

Lofty lifestyles

From a weekend spot in the city to a baking station, these Atlantans have transformed lofts into homes

By H.M. Cauley



Elizabeth Gandy uses her unit in a former ice house next to the train tracks as her weekend home in the city. From Monday through Friday, she's usually in the North Georgia mountains, but when she's ready for a night on the town, she stays overnight at the Ice House Lofts in Decatur. "I didn't want anything too big — just a place to put my head," she said. "This is just right at 700 square feet, with a bath, two closets and one big room. I can sit on the sofa and

watch TV. When I go to bed, I turn the TV on and it's in my bedroom."

Although Gandy's unit is in the newer section of the complex, it features traditional loft accents such as high ceilings, exposed duct work and oversized windows overlooking Commerce Drive. She's outfitted her city digs with natural fibers and furnishings that reflect her years living in Korea. "But what I like best," she said, "is being able to walk to the restaurants in Decatur."



PHOTOS/JOANN VITELLI

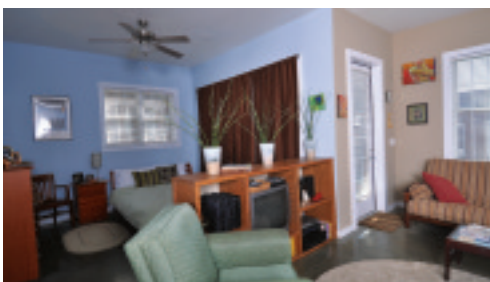


Troy Murray picked his unit at Greenwood Lofts largely for the neighborhood around Greenwood Avenue it overlooks. "I really love my balcony," he said. "I can sit out there and look out over the skyline and the Beltline."

Murray also liked the loft feel, even though his unit is part of a building that is only a few years old. "It's like a loft of the 1980s," he said with a laugh. "It has polished

concrete floors, high ceilings, granite counters, cherrywood cabinets, stainless-steel fixtures, oversized windows and one big space."

Murray used ingenuity to divide the bedroom area from the living and dining sections. "I took a tall and narrow bookshelf and turned it on its side, then topped it with vases of bamboo stems to separate the spaces," he said. "But it still gives me the feeling I like of living in one big room."





The 1940s Telephone Factory Lofts building on McGill Boulevard provided the ideal residential space for interior designer Melissa Brown and her daughter, Bethany. “I loved that it had lots of architectural details,” Brown said. “My bedroom is the old office. A former closet is my office. My daughter rollerblades up and down the concrete floors. The walls are almost all big, industrial

windows. And the 10 and a half feet tall ceilings are great for art.”
Brown knocked down walls to expand the kitchen to accommodate her daughter’s passion for baking. “We have new cabinets, granite counters and a baking station where she can roll things out,” Brown said. “She wants to be a pastry chef, so she needs room to work.”



This recently furnished unit at The Stacks at Fulton Cotton Mill is looking for an owner. But it recently underwent a makeover for two fictional owners who were created as part of a design contest that was won by Christy Hudson, a student at the Savannah College of Art and Design in Atlanta.

of functional and rustic pieces. Among her touches: a factory cart turned coffee table; a vintage dress form for accent; and a handmade chandelier of sticks and glass. The entire project cost just a bit more than \$6,000.

“It had cabinets and appliances, but other than that, it was just a concrete floor, a brick wall, a spiral staircase up to the bedroom and three columns,” Hudson said.

“I wanted to keep it lively, fresh and upbeat, but still go along with the ideal of a cotton mill loft,” she said. “But I have to say, tying two sticks together, spray painting them white and hanging glass globes from them to make the chandelier was the most fun.”

The 23-year-old beat out 14 other contestants with her eclectic design, a mix

