



# Impression of space

Light, color, angles and irregular lines create an illusion of width in this remodeled galley kitchen

Sometimes, when remodeling a kitchen, it's possible to push out part of a wall or even remove it altogether. At other times, however, all improvements have to be made within the existing space.

When designer Vernon Applegate was asked to remodel a narrow galley kitchen in an old Victorian row house, he knew the project would be challenging.

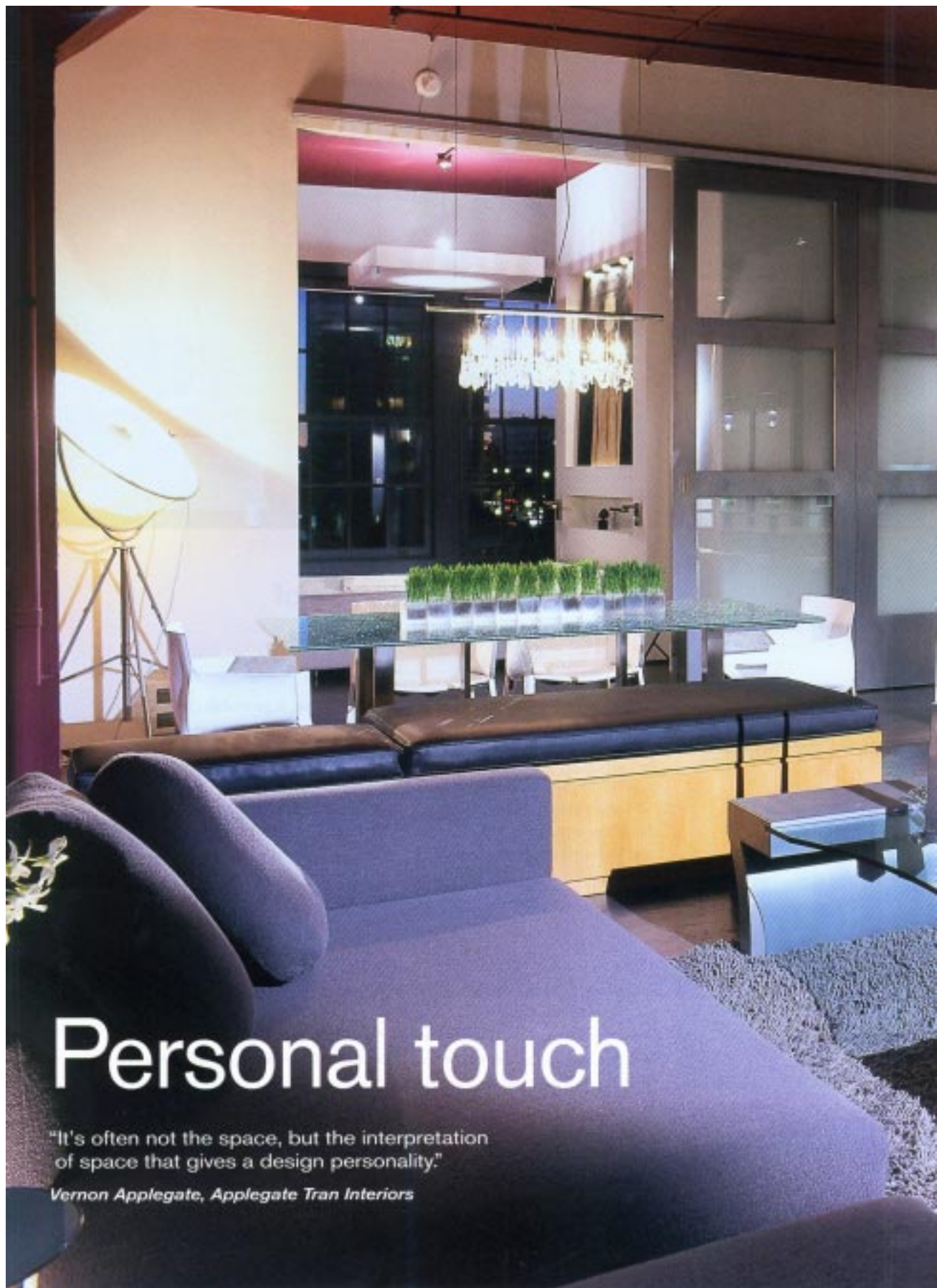
"The kitchen space was long and narrow and was open to a small family room at the other end, but none of the



walls could be moved or altered in any way. The whole space had the feeling of a bowling alley," says Applegate.

To break up the galley feel and add some rhythm to the kitchen space, Applegate introduced a variety of angles and irregular lines.

One wall, completely made up of tall cabinets containing the refrigerator, pantries and oven, is angled so the kitchen appears to widen from the back to the front. This wall finishes on a low window seat, which looks out over the garden,



# Personal touch

"It's often not the space, but the interpretation of space that gives a design personality."

*Vernon Applegate, Applegate Tran Interiors*

section focus: interior makeovers





# The high life

Reflective surfaces and a monochromatic palette give this top floor, downtown loft space an industrial edge

Moving into a new home often presents an opportunity to consider whether or not your interior decor reflects your personal style. For the owners of this downtown loft, a new address was the chance they'd been looking for to wipe the slate clean and create a space that makes a personal statement.

The interior of this historically significant building presented a blank canvas to design a modern space for two, says interior designer Vernon Applegate of Applegate Tran Interiors.



"Loft design is all about open-plan living and scale. The bones of this apartment offered a 14ft-high ceiling, double height windows and exposed mechanics," says Applegate.

The design brief outlined a desire for an intimate, yet seemingly contradictory, open and airy atmosphere. Applegate has accomplished this using dividing elements that allow space to be isolated into defined areas. Furniture placement demarcates the living areas, while fabrics soften the industrial aesthetic.



**Before**

Previous pages: Industrial details retain the loft character, while a base palette of gray makes a strong architectural statement.

Facing page, top and above: Works of art in the entry hall set the tone for the whole apartment.

Above: Combining hard and soft surfaces gives this decor texture and warmth.

Left: Prior to renovations, white oak floors and neutral tones dominated the space. The doors to the right led to the guest room.



Opening up a space creates issues of light and privacy. Between the living area and the bedroom these problems have been overcome by creating custom barn doors, made from brushed stainless steel with frosted glass panels.

The original guest room at the other end of the living area was surplus to needs, so the wall was removed, creating a spacious lounge.

Now, occasional guests can be accommodated in privacy by drawing a heavy curtain across the width of the room. This



curtain mirrors the scale and color of the windows.

"Our biggest design obstacle was the bedroom," says Applegate. The wall behind the bed was at an angle compared to the other three walls, and confused the layout of the room. By adding a floating wall at right angles to the window we've created an art space, plus ensured the owners can see the view from bed."

Neutral tones play up the architectural details. A monochromatic palette of gray ensures, the view is the star, with color



and texture playing support roles.

"Instead of using color accents, we chose to mix materials and textures to create interest and diversity."

Strong architectural elements create clean contradictions, providing a dynamic background for furniture and art.

"Plush shag carpeting contrasts with brushed stainless steel, and patent leather throw pillows balance wool loungers.

The chandelier is made from stainless steel tubing with suspended Waterford crystal attached and sparkles at night.

**Interior designers:** Vernon Applegate and Gioi Tran, ASID, NKBA, NARI, Applegate Tran Interiors (San Francisco)

**Main contractor:** Jim Crane

**Window treatments:** Custom

**Flooring:** Custom blue grey paint on oak

**Paint:** Pratt & Lambert

**Lighting:** Pollicelli Lighting; Furturi

**Chandelier:** House of European design

**Furniture:** Minotti, and custom made by Applegate Tran Interiors

**Light gray feature chair:** Stanley Jay Friedman

**Photography by:** Kaitlan MacLeod

**Facing page, top:** Burnt Aubergine defines the pillars and ceiling, accentuating the industrial aesthetic.

**Far left:** Originally, the bedroom and living area was segregated by a wall, with a small door for access. This wall was removed during the remodel in order to open up the whole space.

**Top:** A floating wall, acting as a bedhead, was added to compensate for the angled back wall.

**Above:** The secondary bathroom is more about fun than function. Dark colors and sharp angles add interest and an element of whimsy.