

LADesign

ASID Los Angeles
Chapter Magazine

Issue Number 22
Winter 2013



AMERICAN
SOCIETY OF
INTERIOR
DESIGNERS



LOS ANGELES

Creating the Unexpected

The Renovation of a Downtown Loft

DESIGNED BY DARRA BISHOP, ALLIED ASID / PRINCIPAL OF BESPOKE DESIGN

By Nancy Tabah, Industry Partner

Paying reverence to the original architecture is a tenet inimitable designer Darra Bishop, principal of bespoke design, maintains as a standard in her practice. From the building's exterior, the loft in downtown Los Angeles could not be more industrial. One might even mistake it for an abandoned warehouse.

The notion of creating a space that "tells a story," and captures the unique character of its inhabitants is another Darra Bishop signature, and much like the novel that only unveils its tale once the book has been opened, the distinctive domain of Darra Bishop is safely contained behind closed doors.

A 40 ft. corridor paves the way to the main space. The horizontal planks of wood flooring lend an illusion of width, and instantaneously add



both warmth and an air of opulence to the interior. The edge of the walkway is seamlessly lined with tumbled pebbles, both contrasting and complementing the wood. The piping in the

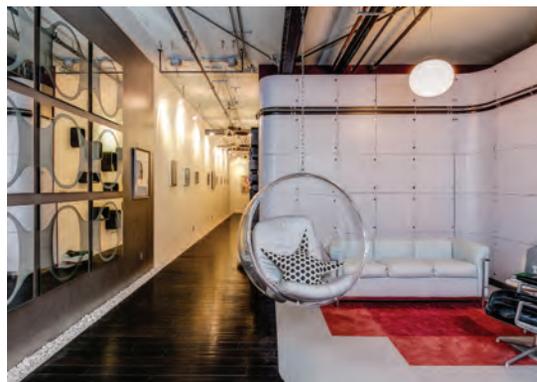
ceiling is completely exposed, highlighting the raw nature of the original space. The designer's affinity for playful elements is immediately apparent in the vibrant, colorful choice of artwork and the collection of shelved objects that run the entirety of the passageway.

The overall layout of the loft is rectangular in form and approximately 3100 sq. ft. of open area. From the lush rugs and pebbled tile



flooring, to the plush, velvet curtains and polished metallic accents, the end result feels both intimate and invigorating.

Aesthetically, the loft is a hybrid of various design periods & styles, with Art deco, Mid-century Modern and Mod being the most prominent. The



designer cites Verner Panton and Eero Aarnio as two major influences, and the home features several pieces by both legendary furniture designers.

In relation to form, the concept of the dynamic and cohesive living space played an integral role in the



designer's use of curved furnishings. All the cabinetry featured in the home was custom designed by Darra in collaboration with a local cabinetmaker - from the massive white cabinet in the living room area measuring 10ft from floor to ceiling, to the curved, wood-veneer cabinetry in the kitchen. The rounded rectangular bathroom structures forming the shower and water closet are also a custom-design.

These curved forms help facilitate Darra's vision of creating a dynamic space composed of modular pods. In the designer's own words, "Incorporating the unexpected in design lends itself to producing more engaged surroundings. " Indeed the warm and whimsical world of Darra Bishop tucked away within the cool confines of its industrial downtown setting is anything but expected.

Photography by Erik Grammer