

business class

# An Architect's Theater



# Aerie

**WHO WORKS HERE**—Stephen Tilly’s award-winning architectural restoration work can be seen at such famous local institutions as Lyndhurst, Muscote Farm, the Greeley House restoration in Chappaqua, and the Music Conservatory of Westchester. The Dobbs Ferry-based architect was also in charge of design for the transformation of a Manhattan printing building into the internationally known Film Forum cinemas in Greenwich Village.

**THE SPACE**—Tilly operates from an open office space in the center of the second floor of a three story, 5,500-square-foot building, whose origin dates back to the mid-19th century. In 1914, the space became a medieval-style movie theatre. It was also a regional theater and housed a moving business before Tilly moved in and restored the building in 1987 with his business and life partner, Elizabeth Martin.

**THE DÉCOR**—Remnants of the historic theater’s dark mahogany balcony railing border one side of Tilly’s work space, providing a striking contrast to the adjacent contemporary catwalk balustrade created from light brown Douglas fir beams and stainless-steel aircraft cables. The office displays a wide range of lighting effects, from the traditional task lighting at Tilly’s work station to the theatrically rigged light pipe hanging down from a rope and operating on a pulley system. (The rod was designed by Edward Effron, who has expertly illuminated the stage for *Les Mis* as well as for countless dance troupes.)

**FAVORITE PIECES**—Tilly loved the theater’s proscenium arch so much that he incorporated it into the design of his interior space. “When you walk in the door, you feel like you’re coming on stage,” he says. He’s also fond of his office’s Elizabethan-style oriel window, which he restored to its full glory. @




---

*Laura Joseph Mogil is a freelance writer residing in Briarcliff Manor. She writes about food and design for Westchester Magazine and Westchester Magazine Home & Garden.*

---