

Honoring a 20th-Century Industrial Building

18TH STREET LOFT BY SIOL STUDIOS
SAN FRANCISCO, CA, USA
CANDY FACTORY → INDUSTRIAL LOFT



Large black iron-framed windows that are characteristic of early 20th-century San Franciscan warehouses sweep across one wall of the 18th Street Loft. The apartment—previously a candy factory for the American producer See’s Candies before being converted into a basic loft—was renovated to modernize it while enhancing the original aesthetic of the building. “We really wanted to honor the history of the building, not conceal it,” says SÍOL Studios architect Jessica Weigley. To execute this goal, original materials, such as raw concrete, were revealed and furniture was locally sourced. A smooth and slightly reflective concrete floor acts as a counterweight to the high board-formed concrete ceiling and raw columns. Small touches demarcate different zones of the living area; off-white kitchen cabinetry and neutral hexagonal tiles softly contrast with the floors; while a feature wall of rich, dark blue indicates the dining area. The space is both welcoming and homely, yet still references its manufacturing history.

Animal-skin rugs, plush leather, soft furnishings, and plants soften this former industrial space. Parts of the building’s historic style remain untouched, such as the raw ceiling and pylons.