

# IMPERATIVES

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By Design

## A HOUSE UNITED

**T**HE LATE, GREAT French architect Le Corbusier described a house as a “machine for living.” Boston-based architect David Hacin reverses that logic. Housing, he says, makes the city more human. “I want architecture that is carefully scaled and relates to people,” he says. “We don’t live in an anonymous place.”

Hacin’s design for FP3, a new mixed-use development on Congress Street near the Fort Point Channel, testifies to his philosophy of architecture bringing diverse

groups of people together and fostering creativity.

Cited recently by the American Institute of Architects as among the best new housing in the country, FP3 is a postmodern hybrid of renovated brick warehouses topped by a glass and copper penthouse. The building contains condos—including artist studio residences—an art gallery and Barbara Lynch’s Sportello and Drink.

“We worked with the existing buildings and adapted them to new uses and created a new vitality,” beams 47-year-old Hacin, an American born and raised in Switzerland. He settled

in Boston after his studies at Harvard’s Graduate School of Design in the mid-1980s.

FP3’s concept is for lawyers and painters to rub elbows and meet for cocktails on-site, thereby enriching city life. A modest goal, perhaps, but in Boston, where architecture tends to privilege the past at the expense of the present, experiments like FP3 could be key to the city’s future.

“We need to be adding our layer of history to Boston,” Hacin insists. “Boston is not a 19th-century or a 20th-century city. Its future success will rely upon it being a 21st-century city.”

JOHN DYER

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