





## lodo living

Denver, Colorado

**JUDY GUBNER, ASID, AND COLLEEN JOHNSON, ASID; IN-SITE DESIGN GROUP, INC.**

Photography by JASON JUNG/ESTETICO

DENVER'S HISTORIC LODO DISTRICT IS HOT, hot, hot, with many older buildings from the early 20th century being converted into loft residences. Interior designers Judy Gubner and Colleen Johnson, principals of In-Site Design Group, Inc., were asked to add a playful, colorful spin to one unit at the West End Lofts.

The interior designers had done previous work for the clients, a couple. They had purchased the 1,200-square-foot loft unit with the idea of it becoming their pied-à-terre, a place where they could spend weekends, catching sports or cultural events in the city. "They didn't want anything serious," Gubner explains. "They wanted the space to be spirited and funky."

The unit itself had an angled, pie-shaped floorplan that included one large bedroom and a central living/dining space that opened onto an indoor/outdoor sunroom with views of other historic LoDo buildings. "Our parameters were that we went with the existing cabinetry, tile, flooring and other finishes," Johnson says. "We added wall color, furnishings and lighting."

The lighting, in fact, was a central element of the

**Left:** The living area echoes the loft's curved theme. A concrete console "floats" through the wall onto the adjacent sunroom. Gobos create the light patterns on the sunroom's shades.  
**Above:** The entry hall provides a simple background for art.



Left: The bathroom was customized with a concrete countertop and curving mirrors. Right: An old rolling steel door is the backdrop for the dining area.

room through the wall to the adjacent sunroom, as well as a steel dining table. A concrete countertop was also added to the master bath vanity.

Johnson and Gubner's design allowed flexibility for the homeowners to add art as they come upon pieces that strike their fancy. One "found object" is already in place. It's an old rolling steel door used during the building's original incarnation as a retail and storage space, and the designers used it as a backdrop for the dining table.

The completed loft is cozy enough for two and, with the sunroom opened up, spacious enough for the homeowners to entertain as many as 30 for pre-game or -concert cocktails.

Its adventurous design won Gubner and Johnson a Merit Award from the Colorado Chapter ASID in the category of Design Details/Elements.

**Interior Design:** Judy Gubner, ASID, and Colleen Johnson, ASID, In-Site Design Group, Inc., Denver, CO; (303) 691-9000 or [www.insite-design-group.com](http://www.insite-design-group.com).

**Lighting Design:** 186 Lighting Design Group, Denver, CO; (303) 534-5350.

**Concrete Console and Counter:** Concrete Revolution, Denver, CO; (303) 893-4814.

**Custom Area Rugs:** Allure, Denver, CO; (303) 871-8848.

**Sunroom Flooring:** Merida, through Synergy, Denver, CO; (303) 722-7161.

**Dining Furniture:** Eisens, Denver, CO; (303) 744-3200.

**Dining Fabric:** Pindler & Pindler, through HoffMiller, Denver, CO; (303) 698-0800.

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interior. Working with the lighting design firm 186 Lighting Design Group, Johnson and Gubner took cues from the track lighting that curves around the exposed ductwork and the lively colors provided by the ColorKinetics LED lighting system that gradually rotates through a spectrum of programmed hues. Additionally, the lighting system allows the homeowners to project artistic gobos on surfaces such as the sunroom shades.

The interior designers chose furnishings, such as sofas, armchairs, ottomans and custom area rugs, with curves that echoed the track system, and punched up the volume with wall and furnishings colors in orange, acid green and red. While most of the furnishings were directly from contemporary manufacturers, the designers added a few custom touches, such as an acid-washed concrete console that seemingly "floats" from the living

