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The Great Indoors

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The 'architectural skylight' at the rear of Shinola's flagship store is, in fact, a huge digitally controlled light box.

## **Crafted Heritage**

Rockwell Group creates the illusion of tradition for modern brand Shinola.





Words Tim Groen Photos Eric Laignel

For Shinola, a US brand with headquarters and manufacturing based in Detroit, Rockwell Group inserted a retail space into a 19<sup>th</sup>-century building in Tribeca, a neighbourhood in New York City. Shinola, which produces handcrafted watches and bicycles, wanted a look that would be true to the store's turn-of-the-20<sup>th</sup>-century surroundings, as well as to merchandise that evokes the golden age of American manufacturing. Rockwell Group and Shinola co-designed an interior befitting a heritage brand, even though the 'new' Shinola, founded in 2010, is as modern as they come.

Salvaged from a lobby at Rockefeller Center, a decorative bronze map of the world from the 1930s comfortably shares the space with Donald Judd-inspired furniture. Rockwell Group's 2013 interpretation of a timeless store interior creates an illusion of history, complete with an industrial-style catwalk (displaying bicycles) and modernized 1910s oak-framed display cases.

A faux skylight at the rear of the shop whisks us right back to the present. Indistinguishable from a vintage architectural element, this huge state-of-the-art light box digitally mimics conditions of natural light at any given time of day throughout all seasons of the year.

rockwellgroup.com