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# INTERIOR DESIGN



Resolution: 4  
ARCHITECTURE

Resolution: 4 Architecture improves loft living for a client in Tribeca via a subtle design crafted from off-the-shelf materials.

## Light Box

THIS IS ONE of those projects that started with a query about the kitchen and ended up including everything, even the kitchen sink. The 1,700-sq.-ft., one-bedroom Tribeca loft has been completely reinvented as a living space by the New York-based firm Resolution: 4 Architecture in what Joseph Tanney, firm principal, calls a true collaboration with the client. "He's educated in design, so every choice and decision was discussed at length with him," Tanney related. "He had seen a health club we had done in Miami, and originally came to us to redo the kitchen cabinets. The project grew. Eventually, we ended up designing the interior and also lots of furniture, including the bed and dining table."

Tanney, with colleagues Robert Luntz, John DaCruz and Clay Collier, resolved to

completely gut the client's existing interior, a space designed by an architect approximately 15 years ago. Once the client had decided to push the project beyond a mere kitchen cabinet renovation, he expounded a program with fairly minimal stipulations: one bedroom and a gourmet entertaining kitchen. Light, or rather the lack of it, was also an issue: because the loft was on the building's third floor, and because the only windows were at the front of the space, the access to daylight was rather restricted. Tanney and crew put in two new windows at the rear of the loft, which helped considerably.

The designers began to organize the deep and narrow interior in zones and layers. "At first," Tanney explained, "we attempted to relocate the kitchen to the front of the space, which didn't work. It had to remain toward the rear of the loft because of the placement of the plumbing." They then decided to pack out one edge of the volume for storage →



*Left: The designers left one side wall of the loft unfaced, but painted. A shelf was constructed as a sideboard or for display.*

*Opposite: The central core of the loft has been organized into areas by use, with living "room" up front, succeeded by the dining area; the public portion of the space terminates at the kitchen.*

CARPET: ABC CARPET. LIGHTING: BEGA; ARTEMIDE; LIGHTOLIER; HERA; RON REZEK; VENINI; TSE TSE. CUSTOM DOOR FRAMES: UNISTRUT. WINDOWS: MARVIN. WALLS, SURFACES: DUROCK; HOMASOTE. PAINT: BENJAMIN MOORE. ACRYLIC PANELS: LUMACITE; KALWALL; POLYGAL. SOFA, LOUNGE CHAIRS, DINING CHAIRS: ROY MCMARKIN. PHOTOGRAPHS: UTAA BARTH FROM TANYA BONAKDAR GALLERY. FURNITURE CONSULTANT: BRAD DUNNING.

PHOTOGRAPHY: PAUL WARCHOL





and cabinetry, and the other, which housed the elevator shaft and stairwell, with two bathrooms. "These are classic issues in New York lofts: storage and stair placement. We extruded the stair tower and carved out the space for two bathrooms along the perimeter wall. This creates a great swath of space, which we divided several times along the perpendicular. The resulting areas were organized by use," Tanney continued.

The bedroom, separated from the public living spaces by a vertical plane, is situated beyond the hearth of the residence. One side of the vertical divider forms the terminus of the kitchen, and contains the stove. The obverse serves as the headboard for the bed. That dividing element is flanked by sliding Polygal panels, which, when extended, completely close off the rear of the loft while still allowing the passage of light. Other devices and materials aiding the penetration of light into the interior, or creating the illusion of luminosity, are doors made of Unistrut-framed Lumacite and dividing walls of Lumacite and Kalwall.

The hearth, as Tanney explains it, is a solid mass with the oven and cooktop as its core. The designers have concocted a kitchen island from Metrowire and butcher block. Movable kitchen furniture—i.e., a rolling table—is also made of Metrowire; it serves as additional work space and as a gathering place for guests.

Tanney describes the progression of areas as a procession of geometric solids in a neutral core: "The coffee table, the dining →



*Cover: The designers faced a portion of one wall with Durack; they also designed the dining table.*

*Right, above: The orientation of the living area has been turned towards the media wall, which was designed as a composition with open spaces that act as light boxes. The ceiling is a composition of Homasote elements. The coffee table is custom.*

MUSIC SYSTEM: SONY; ADCOM; SONANCE; APOGEE. TELEVISION: XANTECH. INTERCOM: LEE DAN.

*Right: The kitchen has been designed for serious cooking. The designers created a kitchen island and movable kitchen furniture of Metrowire. The oven serves as the hearth of the residence. Sliding Polygal panels extend from the cooking unit to close off the rear of the apartment.*

REFRIGERATOR: SUB-ZERO. GAS RANGE, HOOD: VIKING. DISHWASHER: MIELE. SINK: ELKAY. FAUCETS: SPEAKMAN. KITCHEN STOOLS: THROUGH WYETH.



table and the kitchen island are defining objects in space—a rectangle, a circle, a square—proceeding down the center of the interior.” The materials facing a number of surfaces are humble, and oddly elegant: the palette has been reduced to Durock and Homasote, as well as exposed, but painted, brick. One wall of the dining area has been faced in Durock. The Homasote ceiling plane is consistent except in the living area, where the designers layered Homasote panels of various sizes in an unusual and subtle collage. They also “reoriented the living room with a media wall, which creates a strong vertical element. The wall of shelving contains spaces that act as light boxes and are meant to be left open.”

Tanney and his team also went to town with light sources, composing an assortment of types. “We used linear indirect light, and floods, and spots, and halogens, and incandescent sources. There are lights in the ceiling, the cabinets and underneath, as well as path-like fixtures along the wall.”

Throughout the process, Tanney reports, “the client was on a pilgrimage to find the pieces to make a collection. In addition to those elements we designed specifically for this space—the dining table, the cocktail table, the bed and stools—the client has assembled a wonderful array of furnishings.” That collection includes modern American classics by T.H. Robsjohn-Gibbings as well as contemporary designs by Roy McMakin.

The project took six months, and virtually everything was built on site with stock, off-the-shelf materials. The budget, not including furniture, ran to \$75 per sq. ft.

—Judith Nasatir



*Above: The left's two bathrooms about each other, separated by a plane constructed of Kalwall.*

**TUB: AMERICAN STANDARD. TOILET: KOHLER. SINK: JUST; AMERICAN STANDARD. SHOWER HEAD AND FAUCETS: SPEAKMAN; CHICAGO.**

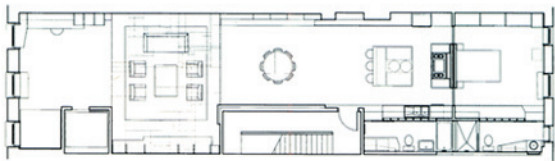
*Left: A wall of built-in storage is made from the Baltic Plywood used throughout the interior. The upper portion of the wall between the bedroom and the master bathroom is of Lumacite.*

**TILE: AMERICAN OLEAN. HARDWARE: ROCKWOOD.**

*Back Cover: The custom bed incorporates the vertical plane between the kitchen and the bedroom as a headboard. Sliding Polygal panels can extend to each wall, enclosing the area but allowing the light to flow between the spaces.*



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