Loft living in South Beach
Two-bedroom home located in a former warehouse

The great room of 650 Delancey St. hosts a corrugated steel ceiling, contemporary chandelier, skylight and large windows.

Price Point
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Hot Property
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By Shea Homes
Warm finishes dominate two-bedroom loft

By Jordan Guinn

The industrial appearance of his top-floor loft in South Beach bothered Lamine Messaoudi. Exposed brick and large windows gave the two-bedroom, two-bathroom charm, but the exposed wires and steel girders proved unsightly to him.

“It was very metallic, very rough-looking,” said Messaoudi, who purchased 650 Delancey St., Unit 423 late in 2011. “I wanted something warm, with wood finishes and a cohesive feel. The whole idea throughout the remodel was to make something fancy and artsy yet still functional.”

Changes began immediately after Messaoudi finalized the purchase. He dropped the ceiling to conceal infrastructure, installed art alcoves with gallery lighting and added hardwood finishes throughout.

There was no getting around the load-bearing steel beams scattered around the loft, so Messaoudi worked with artisan Philippe Grandvoinet on a solution. Grandvoinet clad the beams in textured timber to provide a rustic look, transforming them into a warmer finish that pairs with the hardwood flooring, barn door in the foyer and kitchen cabinets.

Messaoudi loves to cook, so he put significant emphasis on designing the kitchen. The room centers on a triangular island providing both storage and a place for friends to sit. Hardwood display cabinets and a wood-paneled refrigerator offer warmth, while dual ovens and task lighting lend practicality to the space covered by a wood-beamed ceiling. A hardwood support pillar juts from the island and supports the ceiling of the room housing granite and onyx finishes.

The building has additional
Messaoudi said, because it originally served as a distribution point for goods from Asia.

"I use spices all the time, and there is something meaningful to me about cooking in this building that used to import spices from the Southeast (of Asia)," he said.

AT&T Park, the Ferry Plaza Market, the Embarcadero waterfront and Yerba Buena Gardens are all near the centrally located building in South Beach.

The remodel also saw the installation of wrought-iron banisters and a hardwood staircase. Steel cables previously flanked the stairs. Now bookshelves and a gallery wall with sconces sit on opposite sides.

A master suite with a spa bathroom highlights the upper level. Dual vanities and a glass shower are among the inclusions of a compartmentalized room that once offered only a sink and a tub.

"There were a bunch of walls up there that didn't make any sense, so we got rid of them and opened it up," he said.

Dark veins in travertine tiles complement the exposed brick in the bathroom, while marble tiles provide a contrasting white.

For more information, go to www.650DelanceyLoft.com.

Listing agent:
Bernie Katzmann, Vanguard Properties, (415) 906-6000, katzmannsf@gmail.com; Mike Shaw, (415) 906-7000, mshawsf@gmail.com

The great room of the two-bedroom, two-bathroom, top-floor loft receives abundant natural light via a skylight and large windows.

Like the great room, the media room includes a steel girder clad in textured timber.

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