



Tribeca Loft, 1997

Resolution: 4 Architecture

As found, this 1,700-square-foot space, located on a low floor in a Tribeca building originally used for light industry, presented the typical rewards and limitations of loft living: long and narrow, it offered a generous sweep of space but minimal natural light and few original architectural details of genuine aesthetic or historical interest. The design team from Resolution: 4 Architecture—Joseph Tanney, Robert Luntz, John DaCruz, and Clay Collier—responded to the loft's rectangular plan with a scheme of great economy and clarity. With the entry positioned at one end near the building facade, the requisite living room, dining area, kitchen, and bedroom progress without aid of fixed walls along the length of the loft. At the rear of the space, the architects had the luxury of installing two new windows, considerably abetting the infiltration of natural light.

Subtle spatial manipulations and custom design elements lend definition and intimacy to the various zones without restricting physical or visual access across the floor. The orientation of the living room is turned toward the media wall, designed as an asymmetrical composition of open shelving units for display and storage. The arrangement of furnishings and carpet defines the boundaries of this area on the floor plane. Above, the living zone is further articulated by a collaged ceiling treatment of layered Homasote panels that else-

where form a level overhead plane. A large round dining table and an Italian glass pendant light anchor the dining area, which is bordered by a wall composition of varisized Durock concrete panels. The kitchen and bedroom are more formally separated by a vertical divider that, on one side, houses the stove and cooktop and, on the other, becomes the headboard in the master bedroom. Sliding acrylic panels extend from both sides of the dividing unit, effectively enclosing the bedroom suite when desired without blocking the transmission of light.

While many loft designers employ low-cost, off-the-shelf building materials, the Resolution: 4 team explored imaginative possibilities for both functional efficiency and artistic expression. Beyond the Homasote ceiling collage, the Durock wall composition, and the ubiquitous use of Baltic plywood, the architects experimented with various types of commercial acrylics to define and obscure boundaries between spaces. In the process, they created an ever changing theater of shadow and light.

















