

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

In the heart of the SoBo District of Downtown Tulsa, this private, 5,000-square-foot, drive-in loft residence is uniquely designed to meet the client's needs. Contemporary architectural elements mixed with industrial materials, such as brick, reclaimed wood, concrete and steel, reflect the revitalization of the neighborhood and the history and textures of the automobile industry. The client selected luxe furniture and finishings for the space, softening the feel of the modern, masculine design. This upscale residence includes a game room, bar and kitchen, bedroom that overlooks the 6-car garage below and second floor patio with a spectacular view of our city. (100 words)

EXPLANATION OF ENTRY

In the heart of the SoBo District of Downtown Tulsa, this private, 5,000-square-foot, drive-in loft residence is uniquely designed to meet the client's needs. Clean, contemporary architectural elements mixed with industrial materials, such as brick, reclaimed wood, concrete and steel, reflect the direction of the ongoing revitalization of the surrounding neighborhood and the history and textures of the ever-changing automobile industry. The client selected luxe furniture and finishings for the space, softening the feel of the modern, masculine design. This upscale residence includes a game room, bar and kitchen, bedroom overlooking the 6-car garage below and second floor patio with a spectacular view of our vibrant city. In a refreshing twist, the main entry is located in the back, on the east side of the structure, as a result of its dual functionality as a garage and a drive-in residence.

The vast volume and height of the interior space is one's first impression upon entry through the east garage door, quickly followed by a slight narrowing of focus to the six brightly colored sports cars on the right and the subtly lit, stainless steel and glass bar at the opposite end of the room. The juxtaposition of warm wood and cool steel throughout the residence creates a natural feel of balance, suffused with clear, bright light from glazing on the north wall in the daylight hours and enhanced by more dramatic lighting in the evening hours. Adding to the tapestry of complementary textures in the design, the southern interior wall is completely covered with brick reused from a historic street in Kansas, paying tribute to the roads of yesterday. It has lovely character as a result of its former use, with soft edges, pockmarks, chips and scrapes that all add to its story and enhance the aesthetic of the residence. The bar and kitchen, one of the main components of the downstairs space, is a masterful composition of concrete, glass and steel, all tastefully accented by lighting to create an atmosphere of effortless luxury. Details like the industrial pipes that act as a foot rest for the bar seating and the contrast between the gritty versus polished concrete add depth to the feature.

Beautiful reclaimed wood stairs to the right of the bar lead up to the second level, which is the loft of the residence, open to the space below. This level is accented by a natural wood border, seamlessly blending the wood of the stairs and the flooring above. The loft area is modern, yet cozy, with its own bathroom, closet and patio. There are several smaller gathering spaces within this second level – an entertainment space with a pool table, a social space with a large couch and other seating for multiple guests and a gaming space with a separate TV. Throughout the residence, the client opted for a cutting-edge A/V system, with completely customizable lighting and sound options and a technical control panel on the upper level.

The patio is connected to the loft space with a glass and steel garage door, allowing easy flow from indoor to outdoor. This outdoor area is separated into two spaces by the Corten steel accent wall that continues into the front façade. The slight difference in texture caused by exposure to the elements between the interior section of the Corten and the exterior section as they weather in distinct ways adds to the fascination of this unique material. This material is reminiscent of the metal of vintage car parts, waiting to be reclaimed. Outdoor space on the left features a TV, large outdoor couch and a few other seating options, while the outdoor space on the right, includes high-top seating, a grill, a small fridge, sink and bar and other seating. From the patio you can view Downtown Tulsa, exposing how this residence fits the urban context of the existing neighborhood. A double-sided fireplace brings the two spaces together. The warm light of the fire, the cool breeze from the ceiling fans and the state-of-the-art outdoor sound system all contribute to the relaxing atmosphere of the patio and make this space one of the best in the building.

The exterior façade reflects the interior design, with the same industrial palette of materials – reclaimed wood, steel and concrete, with simple, resilient landscaping and tasteful lighting. Its profile, with the bold Corten accent standing out from the center of the west façade, draws the attention of passersby. In keeping with the urban environment, the lower level on the street side is a small office, which activates the urban, commercial edge of this building.

Every detail within the residence draws its design inspiration from the six gorgeous cars kept on display in the downstairs garage area while still respecting the fabric of the surrounding neighborhood. Their sleek lines, their materials, their avant-garde sophistication – the design process was almost easy with these works of art as the catalyst. The Drive-In Loft is truly a dream for a bachelor who has a taste for the finer things in all areas of his life.