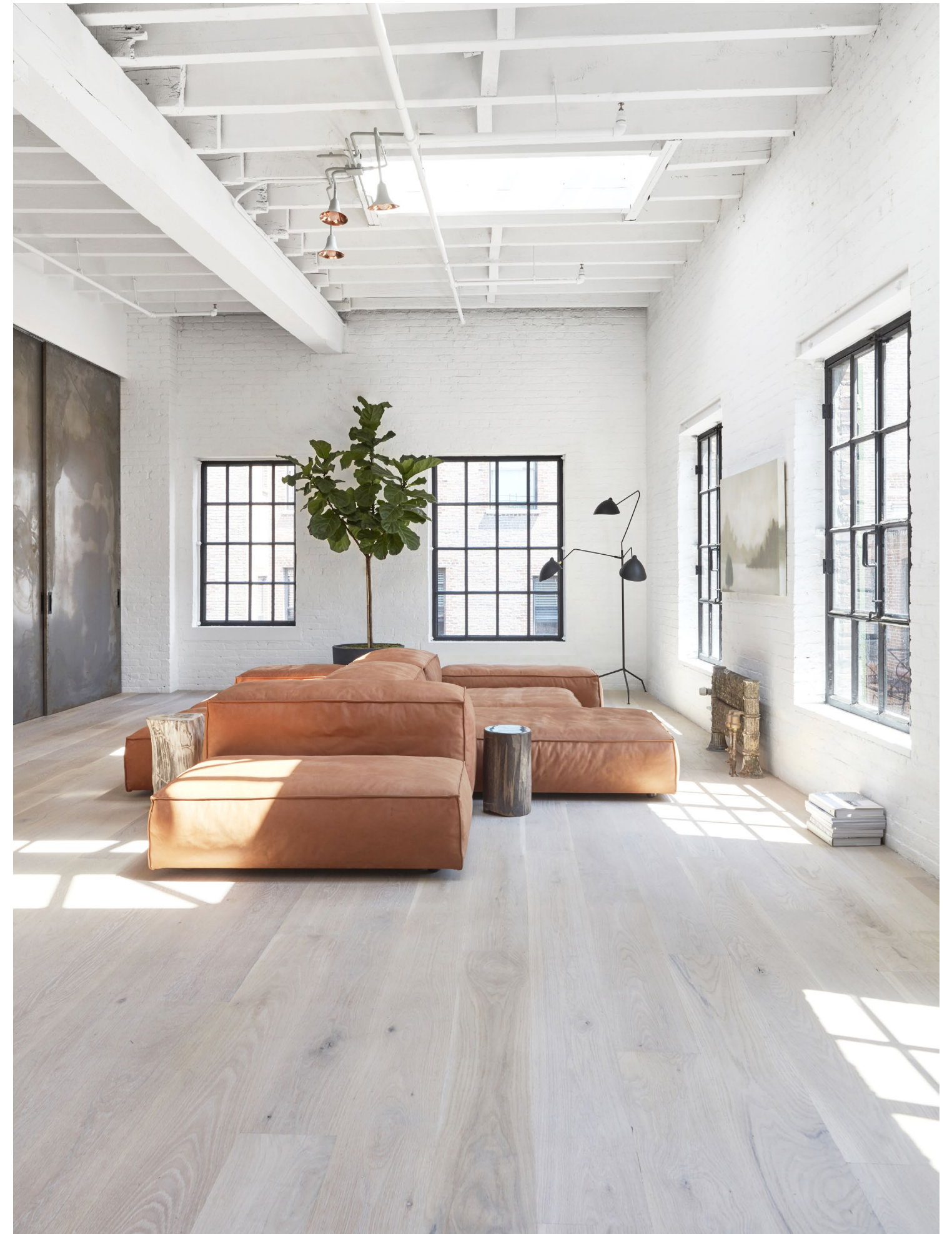


THE URBAN OASIS



Strategically placed foliage turns this minimal warehouse apartment in New York into a stylish inner-city sanctum

Words FLEUR BRITTEN *Photography* BIRGITTA WOLFGANG/SISTERS AGENCY





Kitchen Cabinetry, made of concrete and brass alloy tombak, created by Norm Architects in collaboration with Danish brand Reform. The handmade geometric light sculpture is by Susan Woods, a Brooklyn artist, and the black-painted 'AAS 32' oak bar stools are from Hay
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topping a toned-down palette from seeming cold was the main concern for Alsún Keogh. Commissioned to renovate this former Tiffany & Co silver factory in New York's SoHo district by Albert Matheny IV, a fitness entrepreneur with a passion for Scandinavian minimalism, Alsún found the solution in foliage. To anchor the green, natural theme, she created a 'mock window' – a large plant frame, which was made out of old window frames salvaged from St Patrick's Cathedral, just down the road. As for the plants, Alsún had a simple guideline: 'What requires minimal maintenance?' Peace lilies, ferns and spider plants all fulfilled this brief.

As well as the pops of greenery, the colour black runs throughout the two-bedroom loft, from the painted steel window frames to the internal doors, dining chairs and bathroom fittings. 'When the main colour palette is very pale, black is the perfect accent to tie things down,' explains Alsún. The kitchen is deliberately darker than the rest of the living areas since it's the focal point of this home.

Alsún has also honoured the apartment's industrial roots (her architectural speciality is historic preservation) with a liberal use of distressed metal. Steel sliding doors, copper lights and a brass-alloy kitchen are paired with factory-style whitewashed brickwork and original ceiling beams. 'I'm not trying to mask the building's past, but embrace it,' Alsún explains. However, she adds, in such a minimal setting, lighting is key: 'All the lights have an amber accent to give them a warm, cosy glow.' nusladesign.com ▶



Living area The 'ExtraSoft' sofa by Piero Lissoni for Living Divani is the focal point of this room, with small petrified-wood tables by Andrianna Shamaris nestled alongside. Ontwerpduo designed the 'Light Forest' ceiling lamp for &Tradition. The floor lamp is by Serge Mouille
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STEEL SLIDING DOORS, SLEEK BLACK FITTINGS AND PAINTED BRICKWORK CELEBRATE THIS APARTMENT'S INDUSTRIAL PAST

Bathroom 'Opus' porcelain tiles from Nemo resemble concrete, while the 'Spoon XL' bathtub and 'Flat 100' sink, both by Benedini Associati for Agape, have a smooth, crisp finish. The black towel rail and mirror are by Norm Architects for Menu
Bedroom Bedlinen from Society Limonta, a mirror by Norm Architects for Menu and 'Welles' pendant lights by Gabriel Scott soften this industrial look. The 'Brooklyn' bedside tables are from Organic Modernism
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