

MEDIA/PUBLISHING

Elle Decor tapped to redesign VIP room at New York's Metropolitan Opera

August 30, 2024



John and Christine Gachot, principals of design studio and development consultancy Gachot, are the brains behind the 1,500-square-foot refurb of the Keebler J. Straz Lounge, formerly known as the Eleanor Belmont Room. Image courtesy of The Met/William Jess Laird

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

Hearst's *Elle Decor* is corraling its network of design experts for a first-of-its-kind partnership.

New York's Metropolitan Opera is transforming an interior space with support from the shelter publication's team, who tracked down furniture and other fixtures and fittings. Formerly known as the Eleanor Belmont Room, the theater's refurbished Keebler J. Straz Lounge will be revealed on [elledecor.com](https://www.elledecor.com) and in the November issue of *Elle Decor*, out Nov. 22, 2024.

"It's a real honor for *Elle Decor* to be a part of this effort to update the Keebler J. Straz Lounge at the Met," said Asad Syrkett, editor-in-chief of *Elle Decor*, in a statement.

"When the Met team asked who might be right to rethink such a storied space, I immediately thought of Christine and John Gachot," said Mr. Syrkett. "In all of their work, they bring a reverence for design history, an intelligence about material, color and scale, and a deft eye for marrying the historic with the contemporary.

"All these qualities are especially well suited for a landmark project like this one. I'm so grateful to the Gachots, all of our partners, and the team at the Met."

Remodel at the Met

Elle Decor is helping remodel a private venue within the theater, made possible by Keebler J. Straz, the youngest managing director on the Met's Board of Directors, who underwrote the latest addition to the opera house.

"Eleanor Belmont was the first woman on the Met Board, elected in 1933, and launched the Met's national fundraising programs," said Keebler J. Straz, managing director on the Metropolitan Opera Board and president of the Straz Family Foundation, in a statement.

"I'm delighted to be following in her footsteps," Mr. Straz said. "My hope is that this beautifully redesigned lounge will encourage a new generation of opera lovers to become donors to our beloved Metropolitan Opera."

The Keebler J. Straz Lounge, located on the Met's Mercedes T. Bass Grand Tier, is open to the theater's patrons and donors before performances and during intermissions.

It will double as a meeting site and event space available to artists, board members, top donors and corporate patrons, Lincoln Center patrons and other VIPs once changes are complete.

Updates to the 1,500-square-foot lounge are being led by John and Christine Gachot, principals of design studio and development consultancy Gachot.



Elle Decor's summer 2024 anniversary issue. Image credit: Elle Decor

"The Gachot team was enthused about the opportunity to work together with *Elle Decor* and the Met to redesign the lounge with the intention of evoking interest in the opera from all generations," said Mr. Gachot, in a statement.

"In a building as ornate as the Metropolitan Opera, it was important for the design of the new Keebler J. Straz Lounge to align with its surroundings," he said. "The palette reflects that of the lobby and auditorium with rich tones of red, gold, and warm white. It feels sophisticated and refined."

In conjunction with *Elle Decor*, a number of companies have presented materials for the renovation. French home furnishings brand Roche Bobois ([see story](#)) provided seating and stone coffee tables.

The center for arts spectators will also feature black-and-white hanging photography from the Met Archives, backed by textured, Champagne-toned wallpaper from high-end wallpaper producer litis. Amuneal, a Philadelphia-based manufacturer of bespoke design elements, has contributed a custom, centrally-placed brass bar to the Met's suite.

ABC Stone, Bendheim, Bobrick, Waterworks, Creative Matters, Distinctive Windows, Fabricut, Inc., Hudson Valley Lighting Group and Precision Stone are responsible for the bar countertop, as well as glasswork, bathroom appliances, bathroom countertops and mirrors, carpeting, a workroom, fabric for drapes and a custom screen, lighting and bar countertop fabrication and installation, respectively, for the Keebler J. Straz Lounge.