



Abandoned, missing its windows, a New York loft cost just \$250 a month to rent when Steven Harris, a recent graduate of Princeton University, moved in and started fixing the place up. "The living area was the only good space," he recalls. Nevertheless, he stayed for over 30 years, until the building went condo.

At that point, the Steven Harris Architects founding principal and his husband, Lucien Rees Roberts of Rees Roberts + Partners, bought a 1,500-square-foot apartment nearby. There, they set about recreating the old living area, down to similar locations for a Gio Ponti-inspired wooden console and an oval cocktail table in glass-topped brass. The space also boasts a gas fireplace and a trio of windows, now framed in a brushed-oak veneer recalling Josef Frank. "A little more elegant than I'd anticipated," Rees Roberts says, smiling.

To bring reflected light into the core, the pair clad a corridor in beveled antiqued



Steven Harris and Lucien Rees Roberts

mirror-flush doors and all. Farther back are two efficient bedrooms. Almost everywhere, the raw-looking floor is sealed oak in a chevron pattern.

Harris terms the apartment "indulgently essential" and says he'll

enjoy it for the rest of his days. But don't call him overly sentimental. He agreed to leave the old loft only after being hired to demolish it, creating a lavish double-height space for the new owner.

—Craig Kellogg