presentation of everyday life.”

For Verville, this apartment is more than just a residence: it is an observatory and a laboratory, a compact living space that frames the city while serving as a platform for architectural exploration.

PROJECT	BRUJ
DESIGNER	Studio Jean Verville Architectes
LOCATION	Québec City, Canada



Steel and concrete reinforce the architect's personal and professional ethos.



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Interiors Above the City

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