



above: The comfortable lounge area of the great room is centered around a fireplace set into a wall of reclaimed wood.

Good Vibes

Decadent decay is the theme of these amenity spaces in Brim & Crown, a residential building with 42 units. This adaptive reuse of the 1929 Hat Corp. of America factory in East Norwalk is steps away from the East Norwalk train station and includes street-level offices, retail, restaurant and co-working space. After paring the building back to its raw, concrete and steel core, architect Bruce Beinfeld and his team used reclaimed, recycled and salvaged materials to celebrate the industrial past. Within an open space, they created a great room, conference and co-working rooms. Inspired by the basement of the chateau where the Rolling Stones recorded *Exile on Main Street* in the early 1970s, the vibe is louche luxe. Ornate crystal chandeliers illuminate

distinct spaces within the great room: lounge, dining/conference table and bar. Light-filled conference rooms and co-working spaces are created with floor-to-ceiling recycled windows. A graffiti mural by Norwalk artist Jahmane plays across the perimeter walls, adding vibrant color and energy. Soft textures and rich fabrics bring warm contrasts to the concrete, steel, metal ducts, glass and vintage industrial lighting. Furry chairs make a sexy statement around a generous dining/conference table, with a plush oriental rug beneath. In the lounge, seating surrounds a contemporary black firebox set into a wall of reclaimed wood. Leather club chairs have retro deco lines. The aqua sofa pops, with contrasting purple pillows. Creative use of materials sets this residential amenity space apart. This is a cool place to hang, work or throw a party. These days, a cool community is an amenity.

— ELIZABETH KEYSER



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above: Interior private spaces for co-working and conferences were created with recycled windows. Norwalk artist Jahmane painted a graffiti mural on the perimeter wall. Reclaimed industrial lighting provides large scale needed for this industrial space. **below:** This adaptive re-use renovation of an old factory building in East Norwalk into a 42-unit residential features an awesome amenity: A great room and co-working spaces that layer ornate chandeliers and luxurious surfaces onto concrete and steel to celebrate the industrial past.