

# SAMPLE



HAGEN STIER



PROJECT: LATHAM LOFT  
LOCATION: NOHO  
DESIGNER: MIKE LATHAM /  
ARTS CORP.

## A MOVEABLE FEAST

### CREDITS

ARCHITECT:  
MIKE LATHAM, ARTS CORPORATION  
LIGHTING:  
JOHANNA GRAWUNDER  
MATERIALS CONSULTANT:  
MELISSA MATLINS, ARCHITECTURAL SYSTEMS  
GENERAL CONTRACTOR:  
MICHAEL BORDES, JEDSON CONSTRUCTION

A unique feature of Mike Latham's apartment are the series of pivoting bookshelves that appear as a solid wall when closed (top left) but can be opened (above) to the adjacent room. Glass cabinets on wheels (top right) enable easy reconfiguration.

### Floor Plan

- 1 Living room
- 2 Work area
- 3 Rolling glass cabinets (not indicated on plan)
- 4 Kitchen
- 5 Bathroom
- 6 Pivoting shelves
- 7 Bedrooms



The most impressive part of architect Mike Latham's apartment in NoHo—or the live/work space inhabited by him and his design consultancy, Arts Corporation—are the interior's bells and whistles. Large glass vitrines on wheels, which he built while living in his last loft apartment in Williamsburg, slide in and out to reveal neatly arranged jars with nuts and bolts and impeccably organized binders, among other things. The bathroom seems like a science project in progress: large and small tubes run up to the shower, which is a glass case on wheels that moves just in case he gets tired of showering in the same place every morning.

The best trick in the apartment is a bookshelf, which divides the private rear portion of the apartment from the more public front office: When a secret book is pulled, the unit turns 90 degrees to reveal the bedroom chamber. Latham's inspiration? "Scooby Doo," he deadpanned. "Sometimes practical things get pushed beyond what is necessary," said Latham, a Columbia-trained architect who has several apartments under construction, and who also works as a fine artist. "That's when you get things like the mobile shower." Once in the rear private zone, another row of seemingly normal bookshelves appear; they also pivot centrally, opening up the bedroom to an adjoining study/guest bedroom.

Beyond its obvious playfulness, Latham's loft design is a clever demonstration of how to create a live/work space that can successfully separate different spatial functions and identities at the push of a button (or the pull of a secret book). Latham even gave himself two ways to enter the space—there's one entrance into the main apartment and other directly to the bedroom. He explained, "I do find myself needing to change my space, constantly." **AV**