

BON TON LOFT

BOZEMAN, MONTANA

FIRM / ENVI DESIGN

FOUNDER / SUSIE HOFFMANN

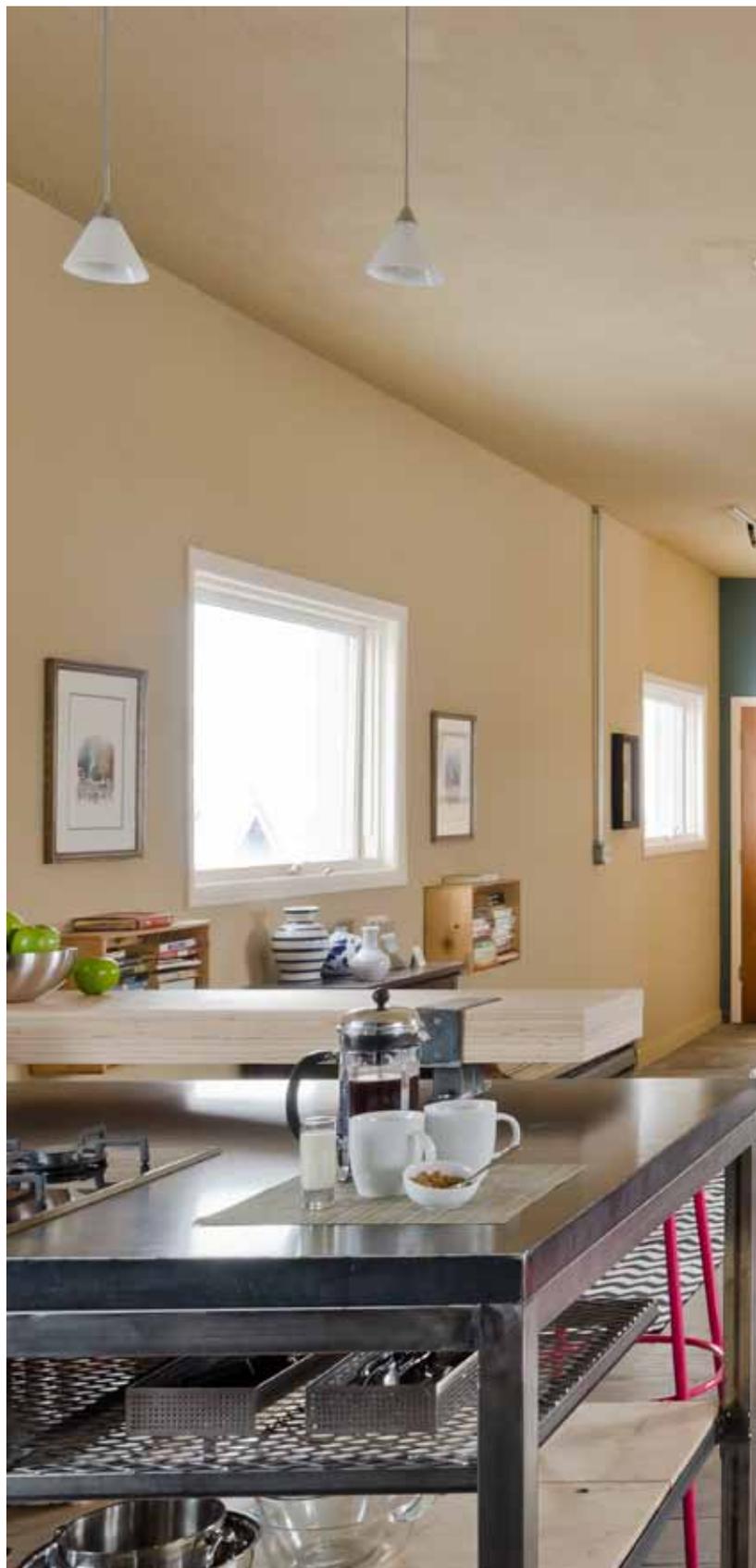
PROJECT TYPE / RESIDENTIAL

PHOTOGRAPHER / AUDREY HALL

Bozeman, Montana doesn't exactly have much in common with Brooklyn, New York. Envi Design founder Susie Hoffmann transplanted to the sleepy town six years ago to live an active lifestyle, but she brought with her the Big Apple's edgier and more efficient ways of design. All she needed was a space where she could get her Bozeman design business rolling.

Hoffmann soon discovered the Bon Ton building, a beat-up flour mill located in Bozeman's up-and-coming mill district. The space was perfect for her own live-work loft, so she purchased 1,000 square feet. "I wanted to take the architectural space as-is, keeping the floor plan open and intelligent," Hoffmann says of her design intent. "This maximizes the views and the small space." The loft's finished floorplan is uninterrupted. Its only solid walls are the wood-paneled doors that hide utilitarian spaces. The designer converted a creepy old elevator shaft into an efficient walk-through bathroom. And in true New York fashion, the kitchen has small apartment-style appliances.

The loft feels even bigger than its modest 1,000 square feet because her design works. And although it may be large by Brooklyn standards, it brings efficiency and perspective to Bozeman's mountain living. Not bad for a former city slicker. ■

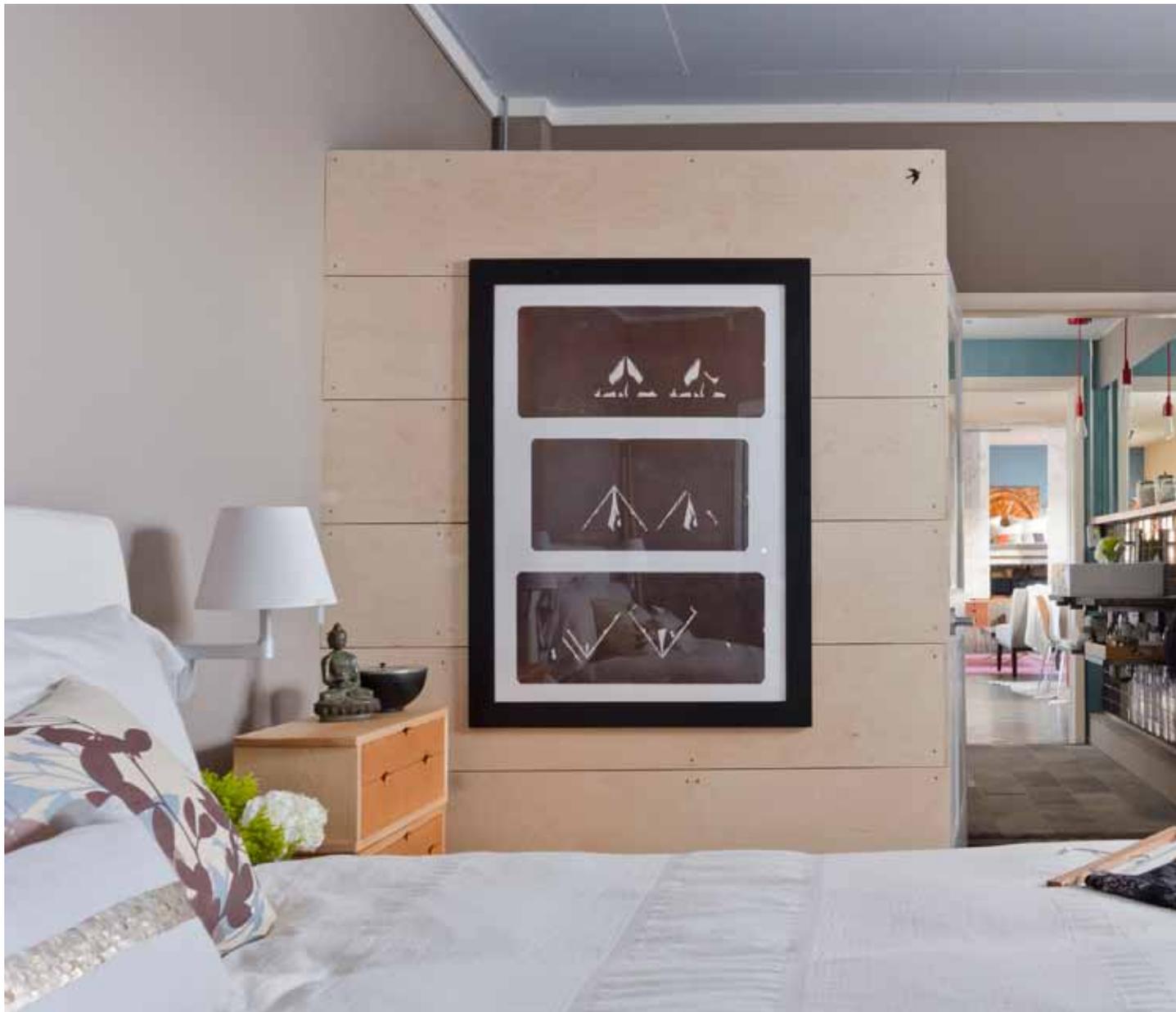


Hoffmann repurposed steel left over from the mill as the base for her cooktop









Inspecting the Bon Ton loft's pretty pops of color and quaint furniture, you'd never guess designer Susie Hoffmann was the type of person to get down and dirty in the design work. "She was willing to put some elbow grease in to keep costs down," says Marty Balus, owner of EF3 Fabrication & Design. "I've seen her in coveralls covered from head to toe in sawdust."

