

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF  
**YABU PUSHELBERG**

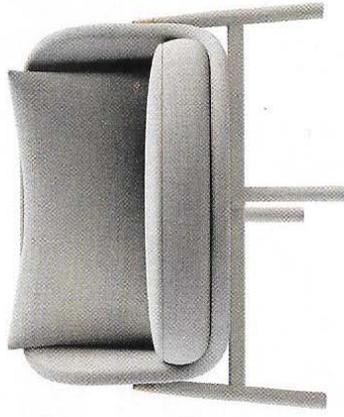
*Get up close and personal with global design leaders: Each issue, we offer you an exclusive sneak peek into the creative lives of awe-inspiring visionaries*

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**F**or George Yabu and Glenn Pushelberg, kismet is what drew them at first, and glues them together even today. In search of individual studio space, the two Ryerson University, Ontario graduates with contrasting design sensibilities, met by chance, and decided to help each other out, without a masterplan. From taking on whatever project that came their way, to achieving an enviable level of specialising in high end hotels, with the occasional penthouse, furniture collection or fashion flagship – the Canadian natives have established a design identity that's edgy but instantly relatable. Take for instance, Blue Fin, an upscale New York sushi eatery that earned them a James Beard nomination or the show apartment at Four Seasons Private Residences in Mumbai, their first ever in India...each endeavour has been a seamless integration of art, luxury, local flavours and functional style. No wonder their 30 year old outfit is one of the most sought after in hospitality design in the world. Partners in life too, they disclose every effort made to balance work and leisure.

# DECOR PEOPLE



Clockwise, from Top Left This show flat of Four Seasons Private Residences, a luxury property in Mumbai, is Yabu Pushelberg's first interior project in India; Their plush home in Canada; View of their beachfront residence in Amagansett, New York; Chair from the pair's new furniture line for Dutch brand Linteloo; Their work and leisure friendly studio in Toronto; Inside the Miami Beach EDITION Hotel, one of the duo's most iconic designs. Photographs courtesy Yabu Pushelberg  
Yabu Pushelberg, Toronto/New York. Website: [www.yabupushelberg.com](http://www.yabupushelberg.com)

## *How the dynamic duo divide their time and life between two cities...*

**8 AM** **George Yabu:** Glenn loves to bounce out of bed, while I prefer sleeping in more. During my "gradual awakening", my mind becomes increasingly alert, and while still horizontal, I run through the day in my head **Glenn Pushelberg:** Breakfast depends on where we are, whether in Toronto or New York (almost every week is split between both places). In the former, I'd make avocado on toast with poached eggs and hot pepper flakes, and green juice on the side. But in the latter, we rarely use our kitchen, because there are so many cafes close by **8:30 AM GY:** Once I get my coffee, I go through 150 odd emails. While the ones that need direct responses are dealt with immediately, the others that require detailed replies are done at work **9 AM GY:** Our Toronto office is only 8 minutes away, even during rush hour. There's a secret route we take... a pleasure to drive. In New York, we walk to a coffee shop, then jump into a cab to the studio in SoHo, again very close to our West Village apartment **9:30 AM GP:** Coffee in hand, we get ourselves warmed up. Currently, there are five teams in Toronto and four in New York **GY:** Like doctors, we go desk to desk, meet the team leaders, recap previous discussions... Sometimes, we do impromptu meetings with our marketing reps **1 PM GY:** We just expanded our New York studio to another floor, where we created a relaxed environment without any workstations. Lunch is had here, otherwise we go across the street to The Mercer Kitchen – the chef who runs it is our neighbour **GP:** There are some great Chinese and Japanese eateries too, in both cities. We'll drive anywhere in the city to clear our heads. Most times, we discuss how we can kick off a new project **2:30 PM GP:** After lunch, we get back to the grind, ensuring projects are going at the expected pace **GY:** Sometimes, I do a 30 minute workout at a nearby gym. It makes me feel refreshed just before a client meeting **GP:** If a client drops by, we usually entertain them in the office itself – we hire a chef to cook lunch in the studio's own kitchens **7 PM–12 AM GY:** Back home, Glenn and I rewind through what happened during the day. We really do think about design all the time! **GP:** Whenever we can, we enjoy seeing art, visiting restaurants.... When travelling for work to a place we like, we'll always add on a day or two ♦