NEED TO KNOW AIR TO BE DIFFERENT

Photography hits new heights
A former architect discovers a different point of view with his camera

JEFFREY MILSTEIN HAS A KNACK FOR CHANGING THE way people look at a situation, and he’ll go to great lengths—and heights—to do it. The architect-turned-photog shot from planes and helicopters thousands of feet in the air (higher than drones are allowed) to capture arresting images of New York and Los Angeles for his book LANY (out this month). “I like to find the geometry and see how things connect,” he says of the perspective. “It gives you a whole different sense of self and how you fit in your environment.” It also sounds fun. “When I come back from a flight I feel like I’ve been to another dimension, seeing things I’ve only imagined in dreams.” —JESS SWANSON
THE PATTERNS WE MAKE
Milstein’s images reveal beauty you can’t see from the ground

Stuyvesant Town, New York City
This 1947 apartment project has 35 buildings and 8,755 units arranged in a pattern that Milstein believes was based on Masonic geometry.

Harbor and Century Interchange, Los Angeles
“It’s amazing the engineering that goes into them,” Milstein says of the L.A. freeways, where he learned to drive as a teen.

APM Terminals, Los Angeles
An industrial port’s shipping containers become a colorful mosaic. Milstein shot the scene in low light for a painterly quality.

The floats and crowds of the 2015 Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade along Central Park West, Manhattan