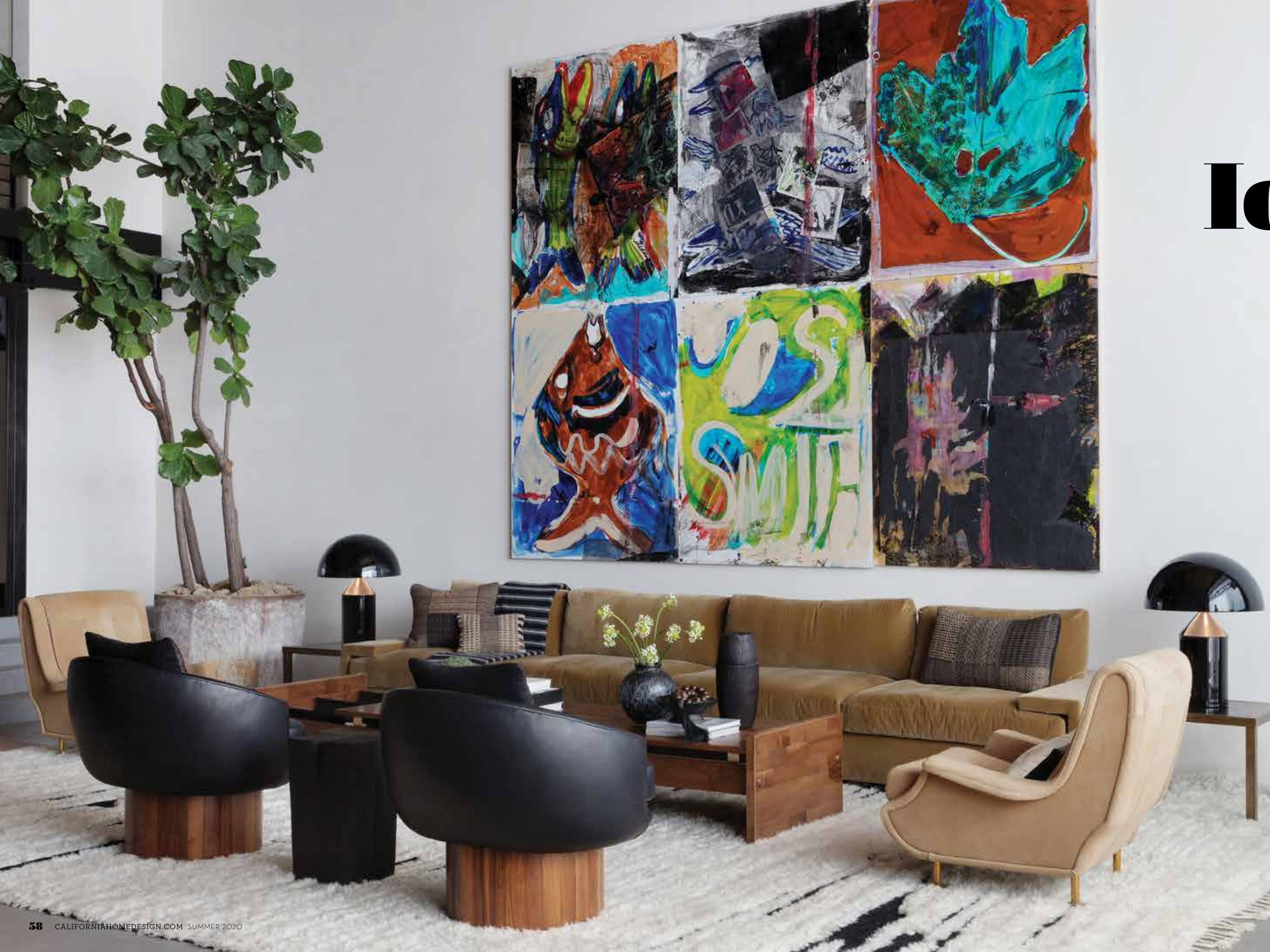


Loft Ideals

Interior designer Vanessa Alexander gives this office dual purpose and maximum style

by **ABIGAIL STONE**
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The communal area features a quartet of custom pieces—a pair of black leather chairs on wooden bases, a plush couch swathed in Loro Piana velvet and a chunky wood coffee table—complemented by vintage Marco Zanuso Regent chairs.



LEFT: A black leather chair found on 1st dibs is paired with a custom desk, fabricated by Cooper Reynolds Gross, and a vintage Albenga by Arflex armchair recovered in Alt for Living Velvet Plush in Cohiba. **BELOW:** A custom brass wet bar showcases a faucet by Kallista's the One collection.



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icture a loft and the image that springs to mind is invariably spare. In the hands of interior designer Vanessa Alexander of Alexander Design, that vision was upended in this sprawling office she was asked to create for a prominent entrepreneur and philanthropist. Its soothing palette and tactile materials, unexpected in a corporate setting, imbue the space with a warmth that underscores the client's innovative and creative spirit.

"It was super cool and industrial with cinder block walls and lots of concrete," says Alexander, "but they wanted something different that felt luxurious and dynamic and where everyone would feel inspired and comfortable." To meet the business' varying needs, the space would have to be flexible and function as a high-energy office equipped with quiet areas for meetings, conferences and individual projects while also being able to transform into an art salon, a yoga studio or the setting for a charity function. "I loved the challenge of

taking what is innately a casual, creative space in a loft environment and figuring out a way to infuse it with high luxury," says Alexander.

A large bronze door suggests that something unusual will be found within. That impression is immediately confirmed by an imposing central structural column. Covered in a reflective skin of hand-patina bronze, it explodes toward the ceiling, now reimagined in white oak. Venetian plaster walls and skim-coated floors further siphon the industrial vernacular of the building's origins into an elegant backdrop.

"We wanted to keep it warm," says Alexander. "My interiors tend to be more tonal, and I use color in a low-key way so art really has a prominent place to shine." Here, that meant a range of brown tones, in shades ranging from espresso to camel, deep golden to cognac. In lieu of color, textures—suede, mohair, velvets, gold, bronze and wood—are used to layer the rooms with



In a waiting room, a custom sectional, covered in Great Plains velvet, is paired with a custom leather and brass table. Vintage pillows, Apparatus Studio's Axon lamp and a rug from Mehraban complete the tableau.



Alexander Design fabricated a custom ping-pong table that holds center stage in the game room. The cabinetry was built by PSS Design Cult.



In the entryway, a table and benches designed by Alexander and fabricated by Cooper Reynolds Gross balance the space's structural column, which is clad in custom bronze panels created by PSS Design Cult.

THIS PAGE: In the loft's conference room, vintage Fabricius & Kastholm Tulip Lounge Chairs surround a custom soapstone and brass conference table designed by Alexander Design and fabricated by Cooper Reynolds Gross in collaboration with Eon Stone. **OPPOSITE PAGE:** Alexander mixed concrete, brass and wood elements seamlessly together in the bathroom.



an inviting softness and blur the 5,000-square-foot structure's naturally hard edges. Black accents found in a linear blackened steel railing, a Blackman Cruz three-squared Monumental Chandelier and a collection of vintage and custom leather armchairs balance the sensuality of the rooms and keep the focus on the bold and colorful collection of modern art.

Opening the second floor to the first invites the exchange of ideas. "They wanted a very high-end environment that functioned in an informal way," says Alexander. Traditional office bays were abandoned in favor of flexible spaces, which encourage employees to find their own work style. Custom pieces—designed by Alexander and created by the cadre of artisans she works with—dominate throughout. The entryway is grounded by a long communal walnut worktable. Nearly two dozen feet long, it can be broken apart as needed. Concealed wheels and hidden cords amplify its versatility. Nearby, another area, styled as a living room, tops a rug from Woven Accents with a quartet of bespoke pieces: a couch covered in Loro Piana velvet, black leather armchairs with wooden bases and a wooden

coffee table. Vintage finds, including Marco Zanuso's Regent armchairs covered in pale camel suede and a pair of Vico Magistretti table lamps, add patina. Custom pivot doors reveal a sectional covered in a Great Plains gray velvet and a custom leather and brass table in one room; another set opens onto an imposing brass and soapstone conference table; a game room showcases a ping-pong table; and an office is made intimate via a plush rug from Woven Accents and white oak shelving. "It's masculine but also comfortable and nurturing to creativity and dialogue," says Alexander, "You're not going to walk into this space and say, 'Oh, I've seen that before.'" Upending expectation? In Alexander's hands, it's a good thing.

