



## **The Challenge:** Use shades and lighting control to enhance views while maintaining privacy in downtown Manhattan.

**Astor Place is a luxurious 21-story, all-glass residential tower in New York City. The building pairs sophisticated technology with a sweeping panorama of the Manhattan skyline. Lutron Sivoia® shades and RadioRA® lighting control system combine to preserve spectacular city views while providing an optimal mix of daylight and electric light.**

Astor Place benefits from wide-open space on three sides of the building. Architect Charles Gwathmey designed a glass exterior to take full advantage of the breathtaking views. The floor-to-ceiling windows provided a distinct opportunity to integrate Lutron shades with lighting control technology.

In a bright, 2,500 sq. ft. apartment lives a professional couple that splits their time between Northern California and Manhattan. The couple wanted to maintain the

magnificent view of the New York skyline, but also needed relief from harsh sun glare and privacy at night. They turned to California-based interior designer Janice Weingrod.

Weingrod specified Lutron shades and worked with lighting designer Marcie L. Shefren, also in California, to create a lighting control strategy. Weingrod then contacted Lutron and was put in touch with Christ Surunis, a Senior Account Supervisor at the time, and Pam Kisberg, a window systems provider in the New York area.

“The biggest challenge was the curved shape of the building,” says Kisberg, president of Décor Installations in New Jersey. Her solution utilized dual Sivoia shades in every window, 58 shades total, and perfectly aligned the edges of each shade with the metal mullions between glass panels. Custom recessed pockets in the ceiling

## Astor Place, New York City

allow the shades to disappear completely when fully raised.

A dual-shade arrangement pairs two different shades to reduce glare, preserve views, provide privacy, or create a complete blackout as needed. Each window contains a sheer, fiberglass basketweave with a 10% openness factor to maintain views while limiting glare. The media room and bedrooms received a second shade with a flocked blackout fabric for privacy and total light blockage. In the living room and dining areas, a dual-sided fiberglass basketweave with 5% openness was chosen because the white backing effectively reduces solar heat gain.

The shades are grouped by location and move in unison at the touch of a button on conveniently placed seeTouch® multigroup keypads. The precise symmetry of the Lutron system allowed Kisberg to space each shade a mere 1.5 inches apart - less than the width of the window mullions. She also praised the low-voltage control system for its quiet operation, a key factor in this project's success.

To complement the sophistication of the lighting design and fixtures, Marcie L. Shefren, principle of Architectural Lighting Design, recommended wireless dimming and scene control. Lutron's RadioRA® system, which uses radio frequency communication, was an ideal solution. GRAFIK Eye® wallstations work in tandem with the RadioRA seeTouch controls to provide localized control of multiple lighting zones. The touch of a single button adjusts lights and shades to preset levels.

"In the morning we just push a button and we're looking out on this fantastic city view," says the client. "The shades work exactly the way I want, and they maintain the unique look of the building, and provide protection. The Lutron people did a terrific job."

### **Client:**

Co-op owner, Astor Place  
New York City, New York

### **Equipment provider:**

Lutron Electronics Co., Inc.  
Coopersburg, Pennsylvania

### **Interior Designer:**

Janice Weingrod  
Rearrangements Interior Design  
Berkeley, California

### **Window Systems Provider:**

Décor Installations  
Bergenfield, New Jersey

### **Lighting Designer:**

Marcie L. Shefren  
Architectural Lighting Design  
Kensington, California



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