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THE VIEW FROM the master suite (FACING PAGE) across to the library takes in the living level below and the skylight above. The rabbit painting is *Whistler* by Jo Hay. Deborah Peebles (THIS PAGE) stands in front of a beaded Haitian Vodou prayer flag by artist Nadine Fortilus. *Venus de Robot*, a 6½-foot-tall sculpture by Pat Keck, greets visitors in the entryway below.



USING LIGHT AND STRUCTURE, ARCHITECT TOM HUTH TURNS A SPRAWLING LOFT SPACE INTO A HOME FULL OF ART AND INTRIGUE • Written by JoeAnn Hart | Photographed by Eric Roth





IN THE MASTER bedroom, exposed brick behind the bed is painted white. A small privacy screen was crafted on the custom dresser made of ash with a whitewash stain by millworker Ray McManus. A watercolor of cows by Deborah Peebles (BELOW) hangs over the Victoria + Albert Barcelona tub.



chusetts, Deborah and Ron, a pharmaceutical scientist, wanted a raw, urban industrial space. They got it here. One of 10 units in a Kendall Square complex, their home-to-be was most recently an artist's studio, and before that a municipal service garage.

Enlisting builder Gilman Guidelli & Bellow of Newton, Massachusetts, Huth expanded the upper level, increasing the home's total floor space to 4,770 square feet. "My work was to think about how to travel through the space," says Huth, whose firm Huth Architects, is also in Newton. He knew every inch of what he envisioned as an open mezzanine would impact the floor below, either by defining an area or opening it up.

He took a chunk out of the existing 900-square-foot balcony, allowing light from the Kalwall skylight to flood the kitchen, made even brighter with white cabinetry and cool-toned concrete counters. Live-edge black walnut tops the kitchen island, adding earthy warmth and functioning as a visual boundary. The white tile backsplash mimics painted brick, a hallmark of loft living.

In the dining area, an RH table on casters, an item that would not be out of place in a warehouse, is surrounded by a party of mismatched chairs, including examples by Modern masters Charles and Ray Eames and Eero Saarinen. Glittering above is a Tiara Diamond Sky chandelier from Harco Loor Design. "Tom had selected something conservative," says Deborah, "but I wanted some bling." A trio of nudes and a swirling abstract painting, all by Dorothy "Doffie" Arnold, whose studio occupied the loft before the Peebleses bought it, anchors the space.

"We planned for art," says Huth, who made sure the new construction would not keep natural light from bathing the 22-foot-high wall behind the dining area, where the Peebleses have hung an array of paintings. Their wide-ranging art collection includes a life-size fiberglass cow, painted "Dodge Charger orange" at an auto body shop, and *Venus de Robot*, a 6½-foot-tall sculpture by New England artist Pat Keck, originally created as a racing robot for the Cambridge Arts River Festival. Both pieces occupy ground-floor space kept open to the skylight.

Despite the expansiveness of the unit, it can't be taken in whole, and every turn offers something surprising. "Part of the wonderfulness of the space is discovery," Huth says.

Above the kitchen is the master bedroom, where a soaking tub sits under the skylight. "With the natural light, it feels like taking a bath outdoors," says Deborah. A bureau against the mezzanine's half wall is topped with a translucent screen that hides the back of a television while adding a modicum of privacy.

At the other end of the mezzanine are the guest rooms. Beneath them is Deborah's art studio. Between the bedroom areas, the library extends toward, but does not touch, the wall, allowing natural light to flow into the spaces below. A suspended Fireorb fireplace hangs like an exclamation point from the ceiling.

Below is "Ron's space," furnished with a turquoise rug that seems dappled with sunlight, chairs upholstered with Tibetan fur, and a chartreuse Saarinen Womb chair.

"At night, the spaces really get defined by the lighting," says Ron. The couple lit the skylight from the outside, making it seem like a giant chandelier. "After all that planning," says Ron, "our home has come out even greater than we imagined." Says Deborah, "It could have felt like an air hangar. Tom was brilliant in making it personal." ■

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Architecture: Battle Associates Inc., Concord, MA; [battlearchitects.com](http://battlearchitects.com). Builder: Platt Builders,

Graton, MA; [plattbuilders.com](http://plattbuilders.com). Kitchen design: Kochman, Reidt + Haigh Cabinetmakers, Stoughton, MA; [cabinetmakers.com](http://cabinetmakers.com). Landscape architecture: Horiuchi Solien Inc., Falmouth, MA; [horiuchisolien.com](http://horiuchisolien.com). Lighting designer: Brian Fogerty Lighting Design, Livermore, CA; [fogertylighting.com](http://fogertylighting.com). Windows and doors: Kolbe Windows & Doors; [kolbewindows.com](http://kolbewindows.com), and Trustile; [trustile.com](http://trustile.com).



**98-103 Loft Living, A Sense of Discovery**  
Architecture: Huth Architects, Newton, MA; [hutharchitects.com](http://hutharchitects.com).

Builder: Gilman Guidelli & Bellow, Newton, MA; [ggbuilds.com](http://ggbuilds.com). Millwork: RF McManus Company Inc., Boston; [rfmcmanus.com](http://rfmcmanus.com). Skylight: Kalwall; [kalwall.com](http://kalwall.com). Concrete: Stone Soup Concrete, Easthampton, MA; [stonesoupconcrete.com](http://stonesoupconcrete.com). Kitchen: Bar stools: Catifa 46, Arper; [arper.com](http://arper.com). Dining area: Table: RH; [rh.com](http://rh.com). Chairs: Wishbone Chair, Carl Hansen & Son; [carlhansen.com](http://carlhansen.com), and Colt High Back Side Chairs, O&G Studio, Warren RI; [oandgstudio.com](http://oandgstudio.com). Rug: Evry Flannel, Stark. Chandelier: Tiara Diamond Sky, Harco Loar Design; [harcoloar.com](http://harcoloar.com). Bedroom: Tub: Barcelona, Victoria + Albert; [vandabaths.com](http://vandabaths.com). Library: Fireplace: Fireorb; [fireorb.net](http://fireorb.net). Rug: Kyle Bunting; [kylebunting.com](http://kylebunting.com). Coffee table: B&B Italia; [bebitalia.com](http://bebitalia.com). Chair: 761 Barrel Chair, A. Rudin; [arudin.com](http://arudin.com). Chair upholstery: Underground Noir, Jean-Paul Gaultier for Lelievre; [lelievreparis.com](http://lelievreparis.com). Art: Jo Hay, Provincetown, MA; [johay.org](http://johay.org), Nadine Fortilus, Pat Keck; [patkeck.com](http://patkeck.com), Jerome Lagarrigue; [jeromelagarrigue.com](http://jeromelagarrigue.com), Dorothy "Doffie" Arnold.



**104-109 Outbuilding, Building a Case Study**  
Architecture: 30X40 Design Workshop, Mount Desert, ME; [thirtybyforty.com](http://thirtybyforty.com). Engineer: Atlantic

Engineering, Surry, ME. Sitework: BCM Construction, Northeast Harbor, ME; 207-276-5766. Concrete: CMI Concrete Flatwork, Orono, ME; 207-866-3931. Carpentry: Joshua Stoll Builder, Lamoine Beach, ME; 207-460-5749. Electrical: G+G Electric, Hulls Cove, ME; [ggelectricinc.com](http://ggelectricinc.com). Custom doors: Lyman-Morse Boatbuilding, Thomaston, ME; [lymanmorse.com](http://lymanmorse.com). Windows: Loewen; [loewen.com](http://loewen.com). Skylights: Wasco; [wascoskylights.com](http://wascoskylights.com). Heat: Fujitsu; [fujitsu-general.com](http://fujitsu-general.com). Siding: HardiePanel; [jameshardie.com](http://jameshardie.com). Roof: Galvalume; [galvalume.com](http://galvalume.com). Lighting: Stonco Lighting; [stoncolighting.com](http://stoncolighting.com), and Tech Lighting; [techlighting.com](http://techlighting.com). Furnishings: IKEA; [ikea.com](http://ikea.com), and Room & Board; [roomandboard.com](http://roomandboard.com).