

Number of architects using new ventless fireplace system offered by HearthCabinet.com is growing

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The number of architects using the new ventless fireplace system offered by HearthCabinet.com is growing, according to company president Arthur Lasky, himself an R.A. "We have the only ventless fireplace system approved by the Department of Buildings for New York City, and our modular units allow architects full design flexibility, so they can design any style mantel they like," he said.

Hearth Cabinet's patent pending system is centered around modular fireplace units that contain all the FDNY and Building Department required safety features for a real fire, without smoke. Architects start with the modular unit, which is offered in several sizes and can also be custom built, and then design a mantel around it. The modular is then inserted into the mantel. It installs easily, with three screws holding it to the floor or to a raised platform sitting on the floor.

Modular units are offered in painted steel and stainless steel, and can be made out of other metals. They are even available as "see-thru" units that can be inserted in a wall dividing two rooms, such as a living room and a dining room. They use ceramic logsets that are similar to those found in gas fireplaces, except that these logsets cradle and hide a special fuel cartridge that produces a clean burning fire, with no toxic emissions. The fire burns cleaner than some stove tops, according to Lasky. "It looks like a real fire because it is one," he explained, "In fact, it even crackles."

The company maintains a showroom in the Chelsea area of Manhattan, where architects and developers are frequent visitors. So far, they like what they see. "Most developers and architects have a vision," Lasky said, "and they want a flexible product that allows them to design their project according to their vision. We offer that." The company has sold fireplaces for installation in single apartments and is also working on larger deals, such as the installation of fireplaces in Louis Cappelli's "The Residences at The Ritz Carlton," in White Plains.

The technology used by HearthCabinet.com is different from that used by gas fireplaces, which require gas pipes and venting when installed in New York City. "Our system does not require any pipes, venting, or connections to any the building's mechanical systems, such as the electrical system. Therefore, the Building Department has ruled that our fireplaces may be installed without filing for a work permit, which means you can put them in after your project is done," Lasky said.

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