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In SoHo, Heiberg Cummings Design
creates a fitting framework for a
world-class photography collection

FULL EXPOSURE

INTERIOR DESIGN HEIBERG CUMMINGS DESIGN
PRODUCED BY ELIZABETH SVERBEYEFF BYRON
TEXT MARJORIE E. GAGE
PHOTOGRAPHY PETER MARGONELLI



PRIVATE reflection

Opposite: A narrow space behind an elevator shaft serves as a private office and gallery. This page: A Mapplethorpe photograph is reflected in the lacquer surface of the dining room's Christian Liaigre dining table. Holly Hunt chandelier; lacquered sideboard by Jeup Furniture.





A modern dining room featuring a large window with sheer, floor-to-ceiling curtains. A dark wood dining table is surrounded by chairs with a mix of linen and leather upholstery. To the right, a sideboard with a grid of square compartments holds decorative vases. The room is lit by natural light from the window and a track lighting fixture above the table.

PEACEFUL center

The lines of a work by New York native Ross Bleckner are echoed in the rhythmic folds of the windows' floor-to-ceiling curtains, made of sheer woven wool. A Tibetan wool carpet anchors the 12-foot trestle table, surrounded by a combination of linen and leather chairs from HCD3.

ORIGINAL WORKS

This page: Robert Mapplethorpe's red tulip injects a torch of color into the monochromatic kitchen, where a subway tile wall and weathered wood column recall the loft's industrial roots.

Opposite page: Art advisor Turid Meeker assisted the owner in assembling and hanging the loft's "collage walls" of fine art photography, which display works by Mapplethorpe, Peter Lindbergh, Bruce Weber, Herb Ritts (inset image), Horst, and others.






LIVING with art

Custom sofas upholstered in leather and textured linen assemble around a gas fireplace surrounded by a slate hearth and a built-in bench made from salvaged wood, a favorite spot of both family and guests. Sheer shades filter sunlight at the windows. Silver accents appear in industrial-style lighting and in a trio of round Balzac vases from Armani/Casa.



A photograph of a modern living room. The walls are painted white, showing the texture of the original brick. A long, rustic wooden mantel runs across the wall, with a dark fireplace opening in the center. In the foreground, there is a dark leather sofa with a patterned pillow. To the left, a dark wooden coffee table holds a stack of books and a vase of red flowers. A large window on the left side of the room allows natural light to enter. The overall aesthetic is minimalist and industrial.

THE LOFT'S LOCATION—IN A CLASSIC 19TH-CENTURY INDUSTRIAL building in the heart of SoHo—was exactly right for a contemporary art collector's Manhattan home. But its 4,500-square-foot interior, with cut-up kitchen, faux-painted Sheetrock walls, and open-to-the-world bathroom, was configured all wrong.

"The client wanted a space that said 'New York,' and the bones of this place did that," explains Bernt Heiberg, of the Chelsea design firm Heiberg Cummings. "But we had to gut the place to expose them. And then we started over."

With its original oak-plank floors, brick walls, and 13-foot-ceilings fully revealed, Heiberg and design partner William Cummings reinvented the loft as a 3-bedroom, 3.5 bath family home. Its massive wooden columns work together with a new floor-to-ceiling, metal-and-glass partition wall to define spaces without blocking the sunlight that flows in through three walls of oversize windows and an interior courtyard.

Painted white, the walls create a clean backdrop for luxurious, monochromatic furnishings that defer attention to the client's photography collection—a portfolio of rare and iconic images assembled with the help of art advisor Turid Meeker. "Robert Mapplethorpe, Herb Ritts, Helmut Newton, Horst, Bruce Weber, and Peter Lindbergh give the loft the look of a gallery," says Heiberg, "but it is a comfortable home." ~ See Resources.